

Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018



Press pack



“In just 20 years, the world that witnessed the signing of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders has undergone significant changes. Nevertheless, the hopes raised by that Declaration remain alive. The same is true of the legitimate aspirations of millions of people: to live in a society that is freer, more just, more egalitarian, and where every person is able to enjoy their human rights. Those who are fighting for this to become a reality should be recognized as the heroes of our time.”

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
United Nations General Assembly, 23 January 2017

**150 human rights defenders,
Paris, October 29, 30 and 31, 2018.
Espace Niemeyer and Théâtre
National de Chaillot.**

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Global Voices
of Resistance
and Change

I. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS WORLD SUMMIT 2018

Two decades ago, on 9 December 1998, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders recognizing for the first time, the status of human rights defenders (HRD) and the crucial role they play in building a fairer world was officially recognized. This Declaration outlined their need for protection and support in their struggle to defend and advance human rights. At that time, the first Human Rights Defenders World Summit was convened in Paris to coincide with the historic Declaration.

Now, twenty years on from that moment – and on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – a second Human Rights Defenders World Summit is taking place in Paris, from 29 to 31 October 2018, organized by a coalition of international human rights organizations (Amnesty International, the Association for Women's Rights and Development (AWID), the International Human Rights Service (ISHR), ProtectDefenders.eu, FIDH, Front Line Defenders, RSF, and OMCT) with the support of more than 35 organisations and Human Rights Defenders networks.

The Human Rights Defenders World Summit brings together more than 150 human rights defenders (HRDs) from across the world, civil society actors, government representatives, institutions and the private sector, to reflect on new challenges facing human rights defenders. Despite the progress made since 1998, HRDs are increasingly under attack, surveillance, harassment and intimidation, forcibly disappeared or even assassinated simply for defending the rights of their communities. The Human Rights Defenders World Summit will pay homage to the courage of HRDs who work tirelessly every day for human rights, justice, freedom and equality. It will also be an opportunity to present a unified voice and demand that States, economic actors (companies, international financial institutions) and other stakeholders to take their responsibility to promote and protect HRDs seriously by ensuring a safe environment for their work.

What is a human rights defender (HRD)?

According to the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and other international standards, a human rights defender is someone who, individually or in association with others, and making no apology for their action, seeks to defend and/or promote human rights locally, nationally, regionally or internationally, without resorting to hate, discrimination or violence. Human rights defenders come from all walks of life: they may be journalists, lawyers, health professionals, teachers, union members, whistle-blowers, farmers or even themselves the victims of human right abuses. They may undertake their human rights defence activities within the context of their work or in their free time, as volunteers.

A SUMMIT TO...

REVIEW PROGRESS

Since the signing of the first text recognizing the essential role of human rights defenders.

In 1998, on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first Human Rights Defenders Summit was organized in Paris by Amnesty International, ATD Quart monde, FIDH and France Libertés. From 8 to 11 December 1998, the Summit brought together more than 300 human rights defenders from across the world. Together, they spelled out the conditions necessary to protect and strengthen the work of human rights defenders. At the end of the Summit, the participants adopted a list of demands, the so-called “Paris Declaration”, along with an action plan for the coming years. That same year, the UN General Assembly reaffirmed principles of freedom and justice by adopting the “Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.” Better known as the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, it recognizes the crucial role of civil society actors in defending human rights. It also affirms States’ responsibility to implement and respect all the Declaration’s provisions, in particular the duty to protect defenders from the risks and threats to which their work exposes them.

Since then, support for HRDs has broadened and an institutional space has developed in which to address specific problems, particularly through the creation of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the subsequent UN Declaration on Women Human Rights Defenders and similar developments in regional intergovernmental institutions. The 1998 Summit helped create a world in which a wide range of institutions, foundations and organizations are supportive of HRDs and recognize the critical role they play in creating more just and fair world.



REAFFIRM

The need to protect those who fight for the rights of all and ensure they enjoy a favourable environment in which to undertake their action.

Today, the presence of human rights defenders all around the world, even in the most hostile regions, and the success they have achieved in their work, is an undeniable indication of the progress made since 1998.

And yet, while there has been unquestionable progress in the effort to advance human rights, defenders have also increasingly become victims of attacks, harassment and intimidation, forced disappearances and even murders (at least 312 human rights defenders were killed in 2017). These threats and attacks are set against a backdrop of hostility to HRDs, who are depicted as criminals, undesirables, foreign agents/spies, terrorists or the enemies of development. Smear campaigns are used to mobilize fear and hatred; violence is used to intimidate and silence; and laws are used to lock up HRDs, restrict access to resources and shut down civil society organizations.

The HRD movement today finds itself facing new and unprecedented levels of persecution and repression.



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PROMOTE

The work of human rights defenders in an increasingly hostile environment.

Threats to human rights defenders have taken new forms over the last 20 years: online harassment, public smear campaigns, prosecutions of those defending land rights, real or assumed identities taken as targets, surveillance, etc. Given the this challenging context, the Summit will provide an international platform for HRDs to have their voices heard, to work on strategies and actions for the future and to launch an appeal to all stakeholders in the international community to considerably strengthen their commitments and take practical action to protecting HRDs and promoting their work around the world.

DEMAND

A lasting commitment from States to act to protect human rights defenders.

At the end of the three-day Summit, the HRDs gathered in Paris will propose a concrete action plan to States and other actors. States will be called upon to publicly affirm their commitment to HRDs and to take concrete action to offer better protection and create a more favourable environment for their work.

« It means a lot to oppressed people to know they are not alone. Never let anyone tell you that what you are doing is insignificant. »

*Desmond Tutu,
South African civic rights defender*

II. TWENTY YEARS ON. THE NEW CHALLENGES FACING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Twenty years since the first Human Rights Defenders World Summit, political, social and economic developments in many countries are having disastrous impacts on the work of human rights defenders. Governments, companies and other powerful actors are harassing, spying on, imprisoning, torturing and killing human rights defenders simply for defending fundamental rights. HRDs at this Summit will analyse these new trends, and to define new strategies for all relevant stakeholders.

Shrinking space of civil society

All around the world, human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are facing unprecedented threats resulting from increasingly repressive legal and political contexts in their countries, a trend commonly known as the “shrinking of civil society space”. Aside from the killing of HRDs, the increased criminalization of defenders in recent years, often using so-called ‘anti-terrorism’ legislation to attack the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly. Without these freedoms, a commitment to rights becomes difficult, even impossible.

Following recent elections bringing right-wing nationalist governments in countries that were traditionally defenders of HRDs, there is a fear that this phenomenon may significantly worsen in years to come. At international level, States that were previously at the forefront of sustaining a universal framework of human rights protection are now disengaging.

Human rights defenders working on this issue

András Kadar – Hungary
Aya Hijazi – Egypt
Nurcan Baysal – Turkey
Fredrick Etoori Ekakoro – Uganda
Kirill Koroteev – Russian Federation
Yahya Al-Assiri – Saudi Arabia

Smears and abuse: the impact of hate speech

Closely linked to this gradual shrinking of civil society space, smear campaigns against human rights defenders are becoming increasingly common and more sophisticated, denigrating their work and presenting them as corrupt enemies of the people, foreign agents, obstacles to development, agitators or even terrorists.

The last few years have seen a proliferation of such campaigns and a broad rejection of the work of HRDs, who are also being attacked on the basis of their identity (their gender, a minority, etc.). Gradually, the term ‘human rights’ seems to be taking on a negative connotation, manipulated by the toxic discourse of political leaders and powerful personalities.

Human rights defenders working on this issue

Anielle Franco – Brazil
Omar Ali Ewado – Djibouti
Sarit Michaeli – Israel-OPT
Aida Baijumanova – Kirghizstan
Reda Fhelboom – Libya
Matthew Caruana Galizia - Malta
Vilma Núñez – Nicaragua
Han Hui Hui – Singapore
Bochra Belhaj Hmida – Tunisia



Nassera Dutour

© Amnesty International

Land rights, environmental rights and indigenous peoples' rights

According to Front Line Defenders, almost 3,500 HRDs have been killed around the world since the signing of the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, of which 821 between 2014 and 2017. In 2017, 67% of murdered HRDs were people involved in defending land, environmental or indigenous rights, and over 80% from just six countries: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines. The vast majority of these cases were not properly investigated and few perpetrators have been brought to justice. Reports by local or international NGOs identify a number of underlying causes: impunity, corruption, collusion between States and business, a lack of effective investigations, failure by police to respond to reported threats, a lack of accountability and a lack of effective protection of HRDs in danger.

Human rights defenders working on this issue

Musa Usman Ndamba – Cameroon

Yaku Perez – Ecuador

Lolita Chávez – Guatemala

Christophe Yanuwana Tapoka Pierre – Guyana

Gustavo Castro – Mexico / Honduras

Policarpo Sánchez – Peru

Cristina Palabay – Philippines

Pranom Samwong – Thailand

Gender-related threats

Women human rights defenders generally, and defenders working on women's rights or on gender-related issues more specifically, are often more vulnerable because of their gender, particularly when challenging social norms. Defenders of human and women's rights suffer specific forms of gender-based violence in addition to the attacks suffered by other HRDs. This relates particularly to sexual violence and stereotypical smear campaigns, such as campaigns against WHRDs linked to their identity as and traditional views of women. Many of these HRDs suffer additional pressure from their families and their communities if their activism or their public activities are perceived as being in opposition to the gender norms or stereotypes they are supposed to conform to. LGBTI+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex) defenders suffer attacks both because of their identity and their work: these people may be targeted for their

sexual orientation and/or their real or perceived gender identity, as well as for defending gender or sexuality-related rights. Many times, these HRDs are face marginalization or exclusion from general human rights forums or resources.

Human rights defenders working on this issue

Nedhal Al-Salman – Bahrain

Anielle Franco – Brazil

Noira Candelo Riascos – Colombia

Anny Modi – Democratic Republic of Congo

Aizhan Kadrallieva – Kyrgyzstan

Phylesha Brown-Acton – New Zealand



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A few figures

3500+ : The number of human rights defenders estimated to have been killed worldwide since the adoption of the Declaration on HRDs in 1998.

312 : The number of human rights defenders killed in 2017, according to Front Line Defenders. The trend is steadily worsening. The organization recorded 136 defenders killed in 2014, 156 in 2015 and 281 in 2016.

Americas : The deadliest region for human rights defenders in recent years. Over half of HRDs killed in 2015 and more than three-quarters of HRDs killed in 2016 were in the Americas region, according to Front Line Defenders.

106 : The number of HRDs killed in Colombia in 2017, according to Colombian NGO Somos Defensores. The trend is steadily worsening. A total of 80 cases were documented in 2016 by the same organization.

66 : The number of human rights defenders killed in Brazil in 2016, according to the Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders. The trend is steadily worsening. A total of 58 defenders were killed between January and August 2017, mostly indigenous people, rural landless workers, and others working on issues related to the land, territory and the environment.

49 % : The percentage of human rights defenders killed in 2016 who were working on land, territory and environmental issues, according to Front Line Defenders.

48 : Number of journalists killed worldwide in 2016 according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

8 % : The percentage of documented cases of killings of journalists which have been resolved, according to UNESCO.

III. SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 29 October – from 09h30 to 12h15

Opening ceremony | Espace Niemeyer

Ceremony led by Nawal Maghafi, BBC journalist

At a time when governments, companies and other powerful actors are harassing, spying on, imprisoning and torturing human rights defenders, the opening ceremony of the Human Rights Defenders World Summit will be an opportunity to assess progress made over the last 20 years and to address the numerous challenges and priorities facing HRDs.

A panel of HRDs from different continents will review the diversity and successes of their struggles as well as the changes in tactics and strategies of repression they have confronted since the 1998 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

SPEAKERS In the presence of representatives of the United Nations and European Union – list of speakers soon to be confirmed.

Alice Mogwe – Secretary General of FIDH

Bochra Belhaj Hmida – Lawyer specializing in human rights, co-founder of the Association of Tunisian Women Democrats, she currently chairs the Commission for Individual Freedoms and Equality.

Kirill Koroteev – Lawyer, legal director of the “Memorial” Human Rights Centre based in Moscow, Russian Federation.

Kumi Naidoo – Secretary General of Amnesty International

Vilma Nunez – Founder and President of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Centre (CENIDH). A leader in the struggle for human rights in Latin America, she attended the first Human Rights Defenders Summit in 1998.

Monday 29 October, from 14h45 to 18h30

Regional issues & Protection mechanisms | Espace Niemeyer

14h30 to 16h30 : four parallel sessions will focus on regional challenges and features of human rights defence in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East (closed sessions)

17h00 to 18h30 : plenary session // Feedback from the regional sessions and discussion of the protection mechanisms for human rights defenders in the presence of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (open session for those with accreditation).

Tuesday 30 October, from 9h00 to 12h30 and then from 14h30 to 18h30

Thematic sessions and strategic issues for the coming 20 years | Espace Niemeyer

9h00 to 10h00 : plenary session on current and future challenges facing HRD (open session for those with accreditation)

10h30 to 12h30 and 14h30 to 16h00 : four thematic working sessions focusing on: the rolling back of civil society space; developing a contrasting discourse to the smearing of HRD; physical attacks on people defending land, environmental and indigenous rights; specific risks related to gender (closed sessions).

16h30 to 18h00 : plenary session // Discussion on the issue of solidarity with and between human rights defenders and particularly the issue of solidarity networks (opens session for those with accreditation).

Wednesday 31 October, from 9h30 to 12h30

Adoption of the action plan | Espace Niemeyer

Adoption in plenary session of the action plan by the human rights defenders present (open session for those with accreditation)

From 14h00 to 16h00 | Human rights concourse : An action open to the public and media will pay homage to human rights defenders of the last 70 years and to the human rights defenders prevented from participating in the summit by their governments.

Staged by the “Les Passagers” company.

From 16h00 to 18h30

Closing ceremony | Théâtre national de Chaillot

Closing ceremony led by Sylvie Brigot-Vilain, director of Amnesty International France

In the presence of representatives of international institutions and governments, the closing ceremony will be an states to commit firmly to protecting HRDs and to putting an action plan in place in this regard, so that those fighting for the rights of all no longer have to risk their lives.

The closing ceremony will take place in the Théâtre national de Chaillot, the symbolic location of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and also the setting for the 1st Human Rights Defenders Summit in 1998.

VI. 150 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN PARIS

AFRICA

BOTSWANA

Alice Mogwe
Ditshwanelo

BURUNDI

Cyriaque Nibitegeka
Burundi Bar Association

CAMEROON

Musa Usman Ndamba

Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association

Musa is vice-president of the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, an organization that has been defending the human rights, including the right to land, of nomadic pastoralists in north-west Cameroon since the 1990s. On 11 May 2018, the Bamenda Court of First Instance sentenced him to six months in prison and a fine for "slander". He was released on bail by the Court of Appeal on 12 June.

CAMEROON

Mireille Tushiminina

Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa

CHAD

Charbonnel Nodjigoto

Association Jeunesse pour la paix et la non-violence

DJIBOUTI

Omar Ali Ewado

Ligue djiboutienne des droits de l'homme

DRC

Fred Bauma

Lucha

Founder of La Lucha, a citizens' collective working for democratic change in the DRC since 2012, Fred is a Congolese blogger and activist. Accused in particular of trying to overthrow the regime and plot against the Head of State, he was imprisoned for more than 18 months before his release on 29 August 2016.

DRC

Anny Modi

AFIA MAMA

ERITREA

Helen Kidan

Eritrean Movement of Democracy and Human Rights

ETHIOPIA

Yared Hailemariam

Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia

GUINEA

Sally Bialy Sow

Association Villageois 2.0

IVORY COAST

Pédan Marthe Coulibaly

Coalition ivoirienne des défenseurs des droits humains

KENYA

Faizah Hamid Madfudh

Working with vulnerable populations

KENYA

Maurine Akinyi Ochieng

NYARWEK

LIBERIA

Aizhan Brownell

Green Advocates International

MADAGASCAR

Ketakandriana Rafitoson

Wake-up Madagascar

MAURITANIA

Balla Touré

IRA

NIGER

Halidou Moubkaila

Syndicat National SYNACEB

NIGERIA

Judith Ndukwu

SOMALIA

Omar Faruk Osman Nur

National Union of Somali Journalists

SOUTH AFRICA

Nonhle Mbuthuma

Amadiba Crisis Committee

SOUTH AFRICA

Phumi Mtetwa

Just Associates [JASS]

SOUTH AFRICA

Sibusiso Zikode

Abahlali baseMjondolo Movement

SOUTH SUDAN

Asan Juma

Access for All

SUDAN

Mohamed Mossaad Ali

African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies

SUDAN

Ibrahim Mudawi

SUDO

TOGO

Ghislaine Koffi Nyaku

CACIT

UGANDA

Fredrick Etoori Ekakoro

Transformative Leaders Africa Network

ZAMBIA

Laura Miti

Alliance for Community Action

ZIMBABWE

Thandiwe Chidavarume

Women and Land in Zimbabwe

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN

Parwiz Kawa
Hasht e Subh Daily

AFGHANISTAN

Shaiq Shahlla
Heela Organization

BANGLADESH

Adilur Rahman Khan
Odhikar

CAMBODIA

Sreysor Pheng
Mother Nature Cambodia

INDIA

Khurram Parvez
Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society

INDIA

Bondita Acharya
Women in Governance-Assam

INDIA

Degree Prasad Chouhan
Adivasi dalit mazdoor kisan sangharsh

INDIA

Henri Tiphagne
People's Watch

Founder and Director of People's Watch, a department of the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns (CPSC) based in Madras. People's Watch has been fighting discrimination and injustice since 1995. Active in education and training, this NGO also endeavours to foster social and economic conditions favourable to achieving human rights and values.

INDONESIA

Yuliana Lantipo
Tabloid Jubi

INDONESIA

Mario Prajna Pratama
Transhition Collective

IRAN

Leila Alikarami
Centre for Supporters of Human Rights

MALAYSIA

Charles Hector
MADPET/WH4C

MALDIVES

Mushfiq Mohamed
Maldivian Democracy Network

MONGOLIA

Sukhgerel Dugersuren
OT WATCH

MYANMAR

Saw Zin Cicer
Civil Authorize Negotiate Organization

NEPAL

Bebi Shah
The Relief Trust

NEW ZEALAND

Phylesha Brown-Acton
Asia Pacific Trans Network

PAKISTAN

Naghma Iqtidar

PAKISTAN

Hina Jilani
Advocate, Supreme Court

PHILIPPINES

Joanna Patricia Kintanar Cariño
Cordillera Peoples Alliance

PHILIPPINES

Cio Datuwata
MPPM

PHILIPPINES

Cristina Palabay

Karapatan

Secretary General of Karapatan, a collective of individuals, groups and associations that protect and promote human rights in the Philippines. She is also a member of the organizing committee for the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development and is participating in a global campaign aimed at ending the murders of human rights defenders.

SINGAPORE

Han Hui Hui
Empowering Singaporeans

SRI LANKA

Herman Kumara
NAFSO

THAILAND

Pranom (Bee) Samwong
Protection international et APWLD

VIETNAM

Dai Nguyen Van
Brotherhood For Democracy

EUROPE

ARMENIA

Artak Kirakosyan
Civil Society Institute

ARMENIA

Karen Ohanjanyan
Nagorno-Karabakh Committee of « Helsinki Initiative-92 »

AZERBAIJAN

Rasul Jufarov
Human Rights Club

BELARUS

Ales Bialiatski
Human Rights Center "Viasna"

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Abida Pehiliic
Association "Novi put"

CYPRUS

Faika Deniz Pasha
Platform for Struggle for Women Held in Captivity

FRANCE

Sophie Beau
SOS MEDITERRANÉE France

GEORGIA

Ucha Nanuashvili
Human Rights Center

GERMANY

Dolkun Isa
World Uyghur Congress

GERMANY

Philipp Külker
Jugend Rettet e.V.

HUNGARY

András Kádár
The Helsinki Hungarian Committee

KAZAKHSTAN

Gulzada Serzhan
Feminita

KYRGYZSTAN

Aida Baijumanova
Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan

KYRGYZSTAN

Gulzar Diushenova

KYRGYZSTAN

Aizhan Kadralieva
LABRYS

MALTA

Matthew Caruana Galizia

Matthew is a journalist and IT engineer. In 2014, he founded the Data and Research Department of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). He has played a key role in six major investigations, including the Paradise Papers, for which his department received the Pulitzer Prize in 2017. He left ICIJ in 2018 to investigate the murder of his mother, Daphne Caruana Galizia, an investigative journalist killed by a bomb placed under her car in October 2017.

MOLDOVA

Ion Manole
Promo-LEX

POLAND

Krystyna Kacpura
ASTRA Network

ROMANIA

Eniko Vincze
Foundation Desire

RUSSIA

Kirill Koroteev
Human Rights Centre "Memorial"

RUSSIE

Irina Maslova
Silver Rose

TURKEY

Nurcan Baysal

A journalist in Diyarbakir, in the Kurdish part of Turkey. Her work in documenting human rights violations in her region has made her the target of nationalists and pro-government supporters and groups. In January 2018, she was arrested after sending tweets in favour of peace and condemning the Turkish military invasion of Afrin. In February 2018, she was sentenced to ten months in prison for an article written in 2016 criticizing the military operations in Cizre.

TURKMENISTAN

Farid Tukhbatullin
Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights

UKRAINE

Vitalina Koval

UKRAINE

Emil Kurbedinov
Crimean solidarity

UKRAINE

Oleksandra Matviichuk
Center for Civil Liberties

UNITED KINGDOM

Maria Munir
Stonewall

UZBEKISTAN

Shuhrat Ganiev
RU/Humanitarian Law Centre

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Meziane Abane

ALGERIA

Nassera Dutour

Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie

BAHRAIN

Nedhal Al-Salman

Bahrain Centre for Human Rights

EGYPT

Mohamed Ahmed

Borders Centre for Development Studies and Human Rights

EGYPT

Aya Hijazi

Belady Foundation, An Island For Humanity

EGYPT

Kal Naga

IRAQ

Khalid Ibrahim

"Under the former dictatorship, I was deprived of the most basic human rights. So when I left my country, I decided to work for a free Iraq and, finally, for human rights the world over."

Khalid spent 10 years working in Dublin (Republic of Ireland) for Front Line Defenders where he oversaw human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. He now co-runs the Gulf Centre for Human Rights, an NGO that specializes in supporting and protecting human rights defenders (independent journalists, bloggers, jurists, etc.).

IRAQ

Rohza Mohammed Gharib

Civil Development Organization

ISRAEL / OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Raji Al Sourani

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

ISRAEL / OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Sarit Michaeli

B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

KUWAIT

Nawaf Alhendal

LEBANON

Joseph Aoun

LIBYA

Laila El Maghrbi

Tanweer Mouvement

LIBYA

Reda Fhelboom

Libyan Journalists Independent Syndicate

MOROCCO

Jamila Sayouri

Association Adala pour le droit à un procès équitable

MOROCCO

Saadia Drissi Amrani

Association démocratique des Femmes du Maroc

OMAN

Habiba Al-Hinai

Omani Association for Human Rights

SAUDI ARABIA

Yahya Al-Assiri

ALQST for Human Rights

SYRIA

Maria Al Abdeh

Women Now for Development

Director of Women Now for Development (WND), a broad network of women's organizations in Syria and neighbouring countries. A specialist in Islamic feminism and women's rights in the Middle East and North Africa, she has participated in numerous campaigns and conferences relaying the voices of the most vulnerable women to the media, activists and politicians.

SYRIA

Abdullah Al Khatib

TUNISIA

Bochra Belhaj Hmida

Association des femmes démocrates tunisiennes

TUNISIA

Bassem Trifi

Ligue tunisienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme

AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

Georgina Orellano

Asociación de Mujeres Meretrices

BRAZIL

Anielle Franco et Monica Benicio

"As long as we have the strength, we will demand justice by occupying the streets and public spaces. My sister was part of this resistance and we will continue to be so right to the end".

Anielle is the sister of Marielle Franco, a politician killed along with her driver in Rio de Janeiro on 14 March 2018. This human rights activist had devoted her life to fighting for the rights of the most marginalized, including black youths living in shanty towns, women and LGBTI. Her murderers are still on the loose.

BRAZIL

Geovani Krenak

Peuple Krenak

BRAZIL

Antonia Melo

Xingu Vivo

CHILE

Paulina Acevedo

Observatorio Ciudadano

COLOMBIA

Noira Candelo Riascos

Cococaucá (Consejos Comunitarios y Organizaciones de Base del Pueblo Negro de la Costa Pacífica en Cauca)

COLOMBIA

Renzo Alexander García Parra

Comité Ambiental en Defensa de la Vida

COLOMBIA

David Ravelo Crespo

Comite Permanente para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos

ECUADOR

Yaku Perez

CAOI / ECUARUNARI

EL SALVADOR

Andrea Ayala

Esmules

GUATEMALA

José Bó Mo

Resistencia de Cahabón

GUATEMALA

Aura Lolita Chávez Ixcaquic

Consejo de Pueblos K'iche's

President of the Council of K'iche People for Life, Mother Earth, Land and Territory (CPK). CPK undertakes collective action against human rights violations relating to the expansion of the mining and forestry industries, hydroelectric power stations and the agroindustry when this expansion takes place without the free, prior and informed consent of the people affected.

GUATEMALA

Claudia Samayoa

Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores

GUYANA

Christophe Yanuwana Tapoka Pierre

Jeunesse autochtone de Guyane

HAITI

Fritznel Pierre

Comité pour la paix et le développement

HONDURAS

Miriam Maradiaga Miranda

Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH

HONDURAS

Donny Reyes

Asociación LGTB Arcoíris

HONDURAS

Martinez Suani

Centro Hondureño de promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario

MEXICO

Gustavo Castro

OTROS MUNDOS A.C./CHIAPAS

NICARAGUA

Vilma Núñez de Escorcia

Centro Nicaragüense de los Derechos Humanos – CENIDH

NICARAGUA

Felix Maradiaga

Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas

PARAGUAY

Mirta Moragas

Red contra toda forma de discriminación

PERU

Policarpo Sánchez Rodríguez

Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Ucayali y Afluentes - FECONAU

UNITED STATES

Eva Lewis

The I Project

VENEZUELA

Mercedes De Freitas

Transparencia Venezuela

V. ORGANIZERS AND RESOURCES

SUMMIT ORGANIZERS

Amnesty International

Founded in 1961, Amnesty International is a global and independent movement of more than 7 million members and supporters working to defend and promote the rights set out in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.

<https://www.amnesty.org>

Association for Women's Rights and Development (Association pour les droits de la femme et le développement / AWID)

Founded more than 35 years ago, AWID is a global feminist organization focusing on gender justice, sustainable development and women's rights. AWID currently has more than 5,000 members, both individuals and institutions, in 164 countries.

<https://www.awid.org/fr>

International Human Rights Service (Service international pour les droits de l'homme / ISHR)

ISHR was founded in 1984 with two aims: to support human rights defenders and to make recommendations aimed at improving human rights legislation and human rights institutions. Over the last 30 years, ISHR has made a significant contribution to the design and construction of the global human rights system and to supporting and strengthening regional and international human rights movements.

<https://www.ishr.ch/>

ProtectDefenders.eu

ProtectDefenders.eu is the European mechanism for human rights defenders. It was established to protect defenders in danger who may be facing extremely difficult situations around the world. ProtectDefenders.eu was set up by a consortium of 12 NGOs active in protecting human rights defenders.

<https://protectdefenders.eu>

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

La FIDH est une ONG internationale de défense des droits humains créée en 1922. Elle regroupe 184 organisations nationales de défense des droits humains dans 112 pays. La FIDH est engagée dans la défense de tous les droits civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels tels que définis dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme.

<https://www.fidh.org/fr/>

Front Line Defenders

Front Line Defenders provides rapid and practical resources for the protection and support of human rights defenders at risk around the world, including protection grants; training and capacity building in physical, digital and strategic communications/visibility; international advocacy with governments, regional institutions and the UN; campaigning and media work; and support for well-being of HRDs. Since 2001, Front Line Defenders has supported over 10,000 HRDs at risk worldwide.

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/fr>

Reporters without Borders (Reporters sans frontières/RSF)

Founded in 1985 by 4 journalists, Reporters Without Borders is registered in France as a public interest entity. It is an independent non-profit organization that has consultative status with the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the International Organization of the Francophonie, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. RSF has become a leader organization in defending and promoting freedom of information in the world. Headquartered in Paris, it has bureaux, sections or representatives in 17 cities (Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Helsinki, Istanbul, Karachi, Kiev, London, Madrid, Mexico, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco, Stockholm, Taipei, Tunis, Vienna and Washington), correspondents in 130 countries and 15 local partner organizations.

<https://rsf.org/>

World Organization against Torture (OMCT)

Créée en 1985, l'OMCT constitue aujourd'hui la principale coalition internationale d'ONG luttant contre la torture, les exécutions sommaires, les disparitions forcées et tout autre traitement cruel, inhumain ou dégradant. Avec près de 300 organisations affiliées dans le monde à son réseau SOS-Torture et plusieurs dizaines de milliers de correspondants dans tous les pays, l'OMCT est le plus important réseau d'organisations non gouvernementales actives dans la protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme dans le monde.

<http://www.omct.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HRD Memorial:

<https://hrdmemorial.org>

Watchdog for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (Observatoire pour la protection des défenseurs des droits humains):

<https://www.fidh.org/fr/themes/defenseurs-des-droits-humains/L-OBSERVATOIRE-POUR-LA-PROTECTION,4628>

VI. PRESS INFORMATION

A press conference will take place before the opening ceremony on Monday 29 October, at 12h30, in the Espace Niemeyer, in the presence of Human Rights Defenders.

To register, email:

press@hrdworldsummit.org

ACCREDITATIONS

There are only a limited number of accreditations for plenary sessions so please register as soon as possible with:

press@hrdworldsummit.org

N.B.: the parallel working sessions are not open to journalists but will all be followed up by open plenary sessions. The opening and closing ceremonies are also open to all those with accreditation.

All sessions will be broadcast live on a large screen in the hall of the Espace Niemeyer.

Sessions will also be livestreamed via the following link:

<https://hrdworldsummit.org>

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

To find out more about the human rights defenders attending:

<https://hrdworldsummit.org/the-human-rights-defenders/#profiles>

PRESS DOCUMENTS

All press documents can be accessed via this link:

<https://hrdworldsummit.org/media>

Biographies and photos of the defenders attending are available from the press service.

THE VENUES

ESPACE NIEMEYER

2 place du Colonel Fabien, 75019 Paris

<http://espace-niemeyer.fr>

Access: Metro 2 – Stop: Colonel Fabien

THÉÂTRE NATIONAL DE CHAILLOT

1 Place du Trocadéro, 75016 Paris

<https://www.theatre-chaillot.fr/fr/humains>

Access: Metro 6 and 7 – Stop : Trocadéro

CONTACT

French-speaking media:

spresse@amnesty.fr

00 33 6 76 94 37 05

International media:

press@hrdworldsummit.org

01 53 38 66 00 / 06 76 94 37 05



The Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018, being held from 29 to 31 October in Paris, will celebrate the progress made in protecting human rights defenders (HRDs) since the signing of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders on 9 December 1998. It will also be an opportunity for HRDs to collectively reflect on and address the current and future challenges facing them.

Following three days of discussion between human rights defenders, institutions and civil society members, States will be called on to reaffirm their commitment to better protecting human rights defenders by adopting an action plan aimed at guaranteeing a favourable working environment for HRD in the years to come.

The summit is being organized by a coalition of eight organizations:



In collaboration with more than 30 organizations and networks of human rights defenders worldwide:

ESCR - Net

ILGA

Urgent Action Fund

Protection International

Peace Brigades International

EMHRF

Coalition of Human Rights in Development

EuroMed Rights

Trocaire

ATD Quart Monde

France Libertés

CIVICUS

CAHR – University of York

DefendDefenders EHAHRDP

Forum Asia

Justice and Peace

Gulf Centre for Human Rights

JASS (Just Associates)

Norwegian Human Rights Fund

CCFD - Terre Solidaire

HiVOS

Plataforma Internacional Contra la Impunidad

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Civil Rights Defenders

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Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

The Fund for Global Human Rights

APWLD

International Land Coalition

IM-Defensoras

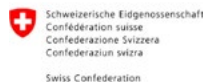
WHRD MENA Coalition

Transparency International

Nobel Women's Initiative

Global Witness

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