

Mrs. Tawakul Karman, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (Yemen)  
TBC

Mrs. Tawakul Karman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 in recognition of her non-violent struggle for the expression of rights, the safety of women and women's rights to full participation in peace-building work in Yemen. Upon being awarded the prize,

Tawakul became the first Yemeni, the first Arab woman, and the second Muslim woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, as well as the youngest Nobel Peace Laureate to date, at the age of 32.

Mrs. Karman is a mother of three as well as a human rights activist, journalist, politician, president of Women Journalists without Chains organization, and a senior member of the Al-Islah political party. She is a member of the advisory board for the Transparency International organisation and for several international Human rights NGOs.

Bold and outspoken, Karman has been imprisoned on a number of occasions for her pro-democracy, pro-human rights protests. Amongst Yemen's Youth movement, she is known as "mother of the revolution", "the iron woman", and recently (The lady of the Arab spring). Tawakul was born in 1979 in Taiz, Yemen's third largest city. She studied an undergraduate degree in Commerce from the University of Science and Technology in Sana'a before completing a graduate degree in Political Science from the University of Sana'a.

Growing up in a politically tumultuous country, Tawakul witnessed the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, followed by a civil war between the two factions in 1994 in which the North triumphed over the South. The civil war led to dissidence in the South as the repressive Northern government assumed control over the country.

A journalist by profession and a human rights activist by nature, Tawakul responded to the political instability and human rights abuses in Yemen by mobilizing others and reporting on injustices. In 2005, Karman founded the organization "Women Journalists Without Chains," (WJWC) which advocates for rights and freedoms and provides media skills to journalists.

In 2007, Karman began organizing weekly protests in Yemen's capitol, Sana'a, targeting systemic government repression and calling for inquiries into corruption and other forms of social and legal injustice. Tawakul's weekly protests continued until 2011, when she redirected protesters to support the Arab Spring. Karman even brought Yemen's revolution to New York organizing rallies at the UN headquarters.

She has entered into many dialogues and written several articles, calling for abandonment of extremism, violence and terrorism, for dialogues between religions and sects, and for co-existence between peoples, cultures and civilizations. She has been arrested several times most notably on January 22, 2011 when she was arrested late at night and sent to women's prison for allegedly disturbing Yemen's peace and social security. The regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to release her from prison in response to large protests in most Yemeni governorates and widespread expressions of international solidarity.

As a result of her work, Karman's home has been exposed to raids and damage and there have been several attempts on her life, most notably when a woman attempted to stab her in the back but she was saved by her supporters who restrained the attacker. Her and her family



have been threatened with killing and death, most notably when the president Ali Abdullah Saleh contacted her brother to threaten her brother with killing whoever goes out of his obedience. She has also been exposed for years to very big campaigns of defamation and ongoing instigation. Mrs. Karman's commitment to her work has remained steadfast in the face of this oppression as she often repeats that death comes only once and that if it comes while you are

defending a cause or making a change for the better than if it comes while you do not have any or you are asleep on the bed because "we do not fear of the future but we make it".

With her faith in peaceful struggle and her leadership in the peaceful protest movement that began years before the Arab Spring, Tawakul Karman was able to promote political, social, and cultural changes in Yemen, not to mention that she could fall the president Ali Abdullah Saleh who stepped down from the power on .....She helped convince the Yemeni people who possess more than 70 million weapons to abandon their arms and to pursue a peaceful revolution holding roses and armed with roses instead.

As a woman, she convinced the Yemeni society, which is a conservative one, of the ability of a woman to be a leader and a decision maker through her continued engagement in the leadership of the protest movements. After years of insisting on daily and weekly sit-ins and protests along with activists from her organization Women Journalists Without Chains alone and with a handful of activists on civil issues and human rights, she inspired millions of women to demand their human rights, fight corruption and demand the fall of the corrupt regime. She said that I was certain that our voices will reach to every home and the time would come as they ever keep laughing at us. It is time for the Yemeni woman to lead the society and to save, along with the man, Yemen. This day has come. We are overcoming all the false traditions and conventions in parallel to our victory over the dictator.

She has obtained several titles and prizes; notably as follows:

- The lady of year 2011 according to the readers and subscribers of Yahoo website.
- One of the Top 100 Global Thinkers according to Foreign Policy Magazine.
- In the first place among the most revolutionary 16 women in the history identified by the American Time Magazine
- Among the strongest 100 Arab women
- Awarded the Courage Award by the Embassy of United States of America, Sana'a in 2008.
- One of seven women who changed history in the year of 2009.

Since receiving these awards and the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, Karman has continued to support female journalists and rally Yemenis against government corruption and injustice. Fiercely committed to change, Karman spends the majority of her time in a tent in Change square, where she continues her peaceful protests for justice and freedom.

She strongly calls for the equal citizenship not only in her country but on the world level. About herself, she states *I am a universal citizen, the earth is my homeland and humanity is my nation. We are the new generation struggling for our freedom. We know that this is a new world and the future is ours. We know the dictatorships were the reason for instability and for the walls built around the world. And as women, they built walls around us because they are afraid of us.*

#### NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/karman.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/karman.html)

#### VIDEO

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvIQi5jhryk>

#### QUOTES

“I have always believed that resistance against repression and violence is possible without relying on similar repression and violence.”

“Peace does not mean just to stop wars, but also to stop oppression and injustice.”

“You have to be strong; you have to trust yourself that you can bring down the dictatorship regime and build a new country. You have to be part of building your country. We know that anything that you dream can happen. You have to know that you have the ability to achieve your dream.”

“The solution to women’s issues can only be achieved in a free and democratic society in which human energy is liberated, the energy of both women and men together.”

“We want to show the world that women can do everything.”

“We chose peace and only peace.”



## Mr. Johan Galtung, Rector, Transcend University (Norway)

Dr. Johan Galtung is a peace researcher with PhDs in mathematics and sociology, and the principal founder of the discipline of peace and conflict studies. He has had an international academic career spanning five continents, a dozen major positions, over 30 Visiting Professorships, more than 100 book publications and over 1,000 published monographs. He founded the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) in 1959, the first institute of its kind, and served as its Director for 10 years. In 1964 he led PRIO to establish the first academic journal devoted to Peace Studies: the *Journal of Peace Research*. In the same year, he assisted in the founding of the International Peace Research Association. He also helped to found the International University Centre in Dubrovnik and served as its first Director General. He held the position as the president of the World Future Studies Federation. In 1969 he was appointed to the world's first chair in peace and conflict studies, at the University of Oslo. Mr Galtung has consulted with numerous UN agencies including UNESCO, FAO and UNDP. Mr. Galtung was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize in 1987, and has received many other accolades. He has developed several influential theories, such as the distinction between positive and negative peace, and theories on conflict resolution. In 1993 Mr. Galtung founded TRANSCEND, a network for Peace and Development, which is now running Transcend Peace University with a number of courses online.



Ms. Myrna Kay Cunningham Kain, Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Nicaragua)

Ms. Cunningham Kain is an Indigenous Miskita woman from the community of Waspam, located on the banks of the Wangki River in Nicaragua. After studying as a Primary Education Teacher, she went back to Waspam to work as a teacher. She left her community once again to study medicine and surgery at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua*, becoming the first female Miskita doctor.

With the victory of the Sandinista Revolution, she began to work in Nicaragua's Ministry of Public Health, assuming different responsibilities as director of research and planning, among others. As governor she played an important role in the consultation process on the autonomy of the multi-ethnic region and the negotiation of peace agreements that resulted in the approval of the Law of Autonomy of the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Communities from the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua (1987) and the establishment of the first autonomous regional governments.

In the 90's, Ms. Cunningham Kain became the founding director of the newly established *University of the Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast*, otherwise known as URACCAN. URACCAN was one of the first Latin American institutions of indigenous and intercultural higher education with a focus on gender, and has been an inspiration for many Indigenous peoples around the continent.

Ms. Cunningham Kain has also served as the coordinator of the Intercultural Indigenous Council (CII), formed by 60 indigenous scholars from 18 Latin American countries. The CII presents Indigenous knowledge from the most relevant experiences of Indigenous scholars, and from a conceptual and practical vision organized didactically in order to facilitate the use of conceptual, procedural, attitudinal and spiritual content.

The Pan American Health Organization recognized her work by naming her "Hero of Health in the Americas" in 2001. She has been an activist for the rights of Indigenous Women in diverse areas in Nicaragua, as well as on continental and global levels.

Ms. Cunningham Kain is President of the Center for Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples (CADPI), which is an organization working in areas of intercultural communication, cultural revitalization, Indigenous women's Rights and climate change and its impact on Indigenous communities. In September 2010, Ms. Cunningham Kain was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), thereby becoming the first Indigenous woman to receive such recognition from the UNAM. Dr. Mirna Cunningham was named Chair of the UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues for the period 2011-2013.



Ms. Delphine Djiraibe, Principal Advocate, Public Interest Law Center (Chad)

Ms. Djiraibe is the founder and chief attorney of the Public Interest Law Centre in Chad. She is a human rights and environmental activist in her native country. Prior to her work at the Public Interest Law Center, Ms. Djiraibe co-founded the Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. Her work on human rights particularly focuses on revenues from the World Bank-funded Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project. She led a relentless campaign to ensure that the project followed environmental and social standards, and she continues to fight so that profits from the project are allocated to Chadian education, health, and development. In addition to her work on the pipeline project, she is concerned about Chadian access to justice and is in the initial stages of creating a Centre for Conflict Resolution, an alternative dispute resolution body for family and land disputes. In 2004 she was awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. In 2009 the magazine *Jeune Afrique* named her one of Africa's 100 most important advocates for change. BBC News has described her as "one of Chad's most prominent human rights lawyers".



Mr. Martin Khor, Executive Director, South Centre (Malaysia)

Mr. Khor has been the Executive Director of the South Centre since 2009. He is also a journalist, economist, and the former Director of the Third World Network based in Penang, Malaysia. Mr. Khor has been active in the civil society movement, and he attended the World Social Forum (2002 and 2003), European social forum (1999, 2000, and 2004), and the World Economic Forum in Davos. Mr. Khor has been a member of the UN Secretary-General's Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements since 1997. He has also served as Vice-Chair of the Working Group of Experts on the Right to Development under the UN Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Khor participated in the Helsinki Process on Globalization and Democracy. In 2012 he participated in Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. He has been a columnist for The Star (Malaysia) since 1978.



Ms. Virginia B. Dandan, independent expert on human rights and international solidarity (Philippines)

Ms. Virginia B. Dandan was appointed by the Human Rights Council as the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity in June 2011. She assumed her functions on 1 August 2011. Ms. Dandan is an internationally recognized expert in economic, social and cultural rights and served as the Chairperson of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for eight years from 1999 to 2007, having been a member of the Committee for twenty years from 1990 to 2010. She retired from teaching in 2009, from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, where she was a faculty member until 2009, and Dean from 2001 to 2006. Ms. Dandan has extensive experience in human rights work on the ground, providing technical assistance on UN treaty body reporting, and training courses on economic, social and cultural rights, human rights in development, human rights education and training, the rights of indigenous peoples, cultural rights, gender issues, and sustainable development.



Ms. Maria Mercedes Rossi, Representative, *Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII* (APG23) (Italy)

Dr. Rossi is main representative of *Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII* at the United Nations in Geneva and New York with permanent presence in Geneva, Switzerland. She worked as a missionary doctor under the Catholic Diocese of Ndola in Zambia for 20 years from 1988 to 2008. She served as Medical Advisor for the Red Cross, Ndola branch for 2 years. She is former chairperson of LARC (Link Association for Relief of Children), the provincial network of NGOs/CBOs committed to assist OVCs and advocate for them. She worked 4 years as a voluntary MD (part-time) at Chifubu Government Health Centre Ndola. From 1989 to 1994 she did voluntary service as the Medical Officer in the first Home Care programme for the chronically ill and AIDS patients in the Copperbelt, Zambia. From 1994 to 1998 she worked as Assistant AIDS Coordinator in the AIDS Department of the Catholic Diocese of Ndola and from 1999 to 2002 she took over the task of AIDS Coordinator in the programme. From 2002 to 2008 she worked on the Chicetekelo Youth Project. Additionally, from 1995 to 2008, she was the Representative of the Association Pope John 23<sup>rd</sup> in Zambia. Dr. Rossi received several awards, including *Award Baldassari Arduino "Associazione Amici di Roul Follerau" for thesis on Leprosy, Special Woman- City of Pesaro (Italy)-Woman of the Year*, etc. Her research has focused on HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Her publications include *Community initiated versus Institution initiated Home care: a comparison (Lusaka National conference 1995)*, *HIV/AIDS Care in Zambia: an action proposal to improve continuity of care in the Copperbelt Province*, etc. She holds a degree in Medicine (MD) and a Speciality in Infectious Diseases, a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (D.T.M. & H), and a Master in Public Health (MPH).



Mr. Robert Moulias, President, *Allô Maltraitance des personnes âgées et/ou des personnes handicapées* (ALMA France)

Dr. Moulias is the President of ALMA France. He is a Professor Emeritus at University Paris VI. Dr. Moulias has served on the Board of Biology and Pharmacology of Aging at University Paris VI since 1996 and was a member of Medical Commission French Red Cross between 2002 and 2005. From 2001 to 2008 he was the chair of the Study Group on Ethics and Old Age, *Espace Ethique Hopitaux*, in Paris. Dr. Moulias is the former president of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, European Region (IAGG-ER) and is a Scientific Counsellor of the *Federation Internationale des Personnes Agées* (International Association of Aged Persons) since 2004. His research focuses on the immunology of aging, nutrition and aging, organization of gerontological care, aging and ethics. He also helps to organize emergency hotlines to prevent elder abuse in France (ALMA network).



Ms. Astrid Stuckelberger, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing (Germany)

Dr. Astrid Stuckelberger has over the years become an internationally recognized expert in aging and human development. She holds several international positions both as an academic and an NGO activist such as chair of the NGO Committee on Aging at the United Nations in Geneva and President of the Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA). Since nearly a decade, she is a representative of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics and of the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues at the UN in Geneva. As such she has been an advocate for bringing ageing into the agenda of the UN agencies, including promotion of the human rights of older persons and a long life right to development at the Human Right Council and at the European Council.

She is currently a senior lecturer and researcher at the University of Geneva School of Public Health anchored in the Faculty of Medicine. As an expert and scientist, she conducts research and consults in different fields related to ageing, gender, technology and ethics at many levels including State, European Commission and United Nations specialized agencies and programmes.

During the last decade, she acted as Deputy-Director of the Swiss National Research Programme on Aging and was recognized by the United Nations Secretary-General for her achievement during the 1999 UN International Year of Older Persons. As a writer, she has published several books, and more than 100 scientific articles, policy papers, governmental, European or UN reports.



Ms. Ramona Constantin, Community worker, Big Life Company in Manchester (Romania)

Ms. Constantin, a Roma, is a community interpreter, youth and family worker and classroom assistant. She received no formal education and spoke little English before moving to the UK in 2010. She sold *The Big Issue in the North* for 18 months during which time she became fluent in English and was invited to take part in a pioneering training scheme for young Roma adults run by the magazine's sister charity, the city council and partner agencies. In 2012, she was invited to a posh lunch at Manchester Town Hall attended by the Queen and Prince Philip. Her inclusion in the event was a recognition of how much she has achieved since arriving in the city from her native Romania two years ago.



Mr. Alfred Maurice de Zayas, independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (USA)

Mr. De Zayas is the first United Nations independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (since 1 May 2012). He holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard University and Dr. Phil. in history from the University of Göttingen in Germany. He practiced commercial law in New York in the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and is a retired member of the New York and Florida Bar.

He has been a visiting professor of law at numerous universities in the US, Canada, Germany and Spain. He has taught human rights law at the Strasbourg Institute and international humanitarian law at the San Remo institute. At present, he teaches international law at the Geneva School of Diplomacy.

In 2009, he was a member of the UN workshop that drafted a report on the human right to peace, which was subsequently discussed and further elaborated by the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is also a signatory of the Declaración de Bilbao and Declaración de Santiago de Compostela on the Human Right to Peace. He served as a consultant to the OHCHR on the issue of mercenaries. He is an expert on civil and political rights and has published nine books on a variety of legal and historical issues. He has co-authored and co-edited three books, notably "United Nations Human Rights Committee Case Law" (with Jakob Th. Möller, N.P.Engel publisher), and "International Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms" (with Gudmundur Alfredsson and Bertrand Ramcharan, Brill). His scholarly articles in the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law, Oxford Encyclopedia of Human Rights and Macmillan Encyclopedia of Genocide, encompass the prohibition of aggression, universal jurisdiction, the right to the homeland, mass population transfers, minority rights, refugee law, repatriation etc. From 2002 to 2006 he was Secretary-General and from 2006 to 2010 President of PEN International, Centre Suisse romand. He is also a member of several advisory boards, including the International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt a.M.), Zentrum gegen Vertreibungen (Berlin) and the International Bill of Rights Association (Berkeley). He has received several awards, most recently the "Educators Award 2011" of Canadians for Genocide Education. He is proficient in Dutch, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.



Mr. Obiora Okafor, Member, Advisory Committee of Human Rights Council (Nigeria)

Mr. Okafor is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is also professor of international law at the Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, Toronto, Canada. Mr. Okafor has twenty years of experience working in various universities. He has received a variety of academic honors including the Award of Academic Excellence of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers (2010) and the York University Board of Governors' Recognition for Outstanding Research (2005). Mr. Okafor has served as a short-term consultant with various organizations including law firms, OHCHR (2005), UNDP (2004) and the British Council/DFID Access to Justice Program in Nigeria (2002).

From 2010 to date he has been a member of the Consulting Editorial Board for the University of Ghana Law Journal. From 2007 to 2008 he was the guest editor for the African Yearbook of International Law. He has also contributed to various academic projects such as serving as the Canadian Project Director of NIHERNET from 2003 to date. From 2009 to date he has been serving as the Chair of the Curriculum Reform Working Group at York University. From 2007 to 2008 he was the Chair of the Equality Committee of Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. Mr. Okafor received a Ph.D. degree in law from the University of British Columbia, Canada.



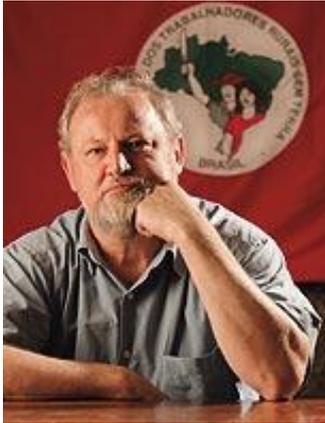
Mr. Koen de Feyter, Professor, University of Antwerp (Belgium)

Mr. de Feyter is a professor of international law at University of Antwerp. He was previously affiliated with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Maastricht (the Netherlands) and the Institute of Development Policy and Management of the University of Antwerp. He has also served as the Academic Coordinator of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, Italy. He is the author of *World development law* (2001) and *Human rights: Social justice in the age of the market* (2005). He edited *Privatization and human rights* (2005), *Out of the Ashes: Reparation for victims of gross violations of human rights* (2006), and *The Local Relevance of Human Rights* (2011).



Mr. Gustavo Massiah, Member, International Council of the World Social Forum (France)

Mr. Massiah is currently a member of the International Council of the World Social Forum. He is an economist, urbanist, and political analyst. He was a professor of urbanism at the French Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette, as well as the head of the CRID (Centre de recherche et d'information sur le développement). Mr. Massiah is one of the founders of the French Attac, of which he served as vice-president until 2006, and he remains a member of its scientific council. His published books include *La Crise de l'impérialisme* (1975, Paris), and *Villes en développement - Essai sur les politiques urbaines dans le tiers monde* (1988, Paris), *Une stratégie altermondialiste* (2011, Paris).



Mr. João Pedro Stedile, Member, National Coordination of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) and Via Campesina Brasil (Brazil)

Mr. Stedile is a social activist, the founder and leader of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST), Brazil's Movement of Landless Rural Workers, a social movement in Latin America. The MST was founded in 1984 to raise the consciousness of peasants to struggle for land and agrarian reform, and promote social justice and equality through a mass movement at the national level. Under pressure from the MST, Brazil undertook one of the most ambitious land-distribution programs ever seen in the developing world. From 1995 to 2002 Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, handed out 44.5 million acres, an area about the size of Missouri, to more than 600,000 families. The Landless Movement now claims 1.5 million members, and it has grown increasingly sophisticated. It boasts a school system with 3,900 educators working in squatter camps and settlements. They teach not only math and writing, but also politics and "values of the new man and the new woman." The last National Congress of MST in Brasilia was attended by 18,000 activists and the MST spoke out strongly against the damage being caused by agrofuel monoculture.



Ms. Pascale Delille, Researcher, Université Blaise Pascal (France)

Ms. Delille is an expert on the solidarity economy and a member of the European Coordinating Committee of RIPESS (the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy). Her research has focused on communication and solidarity, social responsibility, social economy, and complementary currencies. From 2009 to 2010 she was a visiting researcher on corporate social responsibility at the Louvain School of Management. She was also a research officer at GPEM-DD (commissariat au développement durable français) on social responsible procurement. Ms. Delille designed and co-facilitated a workshop on communication and management information systems of the solidarity economy, for the international meeting of RIPESS in 2009. In 2003, she coordinated a European seminar on systems and complementary currencies at the European Social Forum meetings in Paris. In 2001, she designed and facilitated the workshop “Social coins, local currencies” in the second international meeting of RIPESS, in Québec.



Statement of Mr. Eunchang Jun, Youth Rights Activist  
(Republic of Korea)

How I Ended Up Here (Eunchang Jun)

They say family's important in one's development. In that aspect, I was hardly the type that would take interest in issues like human rights. With a patriotic father working at the governmental military lab and a mother striving to see her firstborn go to top-class colleges and have social success, I was quite the 'Yes-man' type: no unnecessary questions, do as you're told, etc. etc. Would have grown all the way like that, but then something drastic happened.

There were two deaths. My older cousin, ace of every test, a role model of the family, died when I was 14. One of the main causes of his death was that he had worked too hard on schoolwork to excel in the competitive education system of Korea, too hard that it broke his immune system useless. Then a year later, a friend at school threw himself out of the window of some building, overridden with stress from schoolwork plus a lot of other things from school that violated his rights as a human being.

Doubly shocked by losing people close to me, I sought escaping the system at first. I flew to Germany hoping for a better educational environment to survive in. But going abroad was something people with a certain amount of wealth did, and after a year-and-half stay I came back, due to financial reasons.

After that, I slowly came to understand that running away wasn't an option. So little by little, I tried to face the reality that killed two people, and once started I saw nothing else but to do something about the twisted education system that inflicted so much pain over so many - my cousin and friend being only part of the victims.

Three years passed since I realized that I was in a way cornered, and it was much better off doing something than trying to ignore what was already there. During the last years, I participated in various actions to guarantee rights of the youth in Korea, such as the movement to initiate the Seoul Students' Rights Ordinance. Now I am a member at the Youth Committee of the New Progressive Party (a political party), trying to establish a fighting ground for the political rights of youths.



Statement of Ms. Hyewon Jeon, Youth Rights Activist (Republic of Korea)

I am an activist of the Youths' Rights organization 'Asunaro'. Growing up under the influence of my mother who is participating in the Progressive Education movement, I became generally interested in the rights of Korean youths.

That was just the start. High school was not at all kind to me. School forced Christianity on all the students, restricted hair from perm to basic lengths, and had every student to stay at school till dawn. Even physical punishment from the teachers was legitimate and socially OK.

Human rights did not exist inside school. I was never treated as a full human being while at school, as many students are treated so. After years of school education ignorant of students' rights, I wanted to find my dignity as a human being. So with all my upbringings and experiences at school, I added a little bit of courage.

I had dreamed of changes happening in school, so I took various actions. Petition campaigns, writing protest articles, rejecting enforced periodic exams...

But changes I hoped didn't happen, so I dropped out of high school. After, I was involved in the social movement to make laws that could protect students' rights, the Seoul Students' Rights Ordinance that I am to represent and explain.

Until now, I have and still am meeting many students, and try hard to guarantee their rights. I live a much more happy life now. While continuing to take part in the youth movement, I went to college. Now I am a sociology major freshman.



Ms. Shreen Abdul Saroor, Mannar Women's Development Federation (Sri Lanka)

Ms. Shreen Abdul Saroor is one of the founders of Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF) in Sri Lanka. Saroor's work grew out of her experience of being forcibly displaced, along with all of her family, in 1990 by the militant group fighting for a separate Tamil state. She helped establish MWDF on the understanding that through microcredit and educational programs, Tamil and Muslim women could find common ground to resurrect the past peace in their communities. She assisted in the implementation of the Shakti gender equality program sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency, which aimed to engage both government and nonprofit organizations in development and influence gender-sensitive economic, political and legal policies.

With the descent of Sri Lanka deeper into violent conflict and the resulting increases in disappearances and civilian deaths, Ms. Saroor has largely focused on highlighting human rights violations of the Tamil and Muslim minority communities at the regional and international levels since 2006. She brought together 11 grassroots women's groups from the north and the east and formed the Women's Action Network (WAN) in 2009 with the mandate of building the capacity of member organizations to address gender based violence effectively and to provide protection and collective support for witnesses, victims and women rights defenders.

Shreen is an Echoing Green Fellow and a member of the Women Peacemakers Program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. In 2008 Ms. Saroor received the Voices of Courage award from the International Rescue Committee's Women and Refugees' Commission for her international and regional work on highlighting the plight of the internally displaced women. In 2011 Shreen was awarded the 5th International Bremen Peace Award under the category of public engagement for peace and justice in Germany. She is one of the recipients of the first N-Peace Award by United Nations Development Program in 2011.



Ms. Manal Alsharif, IT Consultant, Blogger (Saudi Arabia)

Ms. Alsharif is a women's rights activist, an IT consultant, and a blogger. Until May 2012, she worked as an Internet Security Consultant for Saudi Aramco, the Saudi national oil company. Ms. Alsharif has campaigned for women's rights in Saudi Arabia for many years. In 2011 she started a Facebook campaign named "Teach me how to drive so I can protect myself". The campaign calls for women to start driving from 17 June 2011. As of 21 May 2011, about 12,000 readers of the Facebook page had expressed their support. She was detained twice because of the campaign. After her final release from prison, she started a Twitter campaign called "Faraj" to release Saudi, Filipino and Indonesian women prisoners in the Dammam women's prison who "are locked up just because they owe a small sum of money but cannot afford to pay the debt". In 2012 she was awarded the first annual [Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent](#) at the [Oslo Freedom Forum](#). [Foreign Policy](#) magazine named Ms Alsharif one of the *Top 100 Global Thinkers* of 2011, and she was listed in [Forbes](#) list of *Women Who (Briefly) Rocked* in the same year. In 2012 Ms. Alsharif was named one of the Fearless Women of the year by [The Daily Beast](#), and [Time](#) magazine named her [one of the 100 most influential people of 2012](#). Ms. Alsharif graduated from King Abdulaziz University with a Bachelor of Science in computing and a Cisco Career Certification.



Ms. Priti Darooka, Executive Director, Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (India/USA)

Ms. Priti Darooka is the founder and executive director of PWESCR. Working in partnership with diverse groups and networks, she continues to provide support and is part of several initiatives on women's poverty, right to livelihoods, social security and right to food. She strives to make the human rights framework and mechanisms relevant to address issues of poverty. With expertise on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, she works closely with the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and various UN rapporteurs. She has assisted women from civil society groups from several countries to participate in the CESCR review process. She helped PWESCR develop its leadership institute in women's ESCR, an innovative leadership development programme.

Ms. Darooka previously worked at the Ford Foundation in New York and assisted the Foundation in its grant making in the areas of: International Human Rights; Women's Rights and Gender Equity; and International Economic Policy. She also helped the Foundation in the creation of ESCR net and in linking works of feminist economist with human rights advocates. Prior to the Ford Foundation, she was at UNIFEM (United Nation's Development Funds for Women) where she worked on violence against women indicators and assessment and coordinating UNIFEM's work in Afghanistan. As a consultant to the Center for Women's Global Leadership, she organized a women's rights hearing at the UN conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa. She was the National Campaign Coordinator with UNITE for their Global Justice for Garment Workers Campaign. Priti has also worked with community based organizations such as Manavi, and Urban Justice Center (UJC). She was also involved in the Stop FTAA (Free Trade Area of Americas) campaign and focused on different aspects of trade, and women's lives, from a feminist and human rights perspective. Priti has authored and presented many papers in various international conferences and forums. She has a Master's degree in women's studies from Rutgers University in the US.



Mr. François Mercier, Desk Officer for Financing for Development and Programme Officer on the Democratic Republic of Congo, CIDSE-Catholic NGO Network (Switzerland)

Mr. Mercier works for a Swiss Catholic development organization named “Fastenopfer”, which is a member organization of CIDSE. In that capacity, he will present a new study of his organization (April 2012) on capital flight and company transparency to uncover how companies can shift profits out of developing countries. He presents this research using a concrete example: “Glencore in the CR Congo: Profit before human rights and the environment”.



Ms. Gemma Adaba, Advisory Board Member, Social Justice in Global Development and Representative, Peoples Movement for Human Rights Learning (Trinidad & Tobago/USA)

Ms. Adaba is an International Development Consultant. The policy focus of her work includes Global Employment, Education, Social Protection, Gender and Migration. Recently, she has served as Consultant to the UN Women, Project: **“Gender and the Aid Effectiveness Modalities”**, and as a Consultant to the UNICEF/ILO Project: ***Supporting Workers with family responsibilities: connecting child development and the decent work agenda***. Ms Adaba was Representative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the United Nations in New York from 1999 to 2010. She is a passionate advocate for decent work, social justice and gender equality. She has served on the Board of the North-South Institute in Canada, and on the Jury for the ILO Decent Work Prize. Currently, she is Board Member of the Group Social Justice in Global Development (SocDevJustice).

Ms Adaba's trade union work began in the late 1960s in the education sector, where she was an active member of the Secondary School Teachers' Association (SSTA) of Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Adaba obtained a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, and was a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology and Demography at the Free University of Brussels in Belgium.



Ms. Jean Saldanha, Policy and Advocacy Officer on Resources for Development, CIDSE - Catholic NGO Network (India)

Jean Letitia Saldanha is a Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer for CIDSE, an international alliance of catholic development organizations based in Brussels. The main issues she works on are global governance with a focus on systemic reform for sustainable development, tax, aid and debt issues. Previously Ms Saldanha worked on human rights, peace and justice issues in the International Peace Movement Pax Christi International. She holds a Masters in International Law from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.



Mr. Collins Magalasi, Executive Director, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) (Zimbabwe)

Mr. Collins Magalasi is an experienced technical expert and manager in Public Policy, Development, Business Law and Development Finance. Currently he is the Executive Director of the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), a right-based pan African NGO working on Debt, Aid and Economic Governance. Before joining AFRODAD in early 2010, Mr. Magalasi was Head of International Development Finance team for ActionAid International and also its Country Director for South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. He also worked as Executive Director for the Malawi Economic Justice Network from 2000 to 2004. From 1993 he worked for World Vision International and the Government of Malawi in various capacities.

Mr. Magalasi has served in a number of Boards and Commissions. He served as Commissioner for the Competition and Fair Trading Commission (CFTC) of Malawi for four years; and as member of the Trade Negotiation Team for Malawi for seven years. He is currently the International Coordinator for the German-Partnership-with-Africa Young Leaders' Network; Member of the Economists Association of Malawi (ECAMA), President of the Catholic University of Malawi Parents and Guardians Association, and founding member of the Civil Society Action Against Corruption (CSAAC) just to mention a few.

Trained as a political economist and business lawyer, Collins is a Horst Kohler Scholar and holder of a Master of Laws and Business degree from Germany, and a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management degree from United Kingdom. He also holds a number of public policy, economics and management diplomas and certificates in addition to Bachelor's degree in Public Administration obtained from the University of Malawi.



Ms. Isabel Ortiz, Associate Director, UNICEF, (Spain)

Isabel Ortiz is Associate Director of Policy and Strategy at UNICEF. She has over 20 years experience working in more than 30 countries in various areas of social and economic development. From 2005-2009 she was Senior Advisor at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ DESA, and from 1995-2003, at the Asian Development Bank, where she was founding member of its Poverty Reduction Unit. From 1993-95 she was a lecturer and a researcher at the Department of International Economics of the High-Level Council of Scientific Research in Madrid; and from 1991-92 worked at the European Commission in Brussels. She has also contributed to organizations such as Joseph Stiglitz's Initiative for Policy Dialogue and is member of the Advisory Board of Social Justice in Global Development and CROP. Isabel has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and numerous publications, among them, *Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific* (2001), *Social Policy in National Development Strategies* (2008), *Child Poverty and Inequality* (2012) and *A Recovery for All* (2012).



Mr. Manuel Montes, Senior Adviser on Finance and Development, South Centre (Philippines)

Mr. Montes is the Senior Adviser on Finance and Development at the South Centre. Prior to this position, he was Chief of Development Strategies and before that Chief of Policy Analysis and Development at UNDESA. He has also served as the Regional Programme Coordinator of UNDP's Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Initiative which seeks to assist developing countries in Asia Pacific incorporate poverty reduction objectives in their trade policies and negotiations. From 1995 to

2005 he was Programme Officer for International Economic Policy at the Ford Foundation in New York. From 1989 to 1999 he was Senior Fellow and Coordinator for economics studies at the East-West Centre in Honolulu. From 1981 to 1989 he was Associate Professor of Economics at the University of The Philippines. He has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Developing Economies in Tokyo, at the United Nations University/World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU/IWDER) in Helsinki, and at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). His most recent publication is *Poverty and Well-Being in Asia during the Transition* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2003). Mr. Montes held the Central Bank Money and Banking Chair at the University of the Philippines from 1984 to 1991. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.



Ms. Cecile Molinier, Director, UNDP, Geneva

Ms. Molinier is the Director of UNDP Office in Geneva. Before joining the UNDP in 1992, she worked for the UN Secretariat, and had held several positions in Conference Services, the Staff Union, the Department of Management, and as Special Assistant to the Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. She lectured at Smith College in Massachusetts before joining the UN. As a UNDP Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative at the country level, Ms. Molinier contributed to the achievement of national development objectives in strategic areas such as community based management of natural resources in Tunisia, environmental protection, poverty reduction and capacity development in Sao Tome and Principe, mobilization against HIV in Togo and support to democratic transition and human rights in Mauritania. At Headquarters level, she has been instrumental in promoting the UN reform agenda and UNDP corporate priorities by developing innovative partnerships with non traditional partners such as sub-national authorities, the academic community, civil society organizations and the private sector. Ms. Molinier holds both Bachelor and Masters of Arts degrees in English from the Sorbonne in Paris, a Masters degree in English Literature from Queen Mary College, London University and an MBA from Pace University in New York.



### Ms. Sarah Cook, Director, UNRISD

Ms. Cook is the Director of UNRISD. Before moving to UNRISD in 2009, she was a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex and worked for the Ford Foundation as its Programme Officer for Governance and Public Policy from 2000 to 2005. Ms. Cook's research has focused on the social and economic transformation of China, where she lived and worked for extended periods starting in the mid-1980s. Her research combines perspectives from her academic training in history, social policy and development economics, and has focused in particular on labour markets, employment and social welfare reforms in China. Her recent work includes directing a multi-country study on social protection in Asia, and research on informal employment in China, and on the implications of China's rise for international development. Current interests include the social policy responses of China and other emerging and developing countries in the context of crisis. She has also undertaken advisory and commissioned work for international organizations and donors including DFID, the World Bank, ADB, IDRC, and various UN agencies. Ms. Cook received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, a M.Sc. in Social Policy in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. in Modern History from Oxford University.



**Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD**

Mr. Taffere Tesfachew was appointed as Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in October 2011.

Mr. Tesfachew previously held the position as Chief of the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from September 2005, as well as heading the organization's Strategy and Policy Coordination Unit and serving as its Spokesperson.

Prior to that role Mr. Tesfachew headed UNCTAD's Investment Policy Review Section, in which capacity he worked on five national policy reviews, leading field missions, presenting reports and raising and managing funds. His prior position was as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, providing policy and political clearance, drafting statements, preparing technical policy papers and delivering substantive support to the intergovernmental process. He has also worked for the International Labour Office as a researcher and teaching fellow.

Mr. Tesfachew holds an MPhil and a DPhil in development economics from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. He has published on a wide range of topics, including investment and enterprise development, technology transfer, innovation, industrial policy, and terms of trade.



Mr. Ali Jazairy, Head, Innovation and Technology Transfer Section, WIPO

Dr. Ali Jazairy is the Head of the Innovation and Technology Transfer Section at the World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible international [intellectual property](#) (IP) system, which rewards creativity, stimulates innovation and contributes to economic development while safeguarding the public interest. Dr. Jazairy is interested in the intersections of the patent system and technology transfer, including cross-border transfer and transfer from universities and research institutions to the market, with particular focus on facilitating the transfer of technologies for the benefit of developing countries. He is also interested in new trends in the intellectual property landscape, including new initiatives such as open innovation and their potentials for developing countries. Previously, Dr. Jazairy was a senior multidisciplinary engineer at Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC), Maryland, where he was leading the nanotechnology research efforts in high performance semiconducting carbon nanotube-based field-effect transistors and fiberoptic-based nanosensors. Prior to joining NGC, he was responsible for the MEMS design of the direct-drive 256X256 all-optical switching system for fiber-optic telecommunication at Transparent Networks, Inc. (TNI) in the Silicon Valley. Prior to joining TNI, he was also responsible for the design and integration of 2X2 to 64X64 optical switches for optical cross-connect systems at Optical Micro Machines (OMM), Inc. in San Diego. He received a B.S. and M.Eng. degrees in Applied and Engineering Physics and a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering all from Cornell University, New York. He has authored over 15 scientific publications and holds 20 inventions.



Mr. Stephen Pursey, Director, Policy Integration Department and Senior Adviser to the Director-General, ILO

Mr. Stephen Pursey is Director of the Policy Integration Department and Senior Adviser to the Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

In this capacity, he has worked closely with the international financial institutions and the UN system and is a regular participant with the ILO Director General in the meetings of the International Monetary and Finance Committee, the Development Committee of the IMF and World Bank and the G20. The Policy Integration Department advises ILO constituents, when requested, on integrated approaches to structural adjustment.

Amongst the range of issues he has worked on are international policy coherence, measuring decent work, the impact of globalization on poverty reduction and decent work, multinational enterprises and social policy, freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively, sustainable development and trade and investment issues.

He was a member of the senior team responsible for preparing the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the June 2009 International Labour Conference and lead the ILO team organizing the ILO/IMF Norway Conference on The Challenges of Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion in September 2010.

Mr Pursey has acted as leader editor/writer for several reports by the Director General to the International Labour Conference. He is also responsible for the organization of the Governing Body's Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization which serves as the main point of interaction between the ILO and the economic and social policy intuitions of the multilateral system.



Mr. Hans-Peter Werner, Counsellor, Development Division, WTO

Mr Hans-Peter Werner is a Counsellor with the Development Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. He is currently working on issues related to the work of the Committee on Trade and Development, the Aid for Trade initiative for developing and least-developed countries and the Work Programme on Small and Vulnerable Economies launched as part of the Doha Development Agenda. Mr Werner is also responsible for the WTO's relations with WTO members and observers without representation in Geneva. He has worked for the

GATT/WTO since 1993 in a variety of functions and moved to the Development Division in 2003. Prior to joining the WTO, Mr Werner worked as a journalist, a public affairs consultant and as an economist.



Mr. Stephen Hale, Deputy and Advocacy Campaigns Director, Oxfam International (UK)

Mr. Hale is the Deputy and Advocacy Campaigns director of Oxfam International, and head of the Geneva office of Oxfam International. From 2006 to 2010 he was the director of Green Alliance, an independent charity and green think tank working on environment policy in the UK. Mr. Hale was a trustee of Christian Aid from 2007 to 2010. From 2003 to 2006 he worked at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as special adviser to secretary of state Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP. From 2002 to 2003, he worked as adviser to environment minister Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP. Formerly, he was a senior consultant at ERM, an international environmental consultancy. He was also active in SERA (the environmental group affiliated to the Labour Party), serving as chair from 2001 to 2002 and as vice-chair from 1999 to 2001. He is the author of *The new commandments of climate change strategy* and *The new politics of climate change (2008)*. He was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2011 UK New Year Honours for services to the environment.



Ms. Dashdolgor Dolgorsuren, Head of Foreign Relations,  
Health Agency, Bulgan Province (Mongolia)

Ms. Dolgorsuren has extensive experience teaching both Russian and English. She has worked as an interpreter for a variety of industrial projects in Mongolia. Most recently she has worked in foreign relations specialist for a variety of government agencies including as a specialist for the Social Insurance General Office and the Head of the Social Insurance Representative Office to the Republic of Korea.

Presently, Ms. Dolgorsuren is the Foreign Relation and inter-sectorial manager of the Health Agency in Bulgan Province where she works in close cooperation with WHO in Mongolia to improve local access and quality of health care and services.



Ms. Yoandra Muro Valle, Vice-Rector of the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana (Cuba)

Dr. Valle is the Vice-Rector of the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana. Established in 1999, ELAM is a major international medical school in Cuba and a prominent part of the Cuban healthcare system, with enrolled students mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Africa. ELAM offered free medical education to poor Latin American youths in response to two devastating hurricanes in Central America. 10,000 doctors from 67 countries have graduated from the school and committed to return home and serve their communities, many of which lack medical facilities. One of ELAM's missions is to assist other countries hit by disasters, and more than 350 ELAM graduates responded to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

She was main coordinator to Cuba's ELAM Henry Reeve Emergency Medical Contingent in additions, the more than 700 ELAM doctors in the Contingent choose to remain 3, 6, 12, 24 months despite difficult living and working conditions, the central direction had coordinated how many of them can stay or returned to continued their medical residence in Cuban Medical University, as a facilities of ELAM graduate.

Before of that she was the coordinator of the Cuban Medical Brigade in Guatemala, after intensive rains in different part of the country, she had to face the emergence phase; the compositions of the Cuban-led team also began to evolve. More epidemiologists and specialist began to arrive, she was part of these health professional team plus volunteering to stay beyond emergency phase, she had to organize teams of primary care doctors, nurses, physicaltherapists meanwhile she had being maintained the Cuban-staffed hospitals, health clinics, and vaccination post established in and around the disaster and cities. For excellent health services during four years she received from national Human Righth Committee in Guatemala award to Cuban Medical Brigade (COPREDE).2007

She is doctor in medicine and specialist in Integral General Medicine (family doctor) has Master Degree in Integral Assistance to Woman and Child and Medical Education in Cuba. She is currently auxiliary professor and researcher, has participated in several internationals event like México (1999), Brazil (2001), Guatemala (2000), Venezuela (2006 y 2007) European Parliament Conference about the Impact of Cuban Medical Cooperation in Belgium 2008 at that moment she brings a conference in some Universities in Belgium.



Mr. Jorge M. Dias Ferreira, Main Representative, New Humanity,  
(Portugal/Switzerland)

Mr. Ferreira is the Main Representative of New Humanity at the UNOG in Geneva. He has 20 years of experience working as a psychologist at the Département d'Instruction Publique in the canton of Geneva. He has a degree in Psychology and Theology.



Mr. Xigen Wang, Professor and Vice-Dean, Wuhan University Law School (China)

Mr. Wang is Professor of Law and Vice Dean of the Law School at Wuhan University in China, and Director of the Centre for Development and Human Rights Law Studies of Wuhan University. He is also the Deputy Director of the China Jurisprudence Society and Director of the Jurisprudence Branch of Hubei Law Society since 2006. From 2008 to 2010 he served as a UN Consultant on the Right to Development. In 2008 he participated and contributed to the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development as a resource person. In 2009 he participated in the High-Level Expert Consultation on Elaboration of Criteria and Operational Sub-Criteria for the Implementation of the Right to Development held at the Harvard Kennedy School. His publications include *A New Perspective to the Implementation of the Right to Development in the Globalization Time*, *On the Challenges and Way out of the Right to Development in the Financial Crisis*. His principal published books include *On the Legal Mechanism of Right to Development in the Era of Globalization*. Since 2010 he has been Visiting Professor at the School of Law of Erasmus University, Netherlands. In 2006 he was recognized as one of the Ten Most Famous Young and Middle-aged Jurists in China. Mr. Wang holds a PhD from the Law School of Wuhan University. He was also an Advanced Visiting Scholar in Harvard and Columbia Law School.