

TÉLÉCOPIE • FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: 1 September 2020

A/TO: All International Organisations in Geneva and National Human Rights Institutions

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# OBJET/SUBJECT: Questionnaire from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Please find attached a questionnaire from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders available in English (original language) French, and Spanish (unofficial translations). In the online version of the questionnaire, available in OHCHR website, the Arabic and Russian versions (unofficial translations) will also be uploaded.

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

1 September 2020

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/16.

I would like to inform you that I will dedicate my next thematic report to the issue of killings of human rights defenders. This report will be presented at the 46rd session of the Human Rights Council in March 2021.

Accordingly, I am seeking the views and inputs of Members and observer States, National Human Rights Institutions, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international and regional organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders as well as businesses and International Financial Institutions.

Please complete the questionnaire below, and kindly submit it electronically to defenders@ohchr.org no later than **5 October 2020,** with the subject line: “Human Rights Defenders mandate: Submission to the Questionnaire”. There is a word limit of 2500 words per questionnaire.

The questionnaire and a concept note on the report is also available in English (original language), Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish (unofficial translations) on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: (https://[www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx).](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx%29)

All submissions received in accessible Word formats will be published in the aforementioned website, unless the submitter clearly indicated that they did not wish to have their input be made publicly available when submitting their response.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to take part in this consultation and submit the completed questionnaire, which will substantively inform the forthcoming report.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mary Lawlor

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

All International Organisations in Geneva and National Human Rights Institutions

# Questionnaire for National Human Rights Institutions and International or Inter-governmental Organizations by the

**UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Mary Lawlor, September 2020**

**Contact Details**

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey. Note that this is optional. (edited for public release)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of Stakeholder (please select one) | National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) International or Inter-governmental Organisation (IIOO)Other (please specify): |
| Name of Stakeholder Organization (if applicable)Name of Survey Respondent | Human Right Commission of the Maldives |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Address |  |
| Can we attribute responses to this questionnaire to your Institution or Organization publicly? | Yes NoComments (if any): |

# Questions

Human rights defenders are persons, who individually or in association with others, work peacefully to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

1. Does your Institution/Organization accept the legitimate right to defend human rights and if a defender is killed in the course of their work, do you publicly condemn it?

Yes. The Commission accepts the legitimate right to defend human rights and if a defender is killed in the course of their work, and we do publicly condemn it.

1. Have there been any cases of human rights defenders killed in your country (or in the geographic area of responsibility of your organization) since1 June 2019 up to 30 June 2020?

There are no cases of human rights defenders killed in our country (or in the geographic area of responsibility of our organization during the mentioned period.

1. How many convictions of perpetrators of killings of human rights defenders were there in your country/geographic area of responsibility since 1 June 2019 up to 30 June 2020?

There are no convictions of perpetrators of killings of human rights defenders in our country/geographic area of responsibility

1. Does your Institution/Organization have a procedure to respond to death threats to human rights defenders?

At present our Institution/Organization does not have a separate procedure to respond to death threats to human rights defenders

1. Does your Institution/Organization have or would be willing to put in place legal guarantees and other protection measures to allow human rights defenders to do their work without persecution?

HRCM is willing to put in place legal guarantees and other protection measures to allow human rights defenders to do their work without persecution.

1. Could you please share good practices (evidence-based) that have proofed effective to respond to death threats? And to prevent them from escalating into the killing(s) of human rights defenders?

The Commission has not received such cases, hence HRCM has not identified an evidence based good practice.