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**United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention releases 39 opinions concerning deprivation of liberty in 33 countries**

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its 81st session from 17 to 26 April 2018 in Geneva. During this period, the expert group adopted 39 opinions concerning deprivation of liberty in 33 countries. These opinions will be made available in due course on the website of the Working Group ([http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/WGADIndex.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/WGADIndex.aspx)).

The Working Group has a mandate to investigate allegations of individuals being deprived of their liberty in an arbitrary way or inconsistently with international human rights standards, and to recommend remedies, including release from detention and compensation, when appropriate.

The Working Group also met with a range of stakeholders to inform them about the adoption of Revised Deliberation No. 5 concerning deprivation of liberty of migrants. The new, Revised Deliberation No. 5, reaffirms the absolute prohibition of arbitrary detention and the universal human right to seek asylum ([http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/RevisedDeliberation\_AdvanceEditedVersion.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/RevisedDeliberation_AdvanceEditedVersion.pdf)).

During its session, the Working Group elected Mr. Seong-Phil Hong as its Chair-Rapporteur. Ms. Elina Steinerte was elected as the Vice-Chair on communications, and Ms. Leigh Toomey as the Vice-Chair on follow-up. Mr. José Antonio Guevara Bermúdez was appointed as the Focal point on reprisals.