**Acts of intimidation and reprisals for engaging with the United Nations Treaty Bodies**

The UN is concerned about reported cases of intimidation and reprisals against people who engage with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms on human rights issues. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris is the senior official tasked to coordinate UN system wide efforts to [address and prevent intimidation and reprisals](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/ReprisalsIndex.aspx).

Cooperation with the UN Treaty Bodies

Each State party to a treaty has an obligation to take steps to ensure that everyone in the State can enjoy the rights set out in the treaty. In this context, everyone has the right to engage and cooperate freely with the UN treaty bodies without fear of acts of intimidation and reprisals of any sort, in particular victims of violations and civil society actors. This engagement brings crucial information and testimonies to the treaty bodies, alerting them about potential situations of concern and making their work more meaningful and impactful.

Reprisals for cooperating or seeking to cooperate with the UN treaty bodies can happen for any form of engagement. This may include the submission of alternative reports in the context of reviews of Sate parties, the submission of individual complaints, participation in an NGO briefing, or the provision of testimony during a monitoring visit of the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture.

A number of international human rights treaties contain provisions spelling out State party’s responsibilities to ensure that individuals and groups under their jurisdiction do not suffer any form of intimidation or reprisals because of their engagement with the treaty bodies. In 2015, the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies adopted the [San José Guidelines against intimidation or reprisals](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI/MC/2015/6&Lang=en), their common policy on reprisals, intended to provide guidance to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their action against reprisals.

Who and where to send information

Victims of reprisals and/or organizations submitting information on their behalf can report incidents of reprisals and risks directly to the generic email address of the treaty body with which they cooperated or sought to cooperate (please see the chart at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/Reprisal.aspx#links>). When reporting, it is advised that one puts in copy the team supporting the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights that monitors and ensures adequate follow-up to information received at this address: reprisals@ohchr.org

What information to include

* Describe the case: who? when? where? what? how? alleged perpetrator(s)? Any evidence or documentation? Include information about broader context.
* Describe how the situation is linked to the victim’s cooperation with the treaty body.
* Have complaints been submitted to any national, regional or other international bodies? If so, what were the outcomes?
* Does the victim or family member/legal representative consent to have the information shared with the UN treaty body for action (use of information in a meeting with the Member State in question, letter, public report, etc.)?

Where to find out more

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/Reprisal.aspx