

Hina Jilani



Hina Jilani is Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and was the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders from 2000 until April 2008.

Ms. Jilani was appointed Advocate of the High Court of Pakistan in 1981, seven years after completing her law studies. In 1992 she was appointed Advocate of the Supreme Court. She established Pakistan's first all-women's law firm in 1981, and cases she has conducted have on numerous occasions become landmarks for setting standards for human rights in Pakistan. Special areas of concern in her work have been the rights of women, minorities, children and prisoners, including political prisoners. Her activity in these areas include legal aid, advocacy for rights, proposing and preparing legislative drafts for law reform, and designing and conducting projects for the protection, promotion and implementation of the human rights of disadvantaged groups and their social, political and economic development.

Ms. Jilani has participated in formal and informal Expert Group meetings of the UN Human Rights Bodies, she has represented UN Agencies like UNICEF and UNIFEM at regional and international meetings and conferences as expert in specific fields of human rights. She has all through her career worked both nationally and internationally with a range of NGOs and NGO networks, and is member of the council and founding board of several international human rights institutions. In 1999 she was awarded the Human Rights Award by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and in 2000 she was honoured with the Amnesty International Genetta Sagan Award for Women's Rights.

During her tenure as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, Hina Jilani presented 36 reports, of which 21 to the Commission on Human Rights, 7 to the General Assembly and 8 to the Human Rights Council. She carried out

visits to 12 countries: Angola, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel and the OPT, Kyrgyzstan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nigeria, Serbia including Kosovo, Thailand, and Turkey.