

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.

Defenders around the world peacefully promoting and defending human rights operate under national legal frameworks not always fully consistent with the United Nations Charter and international human rights law. In some instances, as echoed in multiple Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions^[1] national legislation, in particular national security and counter-terrorism laws, or regulations on civil society and public freedoms have been misused to target defenders in a manner contrary to international law, that might result in long-term arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

1) Do you know of any human rights defender(s) currently detained by States, who have been imprisoned on charges that carry a prison sentences of at least 10 years or more? Please provide a list of cases.

- * **Abdulahadi Al-Khawaja** (Bahrain), detained since April 2011, life sentence: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/bahrain/bahrain-open-letter-to-danish-prime-minister-to-take-immediate-action>
- * **Abduljalil al-Singace** (Bahrain), life sentence: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/bahrain-as-human-rights-defender-dr-al-singace-enters-300th-day-of>
- * **Abdulkarim Al-Khoder** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-acpra-ngos-jointly>
- * **Ahmed Mansoor** (UAE), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uae-open-letter-to-the-emirati-authorities-to-free-human-rights>
- * **Amir Salar Davoodi** (Iran), sentenced to 30 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-sentencing-of-human-rights-lawyer-amir-salar-davoodi>
- * **Asal Mohammadi** (Iran), sentenced to 18 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **Baba Jan** (Pakistan), sentenced to 40 years: <http://en.freedom-defenders.org/>
- * **Burin Intin** (Thailand), sentenced to 22 years: <http://en.freedom-defenders.org/>
- * **Essa Al-Hamid** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 11 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-acpra-ngos-jointly>
- * **Fowzan Al-Harbi** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-acpra-ngos-jointly>
- * **Germain Rukuki** (Burundi), sentenced to 32 years: <https://www.fidh.org/fr/themes/defenseurs-des-droits-humains/burundi-une-coalition-d-ong-locales-et-internationales-condamne-24644>
- * **Hông Đức Bình** (Vietnam), sentenced to 14 years: [https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/fidh_vchr - vietnam - joint briefing paper on key human rights issues of concern.pdf](https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/fidh_vchr_-_vietnam_-_joint_briefing_paper_on_key_human_rights_issues_of_concern.pdf)

[1][1] See [A/HRC/RES 22/6](#) (2013) and [A/RES/68/181](#)(2014). See also: [A/HRC/RES/25/18](#) (2014), [A/HRC/RES/27/31](#) (2014), [A/HRC/RES/32/31](#) (2016) and [A/HRC/RES/34/5](#) (2017).

- * **Huang Qi** (China), sentenced to 12 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/china-huang-qi-sentenced-to-12-years-in-prison>
- * **Hussain Ali al-Najjar al-Hammadi** (UAE), sentenced to 11 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uae-open-letter-to-drivers-teams-and-performers-at-the-abu-dhabi-f1>
- * **Le Huu Minh Tuan** (Vietnam), sentenced to 11 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/vietnam-sentencing-of-pham-chi-dung-nguyen-tuong-thuy-and-le-huu-minh>
- * **Mancho Bibixy Tse** (Cameroon), sentenced to 15 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/cameroon-mr-mancho-bibixy-tse-sentenced-to-15-years-in-prison>
- * **Mohamed Al-Otaibi** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 14 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/saudi-arabia-ongoing-judicial-harassment-and-arbitrary-detention-of>
- * **Mohammad Al-Qahtani** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-acpra-ngos-jointly>
- * **Mohammad Najafi** (Iran), sentenced to 23 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-ongoing-judicial-harassment-against-human-rights-lawyers-mr-amir>
- * **Mohammed Al-Mansouri** (UAE), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/united-arab-emirates/united-arab-emirates-stop-the-charade-and-release-activists-convicted>
- * **Mohammed Al-Roken** (UAE), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/united-arab-emirates/uae-call-for-the-release-of-human-rights-defender-and-lawyer-dr>
- * **Mohammed Saleh Al-Bajadi** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 15 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/urgent-call-for-release-of-saudi-human-rights-defenders>
- * **Mojgan Keshavarz** (Iran), sentenced to 16 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-sentencing-of-mses-saba-kord-afshari-yassman-aryani-monireh>
- * **Monireh Arabshah** (Iran), sentenced to 16 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-sentencing-of-mses-saba-kord-afshari-yassman-aryani-monireh>
- * **Naâma Asfari** (Morocco) , sentenced to 30 years: <https://www.fidh.org/fr/regions/maghreb-moyen-orient/maroc/maroc-sahara-occidental-prisonniers-de-gdeim-izik-deja-10-ans-de>
- * **Naji Fateel** (Bahrain), sentenced to 15 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/bahrain-ongoing-arbitrary-detention-of-naji-fateel>
- * **Nasrin Sotoudeh** (Iran), sentenced to 33 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-nasrin-sotoudeh-sentenced-to-33-more-years-in-jail>
- * **Nasser bin Ghaith** (UAE), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uae-open-letter-to-drivers-teams-and-performers-at-the-abu-dhabi-f1>
- * **Nguyen Tuong Thuy** (Vietnam), sentenced to 11 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/vietnam-sentencing-of-pham-chi-dung-nguyen-tuong-thuy-and-le-huu-minh>
- * **Omar Mohamed Ali** (Egypt), sentenced to 25 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/egypt-arbitrary-detention-of-mr-omar-mohamed-ali>
- * **Pablo Lopez Alavez** (Mexico), sentenced to 30 years: <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/mexico-debe-cumplir-la-opinion-de-la-onu-y-liberar-al-defensor-pablo>

- * **Pham Chi Dung** (Vietnam), sentenced to 15 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/vietnam-sentencing-of-pham-chi-dung-nguyen-tuong-thuy-and-le-huu-minh>
- * **Phan Văn Thu** (Vietnam), serving a life sentence:
https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/20200217_vietnam_dialogue_bp_en.pdf
- * **Raif Badawi** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 10 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-release-raif-badawi-immediately-say-human-rights>
- * **Saba Kord-Afshari** (Iran), sentenced to 24 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-sentencing-of-mses-saba-kord-afshari-yassman-aryani-monireh>
- * **Selçuk Kozağaçlı** (Turkey), sentenced to 11 years: <http://en.freedom-defenders.org/>
- * **Sheikh Sulaiman Al-Rashudi** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 15 years:
<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/on-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-acpra-ngos-jointly>
- * **Somyot Prueksakasemsuk** (Thailand), sentenced to 10 years and released in 2018:
<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/thailand/Thailand-Thai-human-rights-12787>
- * **Trần ThịXuân** (Vietnam), sentenced to 9 years + 5 years of house arrest:
https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/20200217_vietnam_dialogue_bp_en.pdf
- * **Trương Minh Đức** (Vietnam), sentenced to 12 years:
https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/20200217_vietnam_dialogue_bp_en.pdf
- * **Waleed Abu Al-Khair** (Saudi Arabia), sentenced to 15 years:
<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/saudi-arabia-the-un-finds-the-detention-of-waleed-abu-al-khair-and>
- * **Wu Zeheng** (China), life sentence: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/china-sentencing-and-ongoing-arbitrary-detention-of-prominent>
- * **Yassman Aryani** (Iran), sentenced to 16 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-sentencing-of-mses-saba-kord-afshari-yassman-aryani-monireh>
- * **Yuri Dmitriev** (Russia), sentenced to 13 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/russia-sentencing-and-ongoing-arbitrary-detention-of-mr-yuri-dmitriev>

2) Do you know of any human rights defender(s) currently detained by States, who have been imprisoned on continuous sentences amounting to 10 years or more? For example, a defender who completes a sentence of four years in detention but instead of being released is given another six year sentence? Please provide a list of cases or examples if possible.

3) Do you know of any human rights defender(s) whose time in pre-trial detention and/or administrative detention by States combines with a sentence that amounts, or would amount to 10 years or more? Please provide a list of cases.

4) Do you know of any human rights defender(s) falling under any of the previous categories above, who were released before ending their long-term prison sentences for any reasons (e.g. granted a pardon, as a result of an appeal, or released on humanitarian or other grounds)? Please provide a list of cases.

- * **Abdolfattah Soltani** (Iran), sentenced to 13 years, released in November 2018:
<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-conditional-release-of-abdolfattah-soltani>

- * **Amir Amirgholi** (Iran), sentenced to 18 years and released on bail in 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **Amirhossein Mohammadifard** (Iran), sentenced to 18 years and released on bail in 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **David Ravelo Crespo** (Colombia), sentenced to 18 years, released after 7 years: <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/colombia-libertad-condicional-para-david-ravelo-crespo-despues-de>
- * **Dilmurod Saidov** (Uzbekistan), sentenced to 12 years, released in 2018: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/uzbekistan/Sentencing-of-Mr-Dilmurod-Saidov>
- * **Esmail Bakshi** (Iran), sentenced to 14 years and released on bail in December 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **Firmin Yangambi** (RDC), released in March 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/fr/regions/afrique/rdc/Condamnation-de-M-Firmin-Yangambi>
- * **Mam Sonando** (Cambodia), sentenced to 20 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/cambodia/CAMBODIA-Independent-radio-station-12240>
- * **Mohammad Seddiq Kaboudvand** (Iran), sentenced to 10,5 years, released in 2017: <http://en.freedom-defenders.org/>
- * **Murod Juraev** (Uzbekistan): <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/uzbekistan/uzbekistan-activist-freed-after-21-years-rights-groups-call-on-un-to>
- * **Narges Mohammadi** (Iran), sentenced to 10 years, reduced to 8,5 years and released in October 2020: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/iran/iran-prominent-human-rights-defender-narges-mohammadi-released-from>
- * **Nguyen Huu Cau** (Vietnam), released after 20 years of prison: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/vietnam/15015-vietnam-nguyen-huu-cau-released-after-20-years-in-prison>
- * **Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh**, aka Mother Mushroom (Vietnam), sentenced to 10 years, released in 2018: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/vietnam-prominent-blogger-nguyen-ngoc-nhu-quynh-sentenced-to-10-years>
- * **Sanaz Alahyari** (Iran), sentenced to 18 years and released on bail in 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **Sayed Pervez Kambaksh** (Afghanistan), sentenced to 20 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/afghanistan/Death-sentence-against-Mr-Sayed>
- * **Sepideh Gholian** (Iran), sentenced to 18 years, released on bail in October 2019: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/iran-release-on-bail-of-6-hrds>
- * **Ta Phong Tan** (Vietnam), sentenced to 10 years, released after 5 years: <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/vietnam/Viet-Nam-Three-pro-democracy-12230>
- * **Tran Thi Nga** (Vietnam), sentenced to 9 years in prison + 5 years of house arrest, released in exile in January 2020: <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/vietnam-immediately-release-labour-and-land-rights-defender-tran-thi>

5) What actions do you suggest the Special Rapporteur can take to:

- a) Prevent defenders from being detained for long terms in connection to their human rights work? And

Take as quick actions as possible with concerned authorities when HRDs are arrested, before charges are pressed (it is typically more difficult to get HRDs released once a case has been brought against them).

Publish statements, op-eds and other public material to raise the awareness of the general public on the issue of arbitrary detention of HRDs. Such public positions could be published jointly with other Special Procedures (e.g. UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of expression, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention – UNWGAD, etc.), as well as regional HRD-protection mandate-holders (ACHPR Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, IACHR Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, etc.).

Organise webinars, and consider local visits (sanitary situation allowing), to interact with local HRDs in order to exchange on the issue of long-term arbitrary detention of HRDs, express public support with those arbitrarily detained, and publicly call for their release.

b) Have those human rights defenders arbitrarily detained under long sentences released?

Call for the release of arbitrarily detained HRDs as part of regular engagement with UN member-States.

Cooperate with the UNWGAD to follow-up on cases of arbitrarily detained HRDs, relay UNWGAD decisions on HRDs through public statements, and follow-up with concerned UN member-States.

Cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, especially as many HRDs detained for more than 10 years were initially sentenced under terrorism charges.

Engage with UN Treaty Body experts to raise their awareness about long-term arbitrary detention of HRDs, and formulate recommendations ahead of UN member-States reports' examination.

Stress the issue of long-term arbitrary detention of HRDs and formulate recommendations as part of pre-UPR briefings.

NOTE: When providing the list of cases/examples under each question, please include: the name of the human rights defender(s), a summary of their human rights work, history of detention (date of arrest(s), charges and conviction including articles of the relevant law(s)), a brief explanation of facts relevant to their case).