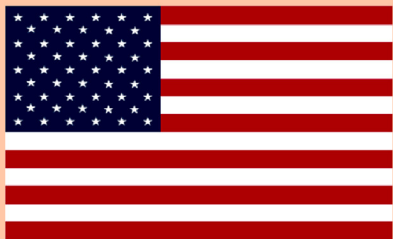


# GreenLine

Protection Handbook for Human Rights Defenders

**H is R**  
**HUMAN IS RIGHT**



**f** **FRONT LINE**  
**DEFENDERS**

Support for  
Human Rights  
defenders



This handbook provides information for the protection of human rights defenders

The UN declaration on Human Rights Defenders in its Articles 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 provide specific protections to human rights defenders:

- the rights to seek the protection and realization of human rights at the national and international levels;
- to conduct human rights work individually and in association with others;
- to form associations and non-governmental organizations;
- to meet or assemble peacefully; to seek, obtain, receive and hold information relating to human rights.

### **When can this GreenLine be used?**

- Whenever a Human Right Defender in the exercise of his duty:
- Is arrested and detained
- Disappears

### **Who May alert the GreenLine Contacts?**

- The HRD's family
- Members of his/her association
- Any person who knows the HRD and is aware of his/her situation

### **What information does the GreenLine contact needs?**

- Full names of the HRD
- Information of where and when he/she was arrested
- Location where he/she is detained
- Contact information of any family member, friend or relative
- Where the HRD was lastly seen
- Steps already taken and by whom
- What happened on the scene?

## **National Mechanisms for the Protections of Human Rights Defenders.**

In Cameroon, there exists no national mechanism for the protection of HRDs. The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms serves as the sole mechanism to protect HRDs.

## **Regional Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.**

### **The African Mechanism.**

**The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.** It is the first regional human rights body to create a specific procedure to deal with the protection of defenders' rights. <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/>

**Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa** [http://www.achpr.org/english/info/index\\_hrd\\_en.html](http://www.achpr.org/english/info/index_hrd_en.html).

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa: [http://www.achpr.org/english/info/index\\_women\\_en.html](http://www.achpr.org/english/info/index_women_en.html)

Also visit <http://www.achpr.org/mechanisms/> for other special mechanisms.

## **REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS Mechanisms:**

### **The Inter-American human rights system.**

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR): <http://www.cidh.oas.org/DefaultE.htm>.

The IACHR created a Human Rights Defenders Functional Unit in 2001 (<http://www.cidh.org/defenders/defensores.htm>).

IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of Women: <http://www.cidh.org/women/Default.eng.htm>

### **Other Mechanisms.**

**OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.** The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provides support, assistance and expertise to participating States and civil society to promote democracy, rule of law, human rights and tolerance and non-discrimination. <https://www.osce.org/odihr>

**The Council of Europe and its Commissioner for Human Rights.** <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner>. The Commissioner's work focuses on encouraging reform measures to achieve tangible improvement in the area of human rights promotion and protection. Being a non-judicial institution, the

Commissioner's Office cannot act upon individual complaints, but the Commissioner can draw conclusions and take wider initiatives on the basis of reliable information regarding human rights violations suffered by individuals.

## **International Mechanisms.**

### **UN MECHANISMS:**

UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/770/89/PDF/N9977089.pdf?O...>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/mandate.htm>.

The UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/>.

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee): <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm>.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COURTS:**

Inter-American Court of Human Rights: <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.cfm?&CFID=487586&CFTOKEN=78136649>.

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights: <http://www.african-court.org/en/home/>.

European Court of Human Rights: [http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/Homepage EN](http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/Homepage_EN)

## **INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

### **National Instruments For The Protection Of Human Rights Defenders.**

In Cameroon there exist no laws protecting human rights defenders. During a workshop organized by REDHAC (Network of Human Rights Defenders for Cental Africa) a draft law for the protection of human rights was written and is going to be submitted to the parliament of Cameroon.

### **Regional Instruments For The Protection Of Human Rights Defenders.**

## **The African Charter for Human and Peoples Rights.**

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter) is an international human rights instrument that is intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent. <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/>

## **Principles and Guidelines on human and Peoples' Rights while countering Terrorism in Africa.**

The *Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights while Countering Terrorism in Africa* were adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during its 56<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Banjul, Gambia (21 April to 7 May 2015). <http://www.achpr.org/mechanisms/human-rights-defenders/Principles-Gudelines/>

## **European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms**

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, better known as the European Convention on Human Rights, was opened for signature in Rome on 4 November 1950



and came into force in 1953. It was the first instrument to give effect to certain of the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and make them binding. <https://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts&>

American Convention on Human Rights

<http://search.ohchr.org/results.aspx?k=American%20Convention%20on%20Human%20Rights>

**Inter-American Convention on Violence against Women**

Every woman has the right to recognition, enjoyment, exercise and protection of all

human rights and freedoms embodied in regional and international human rights

instruments. <http://search.ohchr.org/results.aspx?k=Inter-American%20Convention%20on%20Violence%20against%20Women>

**INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, it set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The Declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 during its 183rd plenary meeting. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/UDHRIndex.aspx>

### **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>

### **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.**

Adopted and opened for signature and ratification by General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX) of 21 December 1965 entry into force 4 January 1969, in accordance with Article 19. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/>



[ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx](http://ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx)

**Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.**

For the purpose of promoting and ]protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,

everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and

international levels. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/DeclarationontheRightandResponsibilityofIndividuals,GroupsandOrgansofSocietytoPromoteandProtectUniversallyRecognizedHuman.aspx>

**Charter of Paris for a New Europe 19 - 21 November 1990**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/RuleOfLaw/CompilationDemocracy/Pages/CharterParis.aspx>

GreenLine Assistance to Human Rights Defenders  
in danger:

Emergency Contacts:



+353-1-210-0489



237681238996



0033 1 43 55 25 18



+23722226117

The above contacts can act rapidly to provide protection and assistance for a HRD who has been arrested or has disappeared if information is provided as quickly as possible.

[www.hisrcameroon.org](http://www.hisrcameroon.org)