



Geneva Institute for Human Rights

**Special Procedures:
Country Specific Mandates**



Special Procedures: Country Specific Mandates

1. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus

On 28 June 2012, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus was established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 20/13. On 1 November 2012, Mr. Miklós Haraszti, assumed the functions of the Special Rapporteur.

Overview of the mandate:

The Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/20/13 mandates the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to:

1. monitor the situation of human rights in Belarus and to make recommendations for its improvement;
2. help to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/20/8) to the Human Rights Council in June 2012;
3. assist the Government of Belarus in fulfilling its human rights obligations; to offer support and advice to civil society;
4. seek, receive, examine and act on information from all relevant stakeholders pertaining to the situation of human rights in Belarus;
5. report annually to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.

Submission of information and Contact details:

Information relevant for the mandate holder is very much welcomed and can be sent at sr-belarus@ohchr.org or contact Alexandre Girard (Tel. +41 22 917 91 80/ email: agirard@ohchr.org).



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2. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia

The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to follow and report on the human rights situation in Cambodia. She is not a United Nations staff member, does not receive a salary from the United Nations, and does not work for any government or interest group. Her task is to assess the human rights situation, report publicly about it, and work with the Government, civil society and others to foster international cooperation in this field. The Special Rapporteur undertakes regularly visits or missions to Cambodia and reports annually to the Human Rights Council. OHCHR provides her with logistical and technical assistance. The current Special Rapporteur is Ms. Rhona Smith (UK), who was appointed in March 2015.

The Mandate of the Special Rapporteur:

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur derives from the Paris Peace Accords (article 17 of the Agreement on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict and article 3 of the Agreement concerning the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia).

The Human Rights Council, in resolution 36/32, decided “to extend by two years the mandate of the special procedure on the situation of human rights in Cambodia through the appointment of a special rapporteur to carry out the former functions of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General, and request[ed] the Special Rapporteur to report on the implementation of his/her mandate to the Council at its twelfth session and to engage in a constructive manner with the Government of Cambodia for the further improvement of the situation of human rights in the country.”

The Special Rapporteur’s status as an independent expert makes her distinct from the OHCHR Country Office, which is controlled by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and is formally part of the United Nations Secretariat. Nevertheless, the two institutions share complementary mandates and work closely together. OHCHR provides secretariat services to the Special Rapporteur during her missions to Cambodia, as it does to all missions from the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General:

Before 2008, the Cambodia mandate was held by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia (SRSG). The mandate-holder was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, although he still reported to the Human Rights Council. Formerly he also reported to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. The name was changed in 2008 in line with the standardization of special procedures names.



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3. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Central African Republic

The Special Procedures assumed by the Human Rights Council are thematic and country-related. Independent Expert is one of the titles used for these procedures. The present one was established in 2013.



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4. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Overview of the mandate:

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2004 (resolution 2004/13), and has been renewed on an annual basis by the Human Rights Council. The Special Rapporteur investigates and reports on the situation of human rights in the country and on the government's compliance with its obligations under international human rights law. He submits reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly annually.

Special Rapporteur

The current Special Rapporteur, Tomás Ojea Quintana (Argentina), was appointed by the Human Rights Council in 2016, succeeding Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia) who had served as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since 2010.

Mr. Ojea Quintana, a lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in human rights, worked for the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and represented the Argentinian NGO "Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo" in cases concerning child abduction during the military regime. He is a former Head of OHCHR human rights programme in Bolivia, and served as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar from 2008 to 2014. As Special Rapporteur, Mr. Ojea Quintana is independent from any government or organisation and serves in his individual capacity.

In March 2016, the Human Rights Council (resolution A/HRC/RES/31/18) requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to designate, for a period of six months, a maximum of two existing independent experts in support of the work of the Special Rapporteur to focus on issues of accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On 9 September 2016, the High Commissioner for Human Rights designated Ms. Sara Hossain and Ms. Sonja Biserko.

Submission of information and Contact details

Information relevant to the work of the mandate holder can be sent to hr-dprk@ohchr.org



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5. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Eritrea

Introduction

Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth (Mauritius) was appointed in October 2012 as the first Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. She was member of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea from June 2014 to June 2016.

Sheila B. Keetharuth has worked and travelled in Africa for over two and a half decades and brings extensive experience in the area of human rights, including research, advocacy, litigation and training. She has also worked as a broadcaster for over eight years on the African continent.

After obtaining an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law and Civil Liberties at the University of Leicester (UK), she was called to the Bar in Mauritius in January 1997. In July 2002, she joined Amnesty International as a Researcher at the Africa Regional Office in Kampala, Uganda, and acted as the Interim Head of Office until December 2005. From November 2006 to June 2012, Sheila B. Keetharuth was the Executive Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), a pan-African NGO based in Banjul, The Gambia. She is currently enrolled as a part-time doctoral candidate at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

In 2011, the Madrid Bar Association awarded Sheila B. Keetharuth a Medal of Honour for her human rights work on the African continent.

Mandate by the Human Rights Council

Human Rights Council resolution 32/24 extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and requested the mandate-holder to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session and to submit a written report on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to the Council at its thirty-fifth session.

Individual complaints

In the discharge of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea has developed the information sheet below to facilitate the submission of information. Although communications are also considered when they are not submitted in the form of this model questionnaire, the Special Rapporteur would be grateful for receiving information tailored to her mandate. The objective of this questionnaire is to have access to precise information on alleged human rights violations in Eritrea. If any information contained in the questionnaire should be kept confidential please mark "CONFIDENTIAL" beside the relevant entry. Please do not hesitate to attach additional sheets, if the space provided is not sufficient.

Should you have any questions concerning the completion of this form, please feel free to contact the Special Rapporteur.



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The questionnaire (English, Arabic, Tigrinya) should be filled out and sent to:
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations at Geneva
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: (+41) 22 917 90 06
E-mail: sr-eritrea@ohchr.org or urgent-action@ohchr.org (then please include in the subject box: Special Rapporteur on Eritrea).



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6. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Introduction

On 24 March 2011, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution re-establishing the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The previous mandate established by the Commission on Human Rights was terminated in 2002.

On 30 September 2016, the President of the Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Asma Jahangir from Pakistan as the new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ms. Jahangir officially assumed responsibility for the mandate on 1st November 2016. The former mandate holder, Mr. Ahmed Shaheed, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives assumed this mandate from June 2011 to September 2016.

Ms. Jahangir presented her first report to the Human Rights Council on 13 March 2017.

Asma Jahangir is the second Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran since the re-establishment of the mandate by the Human Rights Council.

Ms. Jahangir was elected as President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and as Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

Over the years, she has been recognized both nationally and internationally for her contribution to the cause of human rights and is a recipient of major human rights awards. She has worked extensively in the field of women's rights, protection of religious minorities and in eliminating bonded labour. She is a former Special Rapporteur on summary executions, and on freedom of religion.

Overview of the mandate

The Human Rights Council Resolution 34/23 mandates the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to submit a report on the implementation of the mandate to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session and calls upon the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to permit access to visit the country, and to provide all information necessary to allow the fulfilment of the mandate.

In the discharge of her mandate, the Special Rapporteur:

- a) Monitor and investigate human rights violations, transmits urgent appeals and letters to Iran on alleged violations of human rights;
- b) Undertakes country visit to Iran and to the region and engage with relevant stakeholders;
- c) Submit reports to General Assembly and Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ; and
- d) Engages publicly on issues of concern, including through press releases.

Submission of information and Contact details:

Information relevant for the mandate holder is very much welcomed and can be sent to the following email: sr-iran@ohchr.org



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7. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Mali

Introduction

The Special Procedures assumed by the Human Rights Council are thematic and country-related. Independent Expert is one of the titles used for these procedures. The present one was established in 2013.



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8. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

Ms. Yanghee Lee (Republic of Korea) is a professor at Sungkyunwan University. She is highly recognized nationally, regionally, and internationally for her expertise in human rights and served as member (2003-2013) and chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2007-2011). She has also served as chairperson of the Meeting of Chairpersons of Treaty Bodies (2010-2011).

Nationally, Ms. Lee currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. She is the founding President of International Child Rights Center. In 2009, she received the Order of Civil Merit, the highest recognition given to a civilian for her work in human rights.

Regionally, she actively takes part in Asia Pacific debates and actively participates in ASEAN Human Rights Discussions in areas of children and armed conflict and human rights within the context of migration.

Internationally, Ms. Lee is recognized for her work as member and chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. She has taken an active role in the Strengthening of Treaty Body System Process, including the Dublin Process. Of importance, her efforts in reopening the discussions on the need for a communications procedure for children which ultimately led to the adoption of a 3rd Optional Protocol are recognized.

Ms. Lee has earned a B.S. Degree from Georgetown University, M.ED. and Ph.D. from University of Missouri-Columbia. She has published numerous articles and books on human rights and children's rights.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was first established in 1992 under the Commission on Human Rights Resolution 58 and extended annually. Human Rights Resolution 25/26 adopted 15 April 2014 broadened the mandate to report on the progress in the electoral process and reform in the run-up to the 2015 election. Human Rights Resolution 31/24 adopted 24 March 2016 broadened the mandate to include identifying benchmarks for progress and priority areas for technical assistance and capacity-building.



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9. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan

The Special Procedures assumed by the Human Rights Council are thematic and country-related. Independent Expert is one of the titles used for these procedures. The present one was established in 1993.



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10. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia

The Special Procedures assumed by the Human Rights Council are thematic and country-related. Independent Expert is one of the titles used for these procedures. The present one was established in 1993.



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11. The Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967

The task of the Special Rapporteur is to assess the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, report publicly about it, and work with governments, civil society and others to foster international cooperation. The Special Rapporteur undertakes regular visits or missions to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and reports annually to the Human Rights Council. OHCHR provides him with logistical and technical assistance. The current Special Rapporteur is Mr. S. Michael Lynk (Canada), who was appointed in 2016.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur derives from the 1993 resolution from the Committee of Human Rights. The mandate calls on the Special Rapporteur:

- (a) To investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
- (b) To receive communications, to hear witnesses, and to use such modalities of procedure as he may deem necessary for his mandate;
- (c) To report, with his conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission on Human Rights at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories;

The Special Rapporteur is an independent expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to follow and report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Special Rapporteurs are not United Nations staff members; they do not receive a salary from the United Nations, and do not work for any government or interest group, allowing them to maintain their independence. The Special Rapporteur's status as an independent expert makes him distinct from the OHCHR Country Office. OHCHR in Geneva provides secretariat services to the Special Rapporteur, as it does to all Special Procedures mandate-holders.



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12. The Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

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