



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS W A T C H

## WHO ARE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS?

According to the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, it identifies human rights defenders as individuals or groups who act to promote, protect or strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means.

The Declaration recognizes the key role of human rights defenders in the realization of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and legally binding treaties and in the international human rights system.

Articles 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 of the Declaration provide specific protections to human rights defenders, including 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 right
- To develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance
- To submit to governmental bodies and agencies and organizations concerned with public affairs criticism and proposals for improving their functioning and to draw attention to any aspect of their work that may impede the realization of human rights
- To make complaints about official policies and acts relating to human rights and to have such complaints reviewed
- To offer and provide professionally qualified legal assistance or other advice and assistance in defense of human rights
- To attend public hearings, proceedings and trials in order to assess their compliance with national law and international human rights obligations
- To unhindered access to and communication with non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations
- To benefit from an effective remedy
- To the lawful exercise of the occupation or profession of human rights defender
- To effective protection under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, acts or omissions attributable to the State that result in violations of human rights
- To solicit, receive and utilize resources for the purpose of protecting human rights (including the receipt of funds from abroad)

**Any violation of the above articles in addition to the rights within UDHR is considered a violation against HRD.**

#### **GENERAL CRITERIA OF HRD:**

In accordance to all of the above the Human Rights Watch Project shall be concerned with all those who are being persecuted/detained based on being a HRD, without being related to a certain profession.


**All those arrested in the following cases but not limited to:**


1. Freedom of opinion
2. Freedom of Speech
3. Lawyers working in NGO's and/or CSO's
4. Journalists speaking as opposition
5. Assembly
6. Protesting
7. Joining groups that has peaceful movements but are opposing the government





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