

SUMMARY

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (2011–2017)¹



Current Special Rapporteur:

Mr. Michel FORST (France)
Since May 2014 (Probably until March 2020)

Contact details:

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
OHCHR-UNOG,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland
Fax: + 41 22 917 9006
Email: defenders@ohchr.org

Former Special Rapporteurs:

- Mrs. Margaret SEKAGGYA (Uganda), May 2008- April 2014
- Mrs Hina JILANI (Pakistan), 2000- April 2008

SUMMARY OF WORK

Countries Visited	
Where SOGIESC mentioned in the report	Where SOGIESC not mentioned in the report
<p>Hungary (February 2016) – Report, paras. 35, 47, 62. Burundi (November 2014) – Report, paras. 51, 56, 90. Togo (October 2013) – Report, paras. 65, 77-80 & 88f. Rep of Korea (June 2013) – Report, paras. 96 & 97. Honduras (February 2012) – Report, paras. 64, 88, 90, 91 & 113. India (January 2011) – Report, paras. 122 & 123.</p>	<p>Australia (September 2016) Azerbaijan (September 2016) Ireland (November 2012) Tunisia (October 2012)</p>

Annual Thematic Reports	
<p>July 2017 (72nd Session GA) Situation of Human Rights Defenders and the impact of businesses in their activities</p>	<p>Para. 19. Brief reference to gender identity (in the context of violence and reprisals)</p>
<p>January 2017 (34th Session HRC) Suggestions for diversifying working methods, broadening the scope of cooperation with other key actors, and enhancing the visibility and accessibility of his mandate</p>	<p>Para. 26. Good reference to LGBTI (violence against LGBTI persons; appointment of IE on SOGI)</p>
<p>August 2016 (71st Session GA) The situation of environmental human rights defenders</p>	<p>No SOGIESC references</p>
<p>February 2016 (31st Session HRC) Good practices in the protection of human rights defenders</p>	<p>Strong reference to SOGIESC (focus on the stigmatization of HRDs on the basis of sexual orientation)</p>

July 2015 (70th Session GA) Situation of human rights defenders	Paras. 56, 65, 66. Good reference to SOGIESC (in the context of threats and attacks to defenders)
December 2014 (28th session HRC) Work plan and Future Activities of the Special Rapporteur	Good reference to SOGIESC (identified defenders of ESC rights who are LGBTI as a particular group at risk requiring protection)
August 2014 (69th Session GA) Vision and working methods of the mandate	No SOGIESC references
February 2014 (25th Session HRC) Elements of a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders	Paras. 65, 90, 99, 104. Good reference to SOGI, on the context of group under particular risks of attacks, stigmatization and vulnerability.
August 2013 (68th Session GA) Large-scale development project and human rights defenders	No SOGIESC references
December 2012 (22nd Session HRC) Role of NHRI in the promotion and protection of human rights and as protectors of human rights defenders	Para. 119g. Brief reference to LGBT only, about the adoption of a focal point for specific HRDs groups
August 2012 (67th Session GA) Use of legislation to regulate activities of human rights defenders	Paras. 29, 32, 34, 35 & 91. Good reference to SOGI (legislation recognizing HRDs combating discrimination to SOGI rights)
February 2012 (19th Session HRC) Selected groups of defenders at risk	No SOGIESC references
July 2011 (66th Session GA) On the declaration of human rights defenders	Paras. 19, 55, 57, 111b. Good reference on LGBT only (risks at work; protection from discrimination and violence)
December 2010 (16th Session HRC) Women human rights defenders and those working on women's rights and gender issues	Paras. 23, 37, 40, 42, 43, 58, & 85-87. Strong reference to LGBT (women and LGTB suffering violations due to their work)

Individual Complaints		
Country/Date/IC type	SPs	Problem
El Salvador JAL , 26 May 2017	Human rights defenders; women in law and in practice; violence against women; SOGI; executions; freedom of expression; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged murders of 3 trans women in San Luis Talpa, as well as allegations of acts of intimidation and threats, including acts of extortion against a human rights defenders.
Tunisia JUA , 24 Nov 2016	Freedom of expression; freedom of peaceful assembly; human rights defenders; SOGI	Alleged arbitrary arrest and detention of 2 HRDs due to their promotion and protection of LGBTI human rights in Tunisia.
Bulgaria AL , 3 Nov 2016	Human rights Defenders	Allegations of violence and attacks against HRD for his advocacy towards the protection of vulnerable groups in Bulgaria.
Bangladesh JAL , 31 May 2016	Executions; freedom of opinion; freedom of peaceful assembly; human rights defenders	Alleged assassination of two Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) rights defenders in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Zambia JLA , 11 January 2016	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Alleged undue delays and arrests of civil society and defenders in registration of LGBTI NGOs on grounds of "soliciting for immoral purposes".

Honduras JLA , 11 November 2015	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;	Allegations of violent deaths and attacks against defenders of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) rights.
Ukraine JLA , 16 October 2015	Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders;	Alleged physical assault of and threats against a human rights defender advocating for the rights of LGBTI persons
Kyrgyz Republic JLA , 30 July 2015	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Alleged targeting and harassment of defenders and attack on an NGO promoting LGBTI rights.
Honduras JLA , 9 December 2014	Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Allegations of theft in the offices of an LGBTI rights organization.
Ecuador JUA , 2 December 2014	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Allegations of abduction, threats and a smear campaign against an LGBTI rights defender.
Russia JUA , 12 August 2014	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Allegations of signs bearing the names of organizations with offices in HRHV being removed and vandalized and a banner being placed in Voronezh with the phrase "The fifth column in Voronezh.
Venezuela JUA , 27 June 2014	Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Alleged criminalization and detention of a human rights activist working against discrimination and the rights of LGBTI persons.
Côte d'Ivoire JUA , 11 March 2014	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;	Allegations of physical attacks and death threats against the staff of an NGO that advocates for the rights of people living with HIV / AIDS and the rights of lesbian, gay, Bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI).
Zimbabwe JLA , 7 February 2014	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Alleged acts of harassment against leaders of two associations promoting and defending human rights.
Honduras JUA , 20 Jan 204	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; executions; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged pattern of attacks and harassment against organizations that work in defense of the rights of LGBTI persons in Honduras.
Cameroon JUA , 13 Au 2013	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; executions; freedom of peaceful assembly	Allegations of murder of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights defender and intimidation of other defenders.
Russian Federation JAL , 12 Jul 2013	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged attack against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights activists and break-up of St. Petersburg Pride parade.
Botswana JAL , 8 Jul 2013	Human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged arbitrary denial to register a human rights association working against discrimination and for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia JUA , 5 Jul 2013	Human rights defenders; racism; freedom of peaceful assembly	Allegations of on-going harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights defenders.

Sierra Leone JUA , 20 Jun 2013	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged physical attack and threats against a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights defender.
Georgia JLA , 13 June 2013	Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;	Alleged lack of effective protection provided to demonstrators during the International Day against Homophobia and subsequent threats made against members of an LGBT organization.
Rep of Moldova JAL , 17 May 2013	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Allegations of a re-routing of the 2013 Chisinau Pride Parade.
Zambia JAL , 14 May 2013	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; health	Alleged criminal charges against human rights defenders and alleged Government campaign against defenders working on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex rights.
Colombia JUA , 14 Sep 2012	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; executions; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged threat of death against human rights defenders.
Nepal JUA , 14 Sep 2012	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; violence against women	According to the information received, members of leading women's rights organization WOREC Nepal and LGBTI rights organization Mitini Nepal have been subjected to threats and intimidation.
Rep of Moldova JAL , 4 Jul 2012	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged bans on public activities organized by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) persons in several municipalities in Moldova.
South Africa JAL , 28 Jun 2012	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; executions	Alleged killing of a LGBTI rights defender.
Uganda JAL , 25 Jun 2012	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged disruption of a workshop for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) human rights defenders by police.
Uganda JAL , 29 Mar 2012	Arbitrary detention; freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; executions; health; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged re-tabling of a Bill which would violate fundamental principles and norms of international human rights law if enacted.
Russian Federation JUA , 30 Nov 2011	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Allegation of the passing of the first reading of an allegedly discriminatory bill by the Legislative Assembly in Saint Petersburg amending the Law on administrative violations.
Belarus JAL , 30 May 2011	Freedom of opinion; human rights defenders; freedom of peaceful assembly	Alleged arrest and detention of human rights defenders. According to the information received, on 17 May 2011 a number of local LGBTI groups gathered peacefully in Minsk with a view to commemorating the International Day of Anti-Homophobia.

JLA – Joint letter of allegation
JUA – Joint urgent appeal
AL – Allegation letter

¹ Although the mandate was established in 2000, this summary covers work reported from 2011 until 2017.