



A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A handbook on issues of transition
from the Commission on Human Rights
to the Human Rights Council



Annex 3.1

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders

Current mandate holder: Hina Jilani
Mandate started: 2000

Term of mandate holder: 2000-2006
Mandate up for renewal: 2006

Areas of focus

- Protection of persons acting individually or in association with others, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and of their right to do so;
- Monitor the actual situation of human rights defenders by seeking, receiving, examining and responding to information;
- Strengthening the implementation of the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1998* (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) by establishing cooperation and dialogue with governments and other actors;
- Identify themes that are considered to have a fundamental bearing on the role and situation of human rights defenders. Currently, issues in focus are democratisation, the impact of security legislation, emergency situations and women defenders;
- The main legal reference is the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Special Representative also submits reports to the General Assembly (2001-2005).

Country visits

Angola (2004)	Colombia (2001)	Kyrgyzstan (2002)	Macedonia (2003)	Thailand (2003)
Brazil (2005)	Guatemala (2002)	Israel (2005)	Nigeria (2005)	Turkey (2004)

Outstanding requests	Outstanding requests	Outstanding requests	Visits agreed upon in principle
Albania	India	Russian Federation (2004)	Democratic Republic of Congo
Belarus	Indonesia	Singapore	Iraq
Bhutan	Kenya	Togo	Mali
Chad	Malaysia	Tunisia	Mexico
Colombia (2005)	Mozambique	Turkmenistan	Senegal
Egypt	Nepal	Uzbekistan (2001)	Serbia and Montenegro (September 2006)
Equatorial Guinea	Pakistan	Zambia	Venezuela
		Zimbabwe (2003)	

Pending reports: Annual report, Summaries of communications, Mission to Nigeria, Mission to the Occupied Arab Territories, Mission to Brazil, Compilation of developments in the area of human rights defenders (E/CN.4/2006/95, Add.1-5).

Thematic research

- Peace and security (2005);
- Security legislation and emergency situations (2003);
- Women human rights defenders (2002);
- The impact of 11 September attacks (2002).

Communications (2005)

- 310 communications sent on more than 351 cases to 68 countries, regarding approximately 799 defenders and 316 organizations working on human rights;
- 46 replies were received;
- There is a model questionnaire for submitting information to the Special Representative¹.

¹ <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/complaints.htm>.