

## REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEMS

### The African Regional Human Rights System

#### **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

ACHPR is composed of eleven members elected by the Assembly of Heads of States party to the Charter for a renewable period of six years. The members serve in their personal and individual capacity. The ACHPR's ordinary sessions, which are held twice yearly, take place in April/ May and October/November. Extraordinary sessions are held to discuss urgent matters, for example in 1995, such a session was held after the Nigerian government's execution of writer and activist, Ken Sarowiwa.

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Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Africa

### **Communications to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

Under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Commission is empowered to receive and consider inter-State complaints (Articles 48-49) and complaints from individuals and organisations (Article 55). Anybody can submit a communication to the Commission denouncing a violation of human rights. The complainant or author of the communication must be identified but need not be related to the victim of the abuse. The victim may request anonymity. All communications must be written, and addressed to the Secretary or the Chairman of the African Commission. There is no form or special format that must be followed in writing the communication.

Article 56 of the African Charter outlines seven conditions that must be met before the Commission can consider a communication. These are as follows:

- (i) The communication must include the author's name, even if the author wants to remain anonymous;
- (ii) The communication must be compatible with the Charter of the AU and with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- (iii) The communication must not be written in insulting language directed against the State or the AU;
- (iv) The communication must not be based exclusively on news from the media;
- (v) The complainant must have exhausted all available domestic legal remedies;

- (vi) The communication must be submitted within a reasonable time from the date of exhaustion of domestic remedies;
- (vii) The communication must not deal with a matter that has already been settled by some other international human rights body.

### **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child**

<b>Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child</b>	
Mr Jean-Baptiste ZOUNGRANA (Burkina Faso), Chairperson	Mme Nakpa POLO (Togo), Member
Mrs Mamosebi T. PHOLO (Lesotho), 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice- Chairperson	Prof. Peter Onyekwere EBIGBO (Nigeria), Member
Mrs Marie Chantal Koffi APPOH (Cote d'Ivoire), 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson	Dr. Assefa BEQUELE (Ethiopia), Member
Hon. Justice Martha KOOME (Kenya), 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice- Chairperson	Mrs Seynabou Ndiaye DIAKHATE (Senegal), Member
Mr Moussa SISSOKO (Mali), Rapporteur	Mrs Dawlat Ibrahim HASSAN (Egypt), Member
Ms Boipelo Lucia SEITLHAMO (Botswana), Deputy Rapporteur	

The Committee, which convenes twice each year, held its first ordinary session in July 2001. It may resort to any appropriate method of investigation in respect of any issue covered by the Charter. It is composed of 11 members elected by the assembly of Heads of States of the OAU. However, like the Commissioners of the African Commission, they serve only in their individual capacities. They are elected for a term of five years and, unlike the African Commission, they may not be re-elected.

### **The African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights**

<b>Present Members</b>	
Dr Fatsah OUGUERGOUZ (President)	Algeria
Mr Jean Emile SOMDA	Burkina Faso
Dr Gerard NIYUNGEKO	Burundi
Ms Sophia A.B. AKUFFO	Ghana
Ms Kellelo Justina MASAFO-GUNI	Lesotho
Mr Hamdi Faraj FANOUSH	Libya
Mr Mobido Tounty GUINDO	Mali
Mr Jean MUTSINZI	Rwanda
Mr El Hadji GUISSÉ	Senegal
Mr Bernard NGOEPE	South Africa
Mr George W. KANYEIHAMBA	Uganda

## The European Regional Human Rights System

### **Commissioner for Human Rights**

Mr Thomas Hammarberg.

E-mail: [commissioner.humanrights@coe.int](mailto:commissioner.humanrights@coe.int)

### **European Court of Human Rights**

#### Judges

Mr Jean-Paul COSTA, President	(French)
Mr Christos ROZAKIS, Vice-President	(Greek)
Sir Nicolas BRATZA, Section President	(British)
Mr Boštjan ZUPANČIČ, Section President	(Slovenian)
Mr Peer LORENZEN, Section President	(Danish)
Mrs Françoise TULKENS, Section President	(Belgian)
Mr Giovanni BONELLO	(Maltese)
Mr Loukis LOUCAIDES	(Cypriot)
Mr Ireneu CABRAL BARRETO	(Portuguese)
Mr Riza TÜRMEŒ	(Turkish)
Mr Corneliu BÎRSAN	(Romanian)
Mr Karel JUNGWIERT	(Czech)
Mr Volodymyr BUTKEVYCH	(Ukrainian)
Mr Josep CASADEVALL	(Andorran)
Mrs Nina VAJIĆ	(Croatian)
Mr John HEDIGAN	(Irish)
Mr Matti PELLONPÄÄ	(Finnish)
Mrs Margarita TSATSA-NIKOLOVSKA	(citizen of “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)
Mr András BAKA	(Hungarian)
Mr Rait MARUSTE	(Estonian)
Mr Kristaq TRAJA	(Albanian)
Mrs Snejana BOTOCHAROVA	(Bulgarian)
Mr Mindia UGREKHELIDZE	(Georgian)
Mr Anatoly KOVLER	(Russian)
Mr Vladimiro ZAGREBELSKY	(Italian)
Mrs Antonella MULARONI	(San Marinese)
Mrs Elisabeth STEINER	(Austrian)
Mr Stanislav PAVLOVSKI	(Moldovan)
Mr Lech GARLICKI	(Polish)
Mr Javier BORREGO BORREGO	(Spanish)
Mrs Elisabet FURA-SANDSTRÖM	(Swedish)
Mrs Alvina GYULUMYAN	(Armenian)
Mr Khanlar HAJIYEV	(Azerbaijani)
Mrs Ljiljana MIJOVIĆ	(citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Mr Dean SPIELMANN	(Luxemburger)
Mrs Renate JAEGER	(German)
Mr Egbert MYJER	(Dutch)
Mr Sverre Erik JEBENS	(Norwegian)
Mr David Thór BJÖRGVINSSON	(Icelandic)
Mrs Danutė JOČIENĒ	(Lithuanian)

Mr Ján ŠIKUTA	(Slovakian)
Mr Dragoljub POPOVIĆ	(Serbian)
Mrs Ineta ZIEMELE	(Latvian)
Mr Mark VILLIGER	(Swiss)
Mrs Isabelle BERRO-LEFEVRE	(Monegasque)
Ms Päivi HIRVELÄ	(Finnish)
Mr Giorgio MALINVERNI	(Swiss)
Mr Erik FRIBERGH, Registrar	(Swedish)
Mr Michael O'BOYLE, Deputy Registrar	(Irish)

The seats of judges in respect of Ireland and Montenegro are currently vacant.

ECHR website [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int)

Department for the execution of judgments of the ECtHR

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### **European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)**

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European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Anti-Torture Committee)

E-mail: [cptdoc@coe.int](mailto:cptdoc@coe.int)

### **Secretariat of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**

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### **Protection of National Minorities**

Council of Europe

Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (DG-HL)

Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

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### **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)**

Visit [www.coe.int/ecri](http://www.coe.int/ecri) for more information.

E-mail: [combat.racism@coe.int](mailto:combat.racism@coe.int)

### **Human Rights Co-operation and Awareness Division (HRCAD)**

Web address: [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Awareness/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Awareness/)

## The Inter-american Regional Human Rights System

### **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

1889 F Street, N. W.

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USA

Phone: (1 202) 458 6002

Web address: [www.cidh.org](http://www.cidh.org)

<b>Present Commissioners</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
Felipe GONZALEZ	Chile	2008-2011
Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO Rapporteur for the rights of children	Brazil	2004-2011
Florentín MELÉNDEZ President	El Salvador	2004-2011
Clare KAMAU ROBERTS Rapporteur for Afro-descendants and racial discrimination	Antigua & Barbuda	2002-2009
<b>Present Commissioners</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Period</b>
Luz Patricia Mejía GUERRERO XXX	Venezuela	2008-2011
Víctor E. ABRAMOVICH COSARÍN Second Vice-President; Rapporteur for the rights of women	Argentina	2006-2009
Paolo CAROZZA First Vice-President; Rapporteur for indigenous peoples	United States	2006-2009

### **Inter-American Human Rights Court**

Avenue 10, Street 45 – 47

Los Yoses, San Pedro

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<b>Present Commissioners</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
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Mr Diego GARCÍA-SAYÁN, Vice-President	Peru
Mr Pablo SAAVEDRA-ALESSANDRI, Secretary	Chile
Ms Emilia SEGARES-RODRÍGUEZ, Deputy Secretary	Costa Rica
Ms Rhadys ABREU-BLONDET, Judge	Dominican Republic
Mr Leonardo A. FRANCO, Judge	Argentina
Ms Margarete May MACAULAY, Judge	Jamaica
Mr Manuel E. Ventura ROBLES, Judge	Costa Rica
Mr Sergio García RAMIREZ, Judge	Mexico