

Issues' Analysis

-Human Rights Defenders- *Session 1-5*

Introduction

This issue is raised fairly often within the context of the Universal Periodic Review. Out of over 5000 recommendations in total over 5 sessions, 144 recommendations focussed on human rights defenders.¹ In total, 41 advance questions concerned this issue. Overall, 35 states made recommendations and asked questions on this issue, while 42 States under Review received questions and recommendations. The states making recommendations and asking questions came for the most part from the WEOG region (respectively 79% and 83%) with the EEG also taking part (respectively 15% and 17%). As for states receiving recommendations and questions, most recommendations were received by States under Review from the GRULAC (38%), Asian (33%) and EEG (24%) regions. Most questions were received by States under Review from the Asian and GRULAC regions (respectively, 44% and 32%).

Issues covered in recommendations and questions include the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders,² protection of human rights defenders, investigation and prosecution of violence and harassment, effective legislation on this issue, freedom of expression and freedom of movement of human rights defenders, the application of counter-terrorism legislation, the work of the Special Rapporteur/Representative on the situation of human rights defenders, and the recommendations of treaty bodies.

Top 5 countries making recommendations on this issue

1. Norway (26 recommendations)
2. Ireland (14 recommendations)
3. Canada (13 recommendations)
4. Czech Republic (9 recommendations)
Netherlands (9 recommendations)

Top 5 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue

1. Colombia (20 recommendations)
2. Uzbekistan (12 recommendations)
3. Serbia (11 recommendations)
Russian Federation (11 recommendations)
5. Guatemala (10 recommendations)

Top 6 countries posing advance written questions on this issue

1. Ireland (14 questions)
2. United Kingdom (6 questions)
3. Czech Republic (4 questions)
4. Latvia (3 questions)
Netherlands (3 questions)
Sweden (3 questions)

¹ For more detailed data, see the table.

² United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

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Top 3 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue

1. Indonesia (5 questions)
Guatemala (5 questions)
2. China (4 questions)