

fidh

20th EU – NGO Human Rights Forum

Defending universality – Making Human Rights a Reality

Brussels, 20-22 November 2018

FIDH member organisations



AFRICA

BOTSWANA



Alice MOGWE

DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights

Director of DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Secretary General of FIDH (the International Federation for Human Rights), Board Member of the International Service for Human Rights, Board Member of The Other Foundation and Board Member of the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law.

Alice Mogwe has been a human rights activist since 1990 when she began work with indigenous peoples in Botswana and later in South Africa; refugees and asylum seekers; abolition of the death penalty; children's rights; HIV/AIDS; domestic workers; and growing civil society space through seeding and growing civil society groupings and mentoring youth activists about value-based leadership.

DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights

DITSHWANELO is an advocacy organisation with a key role in the promotion and protection of human rights in Botswana society.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Dismas KITENGE SENGA

FIDH Vice President, President of LOTUS Group

Dismas Kitenge is the president and co-founder of the LOTUS Group, a human rights organisation based in Kisangani in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This organisation aims to promote peace, the values and principles of democracy, and the defence of all human beings.

For more than 20 years, Dismas Kitenge has been fighting for freedom of speech and opinion, and fighting against the impunity of perpetrators of the most serious human rights violations. Because of his activities, he has been and is still subjected to strong pressure from former armed groups and the authorities. The tools of pressure include threats, intimidation, as well as slander and attacks against him and his family.

As a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Kisangani University, he has written many research papers and articles on human rights, public liberties, and citizenship education. Besides playing a key role in the human rights defence movement in DRC, he has acquired a long experience in advocacy before international institutions such as the African Union, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Union, the International Criminal Court and the United Nations.

MAURITANIA



Fatimata M'BAYE

Association Mauritanienne des droits de l'Homme (AMDH)

Fatimata M'baye is a Mauritanian lawyer and human rights campaigner. From 1981 to 1985 she studied law and economics at the University of Nouakchott and became the first female lawyer in her home country. In 2016, she was given an International Women of Courage Award by the U.S. Secretary of State.

In 1991, Fatimata M'baye helped found the Mauritanian Human Rights Association, or AMDH, and became the Association's president in 2006. In 1998, a report on the still-extant and widespread practice of slavery in Mauritania aired on French television, she and the organization's then president, Cheikh Saad Bouh Kamara, were arrested without warrant. She was charged with the crime of being a member of a non-government approved association, sentenced to 13 months in prison, and a large fine.

M'Baye is Chair of the Committee for Women's Rights and founder and leader of the Social Commission of the AMDH. She is a consulting lawyer of various organizations and in 1994 she was an observer in the presidential elections in Mauritania. Her commitment to oppression and slavery in Mauritania brought her 1987, a prison sentence of six months. In 1998, she was sentenced to a prison term of thirteen months again because she belonged to an unapproved union. Under the pressure of an international campaign she was pardoned by the country's president.

M'baye began to receive international attention after her work and life was included in "Mauritania: A Question of Rape," a BBC documentary on the convictions of female rape survivors with the crime of zina. In 2013, M'baye joined a three-person UN commission of inquiry in the Central African Republic with Bernard Muna and Philip Alston. This commission worked in a hostile and violent atmosphere and in a constrained manner, but in 2015 released a final report to the Security Council accusing all belligerent parties in the CAR Civil War (2012-present) of crimes against humanity.

Association Mauritanienne des droits de l'Homme (AMDH)

The AMDH is a Mauritanian human rights organisation working on all areas related to human rights. Its field of action is the protection and promotion of human rights in Mauritania, in the sub-region and at the global level. To do this, the AMDH is structured into Thematic Commissions.

It was founded on June 1, 1991, in the aftermath of the massive and grave human rights violence in Mauritania by the political power from extrajudicial executions to the deportation of thousands of Mauritanian blacks in Senegal and Mali to the purging of the black component of the Mauritanian population in the administration.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN



Guissou Jahangiri

FIDH Vice President, Executive Director of Armanshahr-Open Asia Foundation

Guissou Jahangiri is an Iranian-born French Human/Women's Rights defender and a cultural activist. A political sociologist specializing in war, women's rights & Iran, Afghanistan & post-Soviet Muslim republics he worked for 15 years for the French Courier International. She spent 5 years in war-torn Tajikistan as HRW researcher and acting head of the UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, she co-initiated a national survey on violence against women in the greater region leading to new laws and adoption by WHO Europe of its methodology. She co-founded theHR organisation OPEN ASIA/Armanshahr in 1996.

Since 2000 her work for Afghanistan, has focused on defending war victims & women's rights, Transitional Justice processes, support of the ICC, citizen rights and leading high visibility advocacy campaigns. In 2006 Jahangiri founded a unique HR publishing house having distributed 250,000 books in Afghanistan & the region. She launched the Int. Simorgh Peace Prize in 2009 in the Heart of Asia. In 2013, she co-founded the first ever Women's International Film Festival in Afghanistan as a regional and international platform which she co-presides.

Armanshahr-Open Asia Foundation

Armanshahr Foundation is an independent non-profit citizens' organisation that is not affiliated to any economic, political, religious, and ethnic groups or any government. We strive to create the proper channels to fulfil social and popular demands for democracy, human rights, justice and rule of law as well as to take cultural initiatives and publish books to help shape the collective consciousness of the citizens. Armanshahr Foundation also aims to achieve solidarity, progress and peace through exchanges of ideas and dialogue at the heart of Asia.

MALAYSIA



Farida Mohammad

Legal advisor for Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)

Farida is an advocate and solicitor based in peninsular Malaysia and her area of practice ranging from criminal defence and civil actions to property conveyance. She is also one of the volunteer lawyers of Kuala Lumpur Bar Legal Aid Centre, in which she represents individuals in criminal matters, employment and family disputes. Due to her keen interest in activism and human rights, she is actively involved with civil society organisation by providing legal assistance, conducting trainings and organising campaigns and programs in relation to human rights issues and legal awareness. Farida is currently acting as a legal advisor for Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM) and a committee member of Eliminating of Death in Custody Together (EDICT), a newly-formed CSO focusing on issues relating to deaths and abuses in detention.

Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)

SUARAM is a non-governmental organisation established in 1989 to monitor and advocate for the respect of human rights in Malaysia. Through its consistent and uncompromising work, it has established itself as one of the key human rights organisations, one to which Malaysians turn to for information and support. The organisation defends all aspects of human rights especially the right to trial, freedom from abuse of police powers and law enforcement agencies; freedom of expression and information; freedom of assembly and association; freedom of religion; the right of minorities, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and trafficked persons and democracy.

At present, the organisation campaigns on the following issues:

- Right to trial – campaign against arbitrary detention and detention without trial, including support to victims and family members;
- Right to Justice – Campaigning for accountability of the police and other enforcement agencies, especially the setting up of the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) and custodial death cases;
- Documentation & Monitoring – Monitoring, documenting and researching into the violations of human rights in Malaysia, including the annual publication of the human rights report;
- Local governance – campaigning for local democracy and good governance, especially for local council elections, freedom of information, and anti-corruption;
- Refugee protection – provides assistance and protection to individual refugees and asylum seekers and campaign for recognition of refugees as well as policy changes in the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers by the government.

SUARAM is also actively engaged in: Universal Periodic Review (UPR); ANNI Report on the Performance and Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia; Freedom of Expression advocacy – SUARAM serve as the secretariat for the Gerakan Mansuh Akta Hasutan (GHAH)

MYANMAR



Debbie Stothard

FIDH Secretary General and Coordinator for Altsean Burma.

Debbie Stothard is the Coordinator of ALTSEAN-Burma (the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma) and Secretary-General of FIDH (the International Federation for Human Rights). She is also a member of the Corporate Accountability Working Group and the Economic Policy Working Group of ESCR-Net. Her work is mainly focused on 3 themes: Business & Human Rights, Atrocity Prevention, and Women's Rights & Leadership. She has been an active promoter of human rights in Burma and the ASEAN region since 1987. During her 37-year career, she has worked as a crime reporter, community education consultant, government adviser and trainer in Malaysia, Australia and Thailand.

In 1996, she founded ALTSEAN-Burma. These activities led her to engage with UN and related mechanisms in Geneva and New York, ASEAN as a body, and governments in Asia, the Pacific, North America and Europe. She specializes in advocacy and capacity-building in difficult situations.

In 2017, she delivered or served as a resource person at 30 training events in Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, France and Poland, and participated in 120 conferences and meetings around the world.

Altsean-Burma

Founded in 1996, ALTSEAN-BURMA (Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma) is a network of organisations and individuals based in ASEAN member states working towards strengthening human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on Burma. Operating from Bangkok, Thailand, the network is comprised of human rights and social justice NGOs, think tanks, academics, journalists and student activists.

 **Women's Rights.** The promotion of women's rights, enhancing their capacity to take on roles in civil society and political organizations, is among the core goals of ALTSEAN. Since 1997, our flagship training program, the Women of Burma Internship, has nurtured and grown young women of Burma, providing them with the skills and knowledge to be leading rights activists and leaders in their communities.

 **Business & Human Rights.** With the Burmese economy among the fastest growing in the world, monitoring the impact of increased business and industry on human rights is more vital than ever. This is why ALTSEAN is active in the promotion of Business and Human Rights (BHR) in Burma through research, capacity-building and advocacy initiatives, as well as participating in regional and international BHR discussions and training.

 **Democracy & Human Rights.** ALTSEAN is actively involved in Burmese democratic transition and human rights through publishing monthly reports documenting political developments in the country. We enhance the capacity of local civil society organizations through offsite training, engage government officials on human rights dialogue, and support the wider ASEAN democracy and human rights movement.

 **Atrocity Prevention.** We shed light on atrocity prevention through our monthly bulletins and regular thematic briefers highlighting human rights abuses in Burma. We also translate UN atrocity prevention documents into Burmese for the use of local human rights groups. Further underscoring our core work in atrocity prevention are regular workshops and training programmes.

TIBET



Vincent Metten

EU Policy Director of the International Campaign for Tibet, ICT

Vincent Metten is the EU Policy Director of the International Campaign for Tibet, an NGO supported by around 150,000 members worldwide that works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

Based in Brussels, he is in particular in charge of developing and implementing advocacy strategies vis-à-vis European Union Institutions, most of European countries and the UN, in cooperation with other ICT offices. Previously he used to work four years for the European Commission as National Detached Expert in the security field (space policy and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction) and two years at the Office of the Belgian Minister for Defence as advisor on International Issues.

The International Campaign for Tibet, ICT

On March 15, 1988, the International Campaign for Tibet was established to support the Tibetan people's struggle for human rights and democratic freedoms. From a handful of dedicated individuals, ICT has grown into an international organisation empowered by the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. ICT maintains offices in Washington, DC, Amsterdam, Berlin, and Brussels with a field office in Dharamsala, India.

ICT works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet. ICT does the following:

- Monitors and reports on human rights, environmental and socio economic conditions in Tibet;
- Advocates for Tibetans imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs;
- Works with governments to develop policies and programs to help Tibetans;
- Secures humanitarian and development assistance for Tibetans;
- Works with Chinese institutions and individuals to build understanding and trust, and explores relationships between Tibetans and Chinese,
- Mobilises individuals and the international community to take action on behalf of Tibetans; and
- Promotes self-determination for the Tibetan people through negotiations between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

RUSSIA



Stephania Kulaeva

Head of ADC Memorial

Stephania Kulaeva is a head of ADC Memorial, an organisation promoting minority rights and opposing all forms of discrimination. Since 2000, Stephania Kulaeva has been advocating for minorities rights in Russia and in other Eastern European countries.

Promoting the rights of women and migrants is an important part of ADC Memorial's agenda. In recent years, more and more effort has been given to fighting laws forbidding women from being employed in some fields of work (so-called "lists of banned to women professions") in ex-Soviet countries.

Anti-Discrimination Centre Memorial, ADC Memorial

ADC Memorial has always been and continues to focus on the defence of the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups, opposition to racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of xenophobia.

We work for the protection of the rights of Roma people who continue to suffer from various forms of systemic discrimination; for LGBTI persons suffering from homophobic harassment; on the rights of labour migrants.

We analyse discrimination and violations of the rights of minorities by preparing legal appeals to courts. Our website features reports on legal cases of particular, strategic importance, which were compiled by lawyers hired by ADC Memorial or who work with the support of our organisation. Among priorities of our work are the legal cases for defending the rights of stateless persons who are being illegally kept in prison conditions in centres for temporary detention of foreign nationals (although deportation of stateless persons is not

possible), as well as defending the rights of HIV-positive foreigners who became victims of discrimination, defending the rights of disabled persons to education, fighting against discrimination of women due to the existence of the official “list of occupations prohibited to women” in Russia. This latter topic was featured in a number of reports prepared for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (UN CEDAW), as lists of professions prohibited to women exist in all the countries, which were formerly part of the USSR. This issue was raised by ADC Memorial in its reports dealing with the situation in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine.

LATIN AMERICA

ECUADOR



Luis Angel Saavedra Saenz

Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos, (INREDH)

Writer, social communicator and human rights activist; director of the Regional Human Rights Advisory Foundation, INREDH. He is correspondent in Ecuador for international journals in which he analyses the political and human rights situation of peoples and nature in Ecuador; he has published research on geopolitics and militarisation that account for the need to eradicate foreign military bases in developing countries.

Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos, (INREDH)

INREDH is an organisation recognised nationally and internationally for its capacity to influence the exercise of human rights and nature in Ecuador, to, together with individuals, collectives, peoples and nationalities, consolidate the Constitutional State of Rights and Justice.

We are an innovative, technical and interdisciplinary non-governmental organisation that promotes and demands the respect and guarantee of human rights and nature, through the accompaniment of people and organisations that consolidate themselves as defenders of a plural, inclusive and intercultural society.

HONDURAS



Wilfredo Mendez Gonzales

Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (CIPRODEH)

Director of the Centre for Research and Promotion of Human Rights in Honduras (CIPRODEH). Wilfredo Mendez Gonzales is a lawyer, specialised in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. He was a member of the National Anti-Corruption Council of the country, was a member of the Tribunal for the Selection of Judges for Sentence and Execution of the Supreme Court of Justice, and Coordinator of the

2005 National Citizen Electoral Observation. He has coordinated projects on Citizen Security, Justice, Anti-Corruption, Democracy and different themes on Human Rights. He has lectured nationally and abroad. He has published several articles on Citizen Security, Human Rights, Anti-Corruption and Democracy; book on Human Rights and State Affairs. He has received national and foreign recognitions for the defence of the environment,

as Ambassador of Peace for the government of Guatemala, for the defence of women's rights, for justice, human rights and democracy, among others.

Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (CIPRODEH)

The Centre for Research and Promotion of Human Rights in Honduras (CIPRODEH) was founded in 1989 as a civil society organisation. CIPRODEH promotes research and knowledge management, political advocacy, and the promotion and defence of human rights in synergy with different sectors of society for the construction of a democratic rule of law that guarantees respect and protection of human rights in Honduras.

CIPRODEH works alongside and accompanies different organisations and social movements in the country in their demands and efforts to integrally democratise Honduran society and strengthen the rule of law. In the same way, it works closely with those who have the responsibility of making decisions to address the needs and problems that, in the area of human rights, affect the Honduran population. Therefore, the commitment to justice and the full development of the person are strongly anchored in the principles that CIPRODEH has always promoted.

Today, CIPRODEH is a national and professional organisation, focused on exercising a leading role in research, promotion, defence and advocacy in human rights, whose original purpose based on building a democratic society, fair and respectful of human rights, remains central.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA



Salhi Said

*Vice President of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights
Vice Coordinator for the coordination of Maghreb human rights organisations (CMODH), Algeria focal point of Pan-African organisations and human rights defender.*

Salhi Said is in charge of projects supported by the EU Delegation in Algiers since 2006 on training, capacity building for civil society organisations and human rights defenders. He works on a number of issues: advocacy, defence of victims of human rights violations, human rights defenders, bloggers and journalists, and religious minorities in particular.

La ligue Algérienne pour la défense des droits de l'Homme (LADDH)

The Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH) is a non-profit national association for the purpose of acculturation, defence and the promotion of the human rights. It was created in 1985 by a group of activists and was officially recognized by the authorities in 1989 after the political opening due to the "October Riots of 1988" for democracy in Algeria. After the violence in 1992, LADDH chose to take the path of human dignity, peace and national reconciliation. It denounced the crimes and massive violations of human rights committed during more than a decade by the security services and the armed Islamic groups. Thus, LADDH actively participated in the 1995 national contract and in the call for peace in 1996, and has been working diligently to defend the individual and collective freedom in accordance with the UN Charter of Human Rights

ever since. Its positions of principle, political autonomy and its mobilisation on the issue of enforced disappearances, have made LADDH an enemy organisation in the eyes of power.

BAHRAIN



Nedal Al-Salman

Head of Women & Children's Rights Advocacy at the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR).

Nedal is a Bahraini women's and human rights defender who covers most human rights issues with a focus on women's and children's rights and discrimination. Nedal is one of the few human rights defenders who still works on the ground in Bahrain. She has faced many threats, including several interrogations and a travel ban instituted against her in 2017 for almost a year.

Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR).

The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, registered with the Bahraini Ministry of Labour and Social Services since July 2002. Despite an order by the authorities in November 2004 to close, the BCHR is still functioning after gaining a wide local and international support for its struggle to promote human rights in Bahrain.

BCHR has a responsibility and commitment to defend people whose rights are violated. We aim to inspire hope and raise awareness to get people involved in documenting and reporting human rights violations and to stand up for their rights. We believe all people are equal and deserve our attention, regardless of gender, sect, affiliation, identity or origins. It is important for BCHR to retain trust and credibility from all concerned. We promote the peaceful exercise of human rights and non-violent dissent.

Our mission is to encourage and support individuals and groups to be proactive in the protection of their own and others' rights; and to struggle to promote democracy and human rights in accordance with international norms. To document and report on human rights violations in Bahrain. To use this documentation for advocacy to influence international policies according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Objectives

- Promoting freedoms and basic rights (Civil, Political and Economic)
- Combating racial, gender and religious discrimination
- Providing support and protection to victims of human rights abuses and the vulnerable
- Engaging in local and international advocacy in support of human rights
- Enhancing the skills of human rights defenders through human rights education or training

GULF



Khalid Ibrahim

Executive Director of the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)

Khalid Ibrahim, Executive Director of the GCHR, is in charge of management, programme development, fundraising, training, and co-founded the Gulf Centre for Human Rights in April 2011. He is an Iraqi HRD with decades of experience in the human rights field, including 10 years with Front Line Defenders. He has a BSc in Physics from Iraq, MSc in Health Informatics from Trinity College in Dublin, and is currently a PhD researcher at Lebanese University in digital protection for human rights defenders. He is a certified specialist in the field of human rights with an interest in the use of new technologies to enhance the protection of human rights in the MENA region.

The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)

The Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation founded in April 2011 by human rights defenders in the Gulf region and neighbouring countries in order to promote human rights, including but not limited to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. It receives guidance from an Advisory Board composed of regional and international human rights advocates, including academics and lawyers. We cooperate with all local, regional and international partners through networking and complementary efforts to promote and protect human rights for all.

Our vision is to have vibrant civic spaces in the Gulf region and neighbouring countries in which human rights are fully respected and human rights defenders, including journalists, bloggers and Internet activists, can work free from oppression and fear.

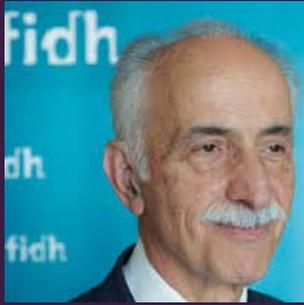
GCHR is based in Lebanon and documents the environment for human rights defenders in the Gulf region and neighbouring countries, specifically Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

GCHR relies on its Independence and does not take funds from governments in the countries in which we work, or any party that may compromise our values or integrity. We are adamant about being credible and trustworthy. We are bound by impact-oriented processes and the highest ethical standards.

GCHR's overall objectives are:

- To provide protection for human rights defenders and enhance their effectiveness in the Gulf and neighbouring countries.
- To raise awareness locally, regionally and internationally about issues pertaining to human rights defenders at risk.
- To enable a safer environment for human rights defenders at risk, through advocacy at regional fora and via international mechanisms.
- To facilitate networking and exchanges between human rights defenders and social movements.

IRAN



Karim Lahidji

FIDH Honorary President, President of the League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran - LDDHI

Dr. Karim Lahidji was president of FIDH from 2013 to 2016 and vice-president from 1998 to 2013. Karim Lahidji has been a human rights activist since attending Tehran University Law School in the late 1950s. Whilst at Law School, he was arrested and imprisoned twice for publicly defending the right to free expression and political dissent. He received his doctoral degree in Private Law from Tehran University.

During the 1970s, Mr. Lahidji played a discrete but central role in persuading a number of international personalities to travel to Iran to raise questions about the treatment of political prisoners. It was partly due to these efforts that in 1975 the Iranian government felt compelled to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Iran's prisons. He became defence counsel for a number of prominent political dissidents on trial before both military and civilian courts.

In December 1977, Mr. Lahidji and 28 professors, writers, jurists and political leaders wrote a letter to the UN Secretary General announcing the establishment of the first ever human rights group in Iran: the Iranian Association for the Defence of Liberty and Human Rights. A primary goal of this initiative was to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the country at large and to educate the general public on the vital importance of protecting human rights in a modernising society. Mr. Lahidji was elected the Association's spokesperson. In 1978, human rights activities in Iran grew more daring and vocal. This led to attacks on Mr. Lahidji, with a bomb blast at his office on 27 April 1978 and then a serious attack on his person by State security agents.

After the fall of the Pahlavi monarchy in 1979, Karim Lahidji declined then Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan's offers of positions as justice minister and minister of education in his cabinet. Mr. Lahidji and three other top jurists were commissioned by the government to draft Iran's first Constitution. However, their democratic draft was substituted with a despotic law by an Assembly of largely pro-theocratic rulers. Mr. Lahidji boycotted the referendum on the new draft Constitution and the ensuing presidential election. Mr. Lahidji publicly condemned the executions that followed the 1979 show trials of the Islamic Revolution Courts. In May 1981, Mr. Lahidji was forced to go into hiding and, after being smuggled out of Iran he began a life of exile in Paris where he founded a new organisation, the League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI) in 1983. Ever since, this group has been engaged in exposing Iran's human rights violations and publicising the danger facing Iran's dissidents at home. In 1986, LDDHI joined FIDH. In 1990, he was the recipient of Human Rights Watch's award for outstanding monitors of human rights in the world. LDDHI became a member of FIDH in 1986

Ligue de Défense des Droits de l'Homme en Iran - LDDHI

The LDDHI was founded in Paris in March 1983, following the closure of the Iranian Association for the Defence of Human Rights and Liberties in 1981, which had been established in 1977, and the exiling of its leaders. Its aims are:

- To report and campaign against human rights violations in Iran.
- To propagate the culture of Human Rights among Iranians
- through publication of books, magazines and articles in Persian and in other languages for the Iranian communities abroad, and giving interviews to the international media;

- To organise talks and conferences in various countries, on the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, women's rights, freedom of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and religious and ethnic minorities, freedoms of expression, assembly and association among others.
- To hold conferences with international NGOs and UN agencies.

ISRAEL



Hagai El-Ad

Director of the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem)

Hagai El-Ad has a wealth of experience in human rights advocacy. In his recently ended six-year term as director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the organization spearheaded opposition to a wave of anti-democratic legislation and attacks on civil society in Israel. Prior to that position, he served as the first director of the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance. He holds an M.Sc. in physics

from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was a pre-doctoral fellow at the Harvard–Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics from 1997 to 2000.

The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem)

B'Tselem was established in February 1989 by a group of prominent academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members. It endeavours to document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories, combat the phenomenon of denial prevalent among the Israeli public, and help create a human rights culture in Israel.

As an Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem acts primarily to change Israeli policy in the Occupied Territories and ensure that its government, which rules the Occupied Territories, protects the human rights of residents there and complies with its obligations under international law. B'Tselem has championed human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for over two decades, promoting a future where all Israelis and Palestinians will live in freedom and dignity.

PALESTINIAN WEST BANK



Nils MOLLEMA

EU Advocacy Officer for Al-Haq based in The Hague

Nils Mollema is a 25 year old, Dutch National with a Masters in Crisis and Security management from Leiden University. Following his studies he worked for Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International the Netherlands.

Nils is EU advocacy officer for Al-Haq, the oldest human rights organisation in the Middle East. Their mission is to promote and protect the rights of the occupied Palestinian people.

Al-Haq

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah, West Bank. Established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable. The organisation conducts research; prepares reports, studies and interventions on breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law in the OPT; and undertakes advocacy before local, regional and international bodies. Al-Haq also cooperates with Palestinian civil society organisations and governmental institutions in order to ensure that international human rights standards are reflected in Palestinian law and policies.

Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists - Geneva, and is a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Habitat International Coalition (HIC), and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO).

TUNISIA



Bassem Trifi

Vice-president of the Tunisian Human Rights League

Bassem Trifi has been a lawyer for over ten years, a member of the Tunis Bar Association, a human rights activist and an active player in the public and political sphere. As an active member of several civil society associations, including the Young Lawyers' Association, the Tunisian Human Rights League and Amnesty International, he contributed from 2008 to 2010 to the opposition movement protesting against the former regime, thus earning a place among the 100 personalities censored by the former regime, a list published by Reporters Without Borders and other organisations.

After the 2011 revolution, he was appointed President of the Higher Regional Electoral Authority of the Manouba constituency where he was responsible for holding the first transparent elections in his constituency of 380,000 inhabitants. In 2012, he was the legal representative of the "international commission of jurists" in Tunisia; NGO which studied the development of the democratic process through the monitoring of the progress and drafting of the Tunisian constitution as well as laws related to freedoms and human rights and also the implementation of new laws guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary. In 2015, he was a consultant for the organisation "The International Legal Foundation" which worked on the guarantees of fair trials in Tunisian laws.

In 2016, he was elected Vice-President and member of the Steering Committee of the Tunisian League for Human Rights, which is the largest and oldest human rights organisation in Tunisia and the Arab world created in 1977, and which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. In 2018 I was selected by the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies, an organisation attached to the Presidency of the Republic, as one of the 100 future leaders.

Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH)

The Tunisian Human Rights League is an association to observe and defend human rights in Tunisia. It was founded in 1976, but associations had to be government-recognised, and the government delayed considerably before giving official recognition in May 1977. Hassib Ben Ammar was an early organizer who later received a United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights. Saâdeddine Zmerli was the first president and a longtime officer from the beginning of the organisation until 2000. LTDH had about 1000 members in 1982 and 3000 in 1985, partly because it had taken stands against the death penalty and the release from prison of Islamists who had been "imprisoned for acts of conscience." Four of its leaders, including two of its founders and its first two presidents" were made ministers in the 1987 Tunisian government.

The National Dialogue Quartet, comprising the Tunisian Human Rights League, the Tunisian General Labour Union, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers, was announced as the laureate of the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize "for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011."

TURKEY



Zeynep Gurcan

Human Rights Association (Insan Haklari Dernegi)

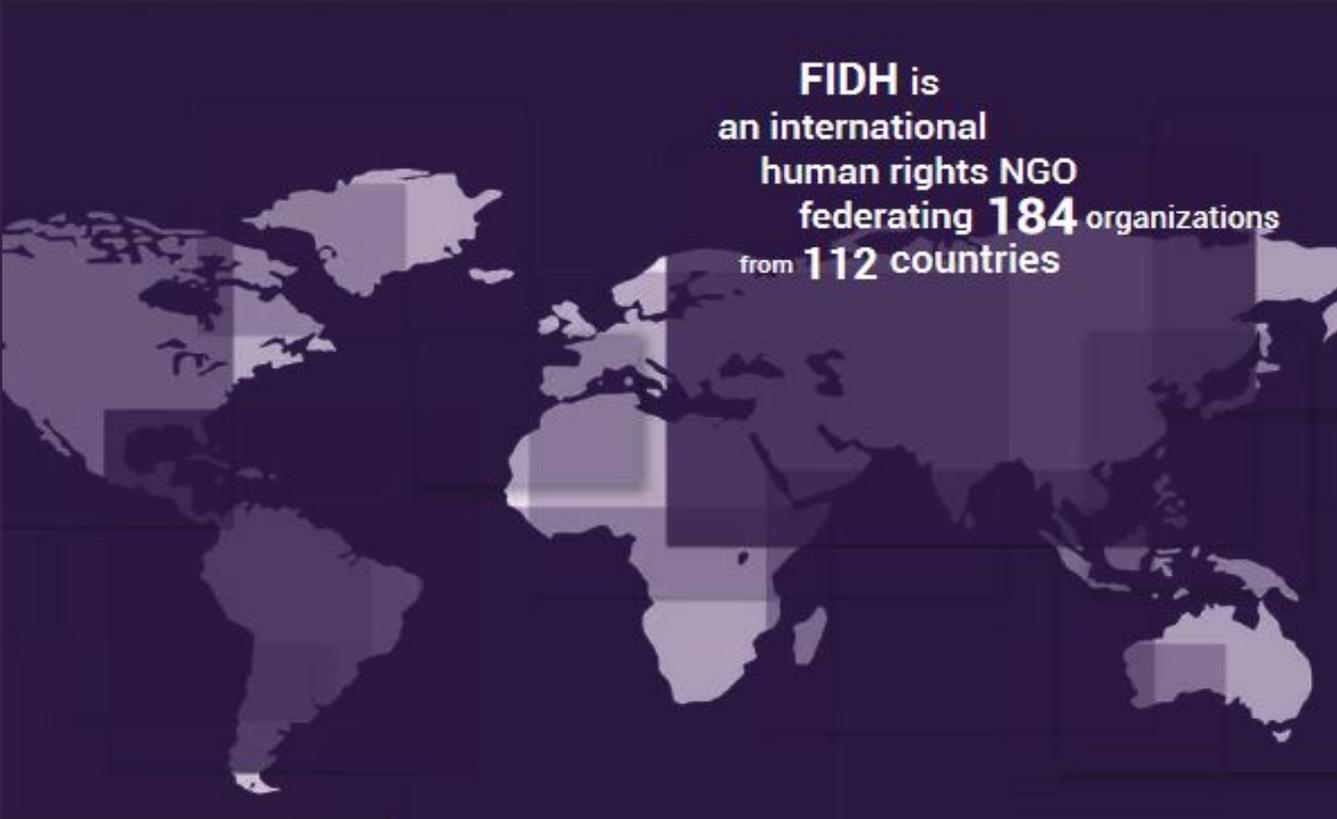
Zeynep Gurcan was born in 1988 in Ankara, Turkey. Upon graduating from Baskent University Law School in 2011 she moved to Istanbul where she completed her legal internship and also took part in political activism. Between 2014 and 2017 Zeynep studied at Vrije Universiteit Brussel's International and EU Law Advanced Masters Program where she also had the privilege to work with and assist labour organisations, NGOs and political organisations from Turkey during their visits in

Brussels. Zeynep was elected as a member of Board of Directors of Insan Haklari Dernegi in November 2018. She currently lives in Ankara and is registered as a lawyer in Istanbul Bar Association. Zeynep speaks fluent Turkish, English and French and is particularly interested in women's and minority rights.

Human Rights Association (Insan Haklari Dernegi)

Human Rights Association (İnsan Hakları Derneği "IHD") was founded on 17 July 1986 by 98 human rights defenders. IHD was founded in dark times brought about by the military coup d'état of 12 September 1980. After the military coup, there were so many violations against fundamental human rights and freedoms. For example; acts of torture committed under police custody and in prisons intensified; deaths became increasingly common; political parties, associations and trade unions were banned and their executives were put into prison.

The attempt to set up an association was initiated by the relatives of prisoners. After about a year, 98 people including intellectuals, writers, journalists, doctors, lawyers, architects and engineers signed the foundation petition of Human Rights Association or IHD. Today IHD continues its struggle with 29 branches, 3 representative offices and over 10,000 members and activists. IHD has undertaken many activities, such as; campaigns, preparing reports and the like for the last 22 years. These activities have been carried out for many purposes. For example; to abolish the death penalty and DGM (State Security Court), freedom of expression, finding the forcibly disappeared persons, peace, amnesty aiming to achieve social peace, signature campaigns for persons who were dismissed from their positions because of Article "1402", speak out against Torture, Equal opportunities for disabled persons etc...



**FIDH is
an international
human rights NGO
federating **184** organizations
from **112** countries**

fidh

ABOUT FIDH

FIDH takes action for the protection of victims of human rights violations, for the prevention of violations and to bring perpetrators to justice.

A broad mandate

FIDH works for the respect of all the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

A universal movement

FIDH was established in 1922, and today unites 184 member organisations in 112 countries around the world. FIDH coordinates and supports their activities and provides them with a voice at the international level.

An independent organisation

Like its member organisations, FIDH is not linked to any party or religion and is independent of all governments.

www.fidh.org