

**OUR RIGHTS.  
OUR FIGHT.  
OUR FUTURE.**

Reclaiming the universality  
of human rights.



**PRESS KIT**

21–25 October 2019  
Taipei, Taiwan



The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) was founded in the wake of the First World War – the first international non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to the defense of human rights. Comprised of 184 organizations in 112 countries, FIDH has, since 1922, investigated and documented human rights violations around the world and advocated for states to enact policies respectful of human rights that are set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Over the past decade, FIDH has carried out over 450 fact-finding, judicial observation, solidarity, and advocacy missions in 80 countries.

FIDH’s work focuses on three areas:

#### Defending Freedoms

Supporting human rights defenders and Fostering an environment conducive to democracy and freedoms;

#### Fighting Discrimination and Promoting Equality

Promoting women’s rights; fighting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and promoting the rights of migrants;

#### Pursuing Accountability

Fighting impunity and protecting populations from the most serious crimes and promoting respect for human rights by economic actors.

The international secretariat, headquartered in Paris, supports the capacity of the Federation’s member organizations to defend human rights within their own countries and amplifies their voices on an international level.

In addition to its Paris headquarters, FIDH has:

- > regional offices in Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa
- > delegations before the UN in New York and Geneva, the European Union in Brussels and the ICC in The Hague
- > joint representations with FIDH members in Abidjan, Bamako, Bangui, Conakry, Bogota, Mexico City, and Taipei.



The Taiwan Association for Human Rights (TAHR) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to securing and protecting human rights from all forms of violation.

The organization works on a variety of issues, including the rights to peaceful assembly and association, freedoms on the internet, privacy issues, refugees’ and migrants’ rights, prison reform, right to housing, and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). TAHR investigates individual human rights cases and assists victims, monitors the government’s policy-making, proposes legal and constitutional amendments so as to meet international human rights standards, and promotes human rights consciousness and education. An active participant in the international human rights community, TAHR maintains strong relationships and frequent interaction with international NGOs.

Nearly 15 Years of Collaboration

Even before TAHR became a member of FIDH in 2007, the two organizations have collaborated closely. In 2005 FIDH conducted a fact-finding mission to Taiwan’s death row and later issued a condemnation of the inhumane practice of 24-hour shackling of prisoners, leading to the Taiwanese government’s abolishing this practice. After Taiwan’s legislature’s (Legislative Yuan) 2009 ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, TAHR and FIDH issued a shadow report on several human rights issues including migrant issues, rights to peaceful assembly and association, and housing rights.

Most recently—when Taiwanese activist Lee Ming-che was disappeared in China in 2017 and sentenced to five years’ imprisonment on charges of “subversion of state power”—FIDH issued several urgent appeals and assisted TAHR with advocacy actions, including co-authoring a report on enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention of foreign human rights defenders for the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review of China.

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# Reclaiming the universality of human rights.

FIDH's 40th Congress is taking place in Taipei, Taiwan, from 21-25 October 2019. Organized by FIDH and its member organization Taiwan Association for Human Rights, the Congress brings together over 400 human rights defenders from around the world, with a focus on reclaiming the universality of human rights.



The Congress is to be held at the Grand Hotel in Taipei

## What is the FIDH Congress?

Every three years, FIDH member organizations come together for the Federation's Congress. This event is comprised of open sessions, which welcome journalists and outside participants, and some closed sessions, reserved for human rights defenders who are members of the Federation.

The sessions open to accredited journalists take place during a two-day Human Rights Forum (21 & 22 October), which brings together its member organizations, local and regional civil society actors, diplomatic and political representatives, and high-level figures. The aim is to support human rights defenders and fortify FIDH's network by creating a dynamic and highly participatory environment where defenders can build new allies, amplify their voices, strengthen their resilience and share innovative tools and practices to address global human rights challenges.

Because FIDH's decision-making, operations, and actions are shaped by continuous interaction with its members, the Congress is a key moment for member organizations to come together to reinforce the Federation's governance, including:

- the election of the International Board, comprised of one president, 15 vice presidents, five secretaries general, and one treasurer. This International Board holds primary responsibility for FIDH's strategic direction, ensuring that it develops and adapts in response to changing realities and needs.
- the establishment of policy positions and political orientations;
- the management of membership in the Federation, including admission of new members;
- a valuable opportunity for activists from around the world to convene and exchange expertise and effective modes of action.

## Why is the Congress taking place in Taiwan?

Taiwan, a democracy with a vibrant civil society, stands in stark counterpoint to many of its regional neighbors, with an exemplary trajectory of democratic reforms.

In 1987, the country turned the page of 40 years of martial law and single-party repressive rule. Over the past three decades, Taiwan has made steady progress in respecting and promoting human rights and democratic values, becoming one of the freest, most democratic, and progressive countries in Asia. In addition, Taiwan's civil society has played a key role in supporting the work of human rights defenders in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Nevertheless, while great progress has been achieved on civil and political rights, Taiwan still faces key human rights challenges. The death penalty remains on the books, there is no legal mechanism for refugees to apply and seek asylum in Taiwan, and foreign migrant workers, especially female domestic workers and fishermen, lack protection under labor laws.

### A regional counter-model?

Across the Taiwan Strait, 30 years after the Tiananmen massacre, China remains as authoritarian as ever, under the thumb of a single, all-powerful political party.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo's death behind bars in 2017 is perhaps the most exemplary case of the government's severe repression of dissidents. Ethnic or religious minorities, notably the Uighurs and Tibetans, are also subjected to severe repression. The development of new technologies, including video surveillance using facial recognition and large-scale collection of personal data, is granting Chinese authorities unprecedented tools to achieve mass surveillance of its territory and control over its citizens, presenting a looming risk of widespread and pervasive digital controls.

China's growing and largely unchecked political, military, economic, and cultural influence over many countries in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, and Europe is also an issue of growing concern. Beijing's repeated threats to repress recent pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong is a reminder of the Chinese government's intolerance for the legitimate expression of opinions within and beyond the country's borders.

The challenges posed by China's escalating attacks on the international human rights system and universal standards will inevitably be addressed and debated during the FIDH Congress.

## What is the focus of the public Forum?

This Congress's Forum is entitled:

***"Our rights, Our fight, Our future – Reclaiming the universality of human rights."***

Almost 100 years since the creation of our Federation, and more than 70 since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the universality of human rights has never been more questioned and undermined.

The Forum of the 40th FIDH Congress will seek solutions to the threats and challenges faced by the universality of human rights in today's world by presenting best practices that human rights defenders, civil society, and other actors have put in place to respond to these challenges.

The shrinking space for civil society, the crisis of multilateralism, and the rise in attacks on human rights defenders and independent media have become worldwide trends, requiring a strong response from civil society movements. These trends are accompanied by a crisis of rule of law, marked by populist and xenophobic movements coming to power in many countries, often including violent rhetoric against human rights defenders, indigenous people, and environmental defenders.

OUR RIGHTS. OUR FIGHT. OUR FUTURE.



# Forum Program

All Forum sessions (21 and 22 October) are open to accredited members of the press.

## MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019

### Monday morning

09.00 – 10.30 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> Reclaiming Universality: challenges and solutions for the human rights movement
13.30 – 12.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 1 — PLENARY</b> Defending a human rights-driven multilateralism through innovative strategies  The reach and impact of international and regional human rights mechanisms seem to be dwindling. Beyond these instruments, the UN Security Council, hostage to the veto power of its five permanent members, no longer or only partially fulfills its mandate in responding to a growing number of crises. Global economic governance is conducted outside of the global multilateral fora and in contradiction with international human rights commitments. In the wake of weakened multilateralism and the consolidation of new global powers (i.e. China, Russia), how do we build innovative human rights strategies ?

### Monday afternoon

13.30 – 15.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 2</b> Democracies in crisis  When even well-established democracies begin denying aspects of fundamental human rights, how can the human rights movement react? These crises in democracies have increasingly required our organizations to rethink our traditional tools and methods of action, and the leverage that we have. The instrumentalization and confiscation of democracy by extreme right leaders are creating new and unique challenges for human rights defenders and activists.
13.30 – 14.30 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 3</b> Strategic litigation – A tool for enforcing the universality of rights  The current global climate presents many challenges for human rights and the fight against impunity for the gravest crimes. Litigation has proven to be a powerful tool in this regard, when used strategically by empowered NGOs and victims. Pursuing accountability before national courts can present many opportunities, but also several challenges. Alternative avenues must often be explored to allow victims to access effective justice.

15.00 – 16.00 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 4</b> Human rights defenders – A new breed of terrorists?  In the context of the flawed “security versus liberty” discourse that has prevailed since 2001, both leaders and public opinion have largely taken the side of security, to the detriment of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. National and international counter-terrorism measures have enabled governments to clamp down on NGOs, providing a veil of legitimacy for the suppression of legitimate human rights and humanitarian initiatives.
15.30 – 17.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 5</b> Surveillance, censorship, artificial intelligence – Human rights in the digital era  New technologies provide powerful means to give a voice to oppressed people and to empower human rights defenders around the world. But they have also given new means to retaliate against them. They are evolving quite rapidly, especially in the domain of automated data processing, where the consequences for democracy, human rights and the rule of law are still unclear. Strategies need to be designed to prevent authoritarian governments from using technologies produced by Western companies to facilitate human rights abuses. Expertise must be developed to define how human rights can be protected and advanced in a changing and challenging digital environment.
16.30 – 17.30 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 6</b> Combating discrimination: Challenges and solutions from the LGBTI+ movement  The universality of LGBTI+ rights continues to be contested, often under the guise of upholding artificial traditional and ‘family’ values. Nevertheless, in many parts of the world LGBTI+ rights are moving from the margins to the mainstream. In countries where religion and culture have been historically evoked to justify the oppression and discrimination of LGBTI+ individuals, rights are being advanced, starting with the decriminalization of homosexuality in Mozambique in 2015 to the lifting of restrictions on same-sex couples adopting children in Colombia a year later – to name a few milestones. Amidst these hard-fought victories, a steady wave of countries, Taiwan being one of them, have established the right to marriage for same-sex couples, enabling a fundamental shift in how LGBTI+ rights activists organize and shape public discourse. This session will explore how we can build on recent success stories and tactics to ensure that LGBTI+ rights become less contested and fully realized throughout the world.

# Forum Program

All Forum sessions (21 and 22 October) are open to accredited members of the press.

## TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2019

### Tuesday morning

08.30 – 09.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>OPENING PLENARY</b> Second day
09.00 – 10.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 7</b> Women’s rights: Responding to threats to their universality  Throughout the world, women’s rights are subject to restrictions and even alienation because of the instrumentalization of cultural and religious heritage, ancestral traditions, and discriminatory practices of patriarchal origin. Many women experience discrimination in the recognition and enjoyment of their rights within the family, their rights to health, their reproductive and sexual rights, and their economic, social, and political rights. In contexts of dictatorial governments, organized crime, conflict, and political regime change, women can be victims of sexual violence, with rape being used by some as a weapon of war.
09.00 – 10.00 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 8</b> Changing the narrative on refugees and migrants  Fake news about migration and the inability to manage the integration of migrants arriving in foreign states are fueling populism and reinforcing far-right discourses. The failure of the international community to address migration issues undermines democratic order and contributes to the rise of new authoritarian governments. It is time for the international community and civil society to develop policies that secure migratory routes and secure the fate and rights of migrants in host countries.
10.30 – 12.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 9</b> Climate change, environment, and human rights: Linkages and responses  How to advance the protection of the right to a healthy environment in a world threatened by climate change? Many of our member organizations and partner organizations face heavy consequences of serious environmental disasters linked to economic development. The objective of the panel will be to highlight concrete actions that participants can take in order to advance the protection of the right to a healthy environment and to prevent and mitigate negative effects of those disasters.
10.30 – 12.00 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 10</b> Fighting against the death penalty: Global solutions for abolition  The universality of human rights remains threatened by one of the gravest violations of human rights by state actors: the denial of the right to life through the use of capital punishment. Asia is home to the highest number of retentionist countries and some of the biggest executioners in the world. The discussion will center on providing examples from countries where the application of capital punishment has come under scrutiny in recent years, and will aim to identify concrete solutions – from litigation to public awareness raising to coalition building.

### Tuesday afternoon

13.30 – 15.00 GRAND BALLROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 11</b> Community and Indigenous peoples affected by investment projects: How to fight back  The killing of Berta Cáceres in 2016 was only the tip of the iceberg. In 2018 alone, 77% of the 321 activists killed in 27 countries were defending land, environmental or indigenous peoples’ rights, often in the context of extractive industries and state-aligned mega-projects. In this context, a bottom-up approach has been central to FIDH’s members’ and partners’ strategies to fight back and empower affected communities. The objective of the panel is to share experiences and innovative strategies that have been effective in protecting the rights of affected communities in context of large-scale investment projects.
13.30 – 14.30 SONG BO ROOM	<b>DISCUSSION 12</b> Accountability at the ICC: Will the Court hold major powers to account?  The creation of the ICC was a historic event and a milestone in the global community’s fight against impunity. While the Court has made valuable contributions to holding perpetrators to account in a number of situations, great difficulties in securing meaningful support and cooperation can be observed in cases against senior political figures or in politically sensitive investigations involving ‘major powers’. This interactive discussion will debate whether the Court will succeed in holding major powers to account, and how it can be empowered to do so.
15.00 – 16.00 SONG BO ROOM	Restitutions
15.30 – 17.00 GRAND BALLROOM	Closing session

Pitches | *One speaker, one story*

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019

GRAND BALLROOM VIP 12 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR		
13.30	<b>PITCH 1 — #Empowerment</b> Grassroot communities at the forefront of the fight against landgrabbing in Cambodia	<b>Savath Meas</b> ADHOC (EN) FR-ES
14.00	<b>PITCH 2 — #Empowerment</b> Empowered youth fighting for human rights: nationwide education programme in Morocco	<b>Khadija Ryadi</b> Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH) (FR) EN-ES
14.30	Coffee break	
15.00	<b>PITCH 3 — #Advocacy</b> Access to Tibet and Reciprocity, the adoption of a new US law	<b>Vincent Metten</b> The International Campaign for Tibet (EN) FR-ES
15.30	<b>PITCH 4 — #Corruption &amp; HumanRights</b> State capture through corruption: how can human rights help?	<b>Jimena Reyes</b> FIDH (EN) FR-ES
16.00	<b>PITCH 5 — #Empowerment</b> Human rights education campaign inside Vietnam and through the diaspora	<b>Nhat Vo Tran</b> Vietnam Committee on Human Rights (VCHR) (EN) FR-ES
16.30	<b>PITCH 6 — #Advocacy</b> Taiwan model: an ideal UN review system?	<b>Yibee Huang</b> Covenants Watch Taiwan (EN) FR-ES
17.00		











Pitches | *One speaker, one story*

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2019

GRAND BALLROOM VIP 12 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR		
09.00	<b>PITCH 7 — #Advocacy #CollectiveAction</b> The power of creative coalitions	<b>Sylvain Biville</b> Crisis Action (EN) FR-ES
09.30	<b>PITCH 8 — #FightAgainstImpunity</b> Victim-centric civil suits in the USA to pursue accountability for atrocity crimes	<b>Ela Matthews</b> Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) (EN) FR-ES
10.00	Coffee break	
10.30	<b>PITCH 9</b> Egypt: getting around government crackdown through economic and social rights innovative initiatives	<b>Karim Medhat Ennarah</b> Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) (EN) FR-ES
11.00	<b>PITCH 10</b> Indonesia: The weekly Kamisan (Thursdays) protest: confronting politics of Impunity	<b>Yati Andriyani</b> KontraS Indonesia (EN) FR-ES
11.30	<b>PITCH 11 — #FightAgainstImpunity</b> Extraordinary situations, extraordinary justice mechanisms: The Mexican case	<b>Lucía Chávez</b> Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (EN) FR-ES
12.00		











# You may want to interview

International Bureau members

	<p><b>Dimitris Christopoulos</b> President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> GREECE</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Minorities' rights, migrants' rights, austerity measures and human rights</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Greek, French</p>
	<p><b>Gloria Cano Legua</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> PERU</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Int'l human rights law, gender</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> Spanish</p>
	<p><b>Drissa Traoré</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> CÔTE D'IVOIRE</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Fight against impunity, transitional justice, situations in Mali and Ivory Coast</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French</p>
	<p><b>Elsie Monge</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> ECUADOR</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Transitional justice, business and human rights</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Spanish</p>
	<p><b>Sheila Muwanga</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> UGANDA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> LGBTI+ rights, women's rights</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Swahili</p>
	<p><b>Tolekan Ismailova</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> KYRGYZSTAN</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Democracy, transparency</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Kyrgyz, Russian</p>
	<p><b>Gerard Van Vliet</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> NETHERLANDS</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Business and human rights, corporate social responsibility, sustainable development</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English</p>
	<p><b>Hafidha Chekir</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> TUNISIA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Women's rights, democratic transition</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French, Arabic</p>
	<p><b>Arnold Tsunga</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> ZIMBABWE</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Rule of law and human rights defenders in Africa</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English</p>
	<p><b>Rosemarie Trajano</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> PHILIPPINES</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, business and human rights</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Tagalog</p>

# You may want to interview

International Bureau members

	<p><b>Guissou Jahangiri</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> AFGHANISTAN</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Women's rights, transitional justice, Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French, English, Farsi</p>
	<p><b>Mohamed Zarea</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> EGYPT</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Prisoners' rights, penal reform, anti-torture advocacy</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> Arabic</p>
	<p><b>Juan Francisco Soto</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> GUATEMALA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Transitional justice, criminalisation of human rights defenders</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> Spanish</p>
	<p><b>Alice Mogwe</b> Secretary General</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> BOTSWANA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Death penalty, extrajudicial killings</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English</p>
	<p><b>Pierre Espérance</b> Secretary General</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> HAITI</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Transitional justice, fight against impunity, migrants' rights</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French</p>
	<p><b>Artak Kirakosyan</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> ARMENIA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Post-conflict reconciliation, Turkish-Armenian relations, disputed entities of South Caucasus</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Armenian</p>
	<p><b>Maryse Artiguelong</b> Vice President</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> FRANCE</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Anti-discrimination (Roma and gender pay gap), freedom of information, data protection</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French</p>
	<p><b>Shawan Jabarin</b> Secretary General</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> PALESTINE</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> International human rights law, freedom of expression</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English, Arabic</p>
	<p><b>Debbie Stothard</b> Secretary General</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> BURMA</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Business and human rights, rights of minorities, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> English</p>
	<p><b>Dan Van Raemdonck</b> Secretary General</p> <p><b>COUNTRY</b> BELGIUM</p> <p><b>EXPERTISE</b> Migrant rights, social and economic rights, human rights &amp; fight on terrorism</p> <p><b>LANGUAGES</b> French, English, Spanish</p>



You may want to interview

Human Rights Defenders

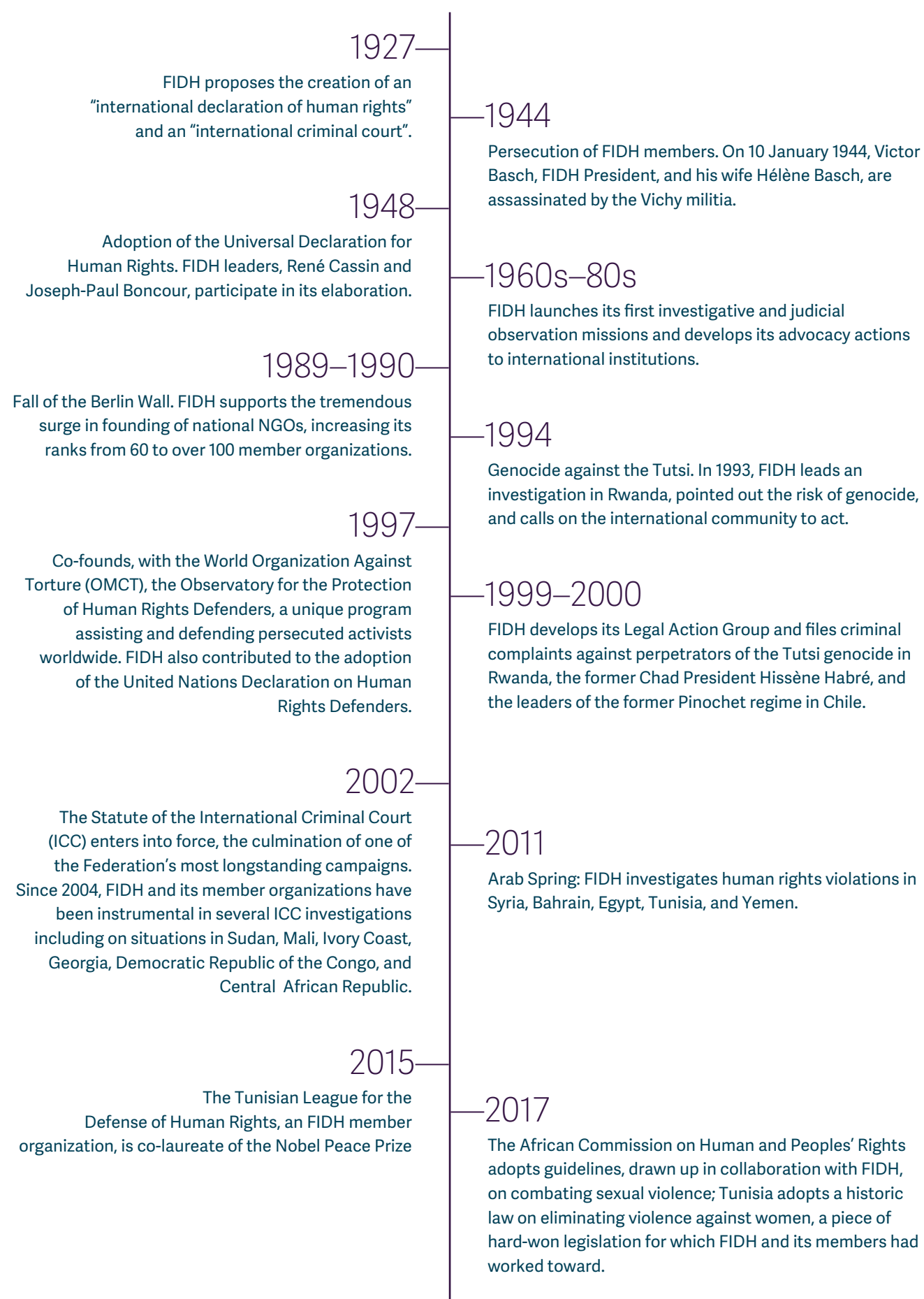
<b>Sharon Hom</b> Human Rights in China <b>COUNTRY</b> CHINA-HONG KONG <b>EXPERTISE</b> Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Mandarin</i>	<b>Dongfang Han</b> China Labour Bulletin <b>COUNTRY</b> CHINA-HONG KONG <b>EXPERTISE</b> Workers' rights, trade union movement in Mainland China <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English and Mandarin</i>	<b>Henri Tiphagne</b> People's Watch <b>COUNTRY</b> INDIA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Human rights defenders in India, Jammu and Kashmir, national and state human rights institutions in India <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English</i>
<b>Vincent Metten</b> International Campaign for Tibet <b>COUNTRY</b> TIBET/BELGIUM <b>EXPERTISE</b> Tibet, China, EU <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, French</i>	<b>E-ling Chiu</b> Taiwan Association for Human Rights <b>COUNTRY</b> TAIWAN <b>EXPERTISE</b> Taiwan, Southeast Asia, Li Ming-che, refugees and asylum seekers <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>Chinese, English, Taiwanese</i>	<b>Anna Dobrovolskaya</b> Memorial Human Rights Centre <b>COUNTRY</b> RUSSIA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Recent protests and general human rights situation in Russia; northern Caucasus, protecting human rights defenders <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Russian</i>
<b>Yevgeniy Zhovtis</b> Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law <b>COUNTRY</b> KAZAKHSTAN <b>EXPERTISE</b> Central Asia, political and civil rights, democratic development, rule of law <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Russian</i>	<b>Oleksandra Matviichuk</b> Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine) <b>COUNTRY</b> UKRAINE <b>EXPERTISE</b> Ukraine, Russia, Russian-Ukrainian war, human rights <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Russian, Ukrainian</i>	<b>Aina Shormanbayeva</b> International Legal Initiative <b>COUNTRY</b> KAZAKHSTAN <b>EXPERTISE</b> Central Asia, migrants' rights, ethnic minorities in Xinjiang <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English</i>
<b>Anna Henga</b> Legal and Human Rights Centre - Tanzania <b>COUNTRY</b> TANZANIA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Sub Saharan Africa – Enforced Disappearances, shrinking civic and democratic space <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English</i>	<b>George Kegoro</b> Kenya Human Rights Commission <b>COUNTRY</b> KENYA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Rule of law and human rights in the Sub-Saharan region <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English</i>	<b>Sanja Bornman</b> Lawyers for Human Rights <b>COUNTRY</b> SOUTH AFRICA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Gender-based violence, LGBTI, land and environmental rights, prison reform, migrants+refugees <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English</i>

You may want to interview

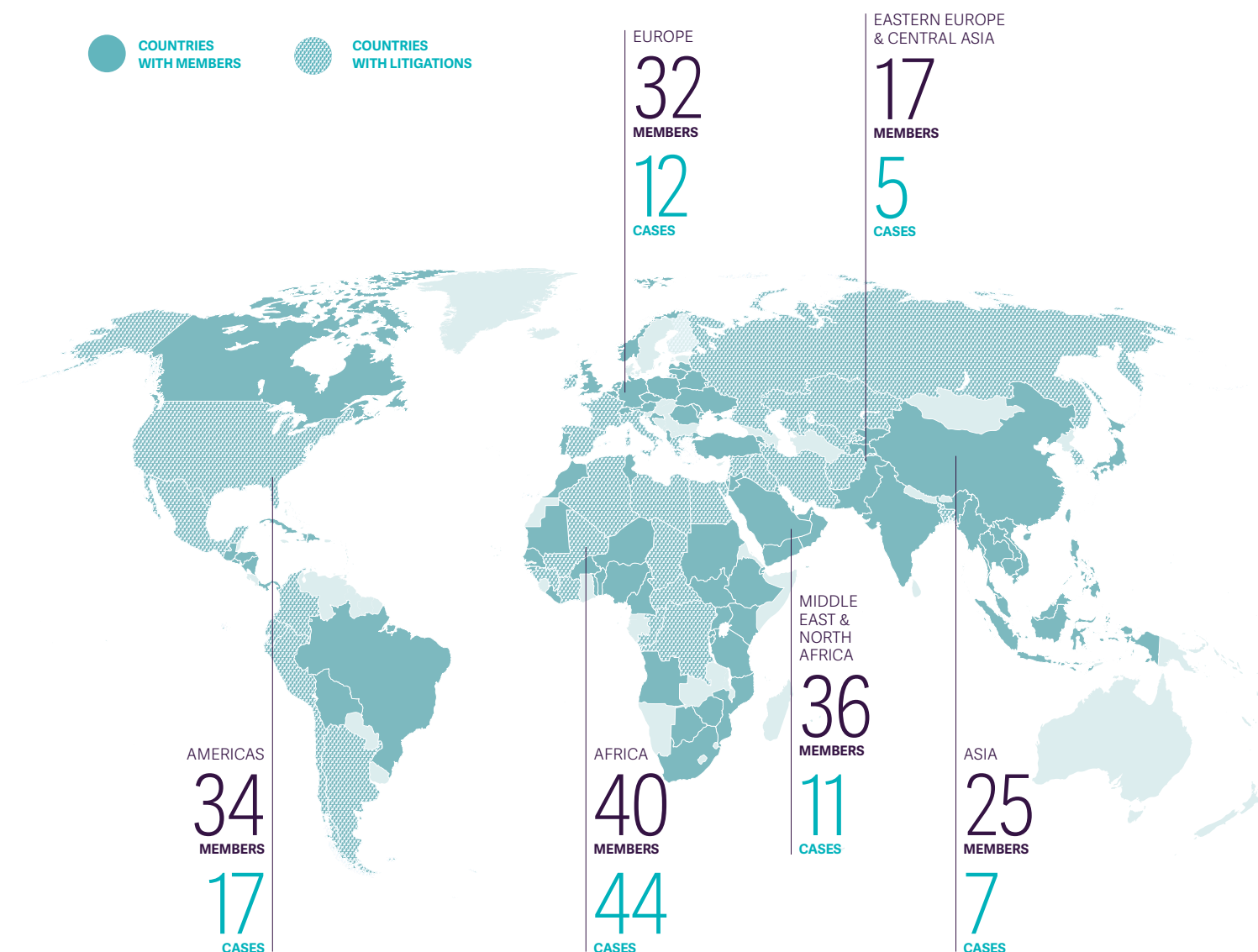
Human Rights Defenders

<b>Anschaire Nikoyagize</b> Ligue burundaise des droits de l'homme – Iteka <b>COUNTRY</b> BURUNDI <b>EXPERTISE</b> Burundi, enforced disappearances, conflict resolution <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>French</i>	<b>Jacqueline Moudeina</b> Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (ATPDH) <b>COUNTRY</b> CHAD <b>EXPERTISE</b> Human rights in Chad, particularly impunity and child slaves <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>French</i>	<b>Vilma Nuñez de Escorcía</b> Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos CENIDH <b>COUNTRY</b> NICARAGUA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Central America, democracy, human rights defenders, protesters' rights <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>Spanish</i>
<b>Alexis Deswaef</b> Ligue des Droits Humains (Belgique) <b>COUNTRY</b> BELGIUM <b>EXPERTISE</b> Migration, terrorism, rise of populism, fighting impunity <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>French, English, Dutch</i>	<b>Eliza Rutynowska</b> Polish Society of Antidiscrimination Law <b>COUNTRY</b> POLAND <b>EXPERTISE</b> Central-Eastern Europe, anti-discrimination law, rule of law, democracy <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Polish</i>	<b>Reyhan Yalcindag</b> Human Rights Association (Turkey) <b>COUNTRY</b> TURKEY <b>EXPERTISE</b> Human rights in Turkey and Middle East, women captives of radical groups <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>English, Turkish</i>
<b>Amal Basha</b> Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF) <b>COUNTRY</b> YEMEN <b>EXPERTISE</b> Middle East, Gulf <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>Arabic, English</i>	<b>Mazen Darwish</b> Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression <b>COUNTRY</b> SYRIA <b>EXPERTISE</b> Freedom of expression, accountability, Syria <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>Arabic, English</i>	<b>Wadih-Ange Al-Asmar</b> Centre Libanais des Droits Humains <b>COUNTRY</b> LEBANON <b>EXPERTISE</b> Mediterranean region, freedom of expression, migration, enforced disappearances <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>Arabic, English, French</i>
<b>Khadija Riyadi</b> Association Marocaine des Droits Humains <b>COUNTRY</b> MOROCCO <b>EXPERTISE</b> Women's rights, human rights education <b>LANGUAGES</b> <i>French, Arabic</i>		

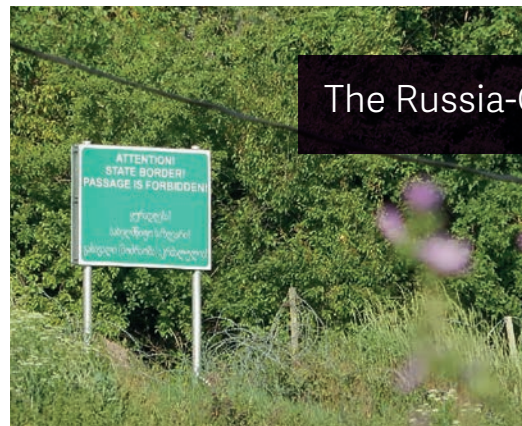




OUR FEDERATION







## The Russia-Georgia War: The Forgotten Victims 10 Years On

FEBRUARY 2018

One month after the opening of an International Criminal Court (ICC) field office in Tbilisi, FIDH and its member organization Human Rights Centre (HRIDC) released a report about the victims of the conflict between Russia and Georgia. This report raised the alarm on the continued impact of international crimes committed in the summer of 2008, with the survivors continuing to suffer from kidnappings, detentions, and extortion on a daily basis.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/international-justice/international-criminal-court-icc/the-russia-georgia-war-the-forgotten-victims-10-years-on>



## Egypt: Repression made in France? Export of weapons and surveillance technologies

JULY 2018

While France and other Western countries welcomed the 2011 Egyptian revolution and the fall of Mubarak, the generation which led what is sometimes called the “Facebook revolution” endured ruthless repression following Al-Sisi’s coup d’état in 2013. This FIDH report lays out how several French companies sold—with government authorization—surveillance equipment, vehicles, and weapons to the repressive Egyptian regime. Identified and tracked on social media networks, with the help of French companies, many were arrested, tortured, and some were summarily executed.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/litigation/egypt-a-repression-made-in-france>



## Abortion in Chile: Women Face Countless Obstacles

AUGUST 2018

FIDH and Chilean member organization Observatorio Ciudadano analyzed the obstacles facing women and girls who seek access to safe, legal abortion services in Chile, a year after the adoption of Law 21.030, which only slightly loosened some of the most strict abortion legislation in the world. While this law was an important step forward, the vast majority of women in Chile are still being deprived of their right to safe, legal abortion.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/americas/chile/abortion-in-chile-women-face-countless-obstacles>

## Iraq: Sexual and gender-based crimes against the Yazidi Community: the role of ISIL foreign fighters

OCTOBER 2018

Report launched in Paris with Nadia Murad, Yazidi survivor and Nobel Peace Prize 2018.

Fruit of a field investigation carried out in Iraq with the NGO Kinyat, this report uses a victim-centered approach to analyze the violations committed by the Islamic State (ISIL), which organized the trafficking and enslavement of Yazidi women. The report calls for prosecution of foreign fighters by national and international courts on charges of sexual crimes amounting to genocide and crimes against humanity.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/north-africa-middle-east/iraq/sexual-violence-against-yazidis-isil-foreign-fighters-should-be>



## Central Mali: Populations caught between terrorism and anti-terrorism

NOVEMBER 2018

This report, issued following a study carried out in Central Mali, was the first to detail the spiral of inter-communal violence triggered by jihadist attacks, the army’s punitive operations, and the government’s withdrawal of public services from the region. Receiving widespread media attention, the report’s grim predictions about the “new epicenter of the Malian and regional conflict” were unfortunately confirmed in the months that followed. The bloody cycles of reprisals, between Dogon and Fula civilians, intensified and the conflict expanded to neighboring Burkina Faso.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/Africa/mali/central-mali-populations-caught-between-terrorism-and-anti-terrorism>



## EU / Poland: LGBTI+ rights and abortion left behind

NOVEMBER 2018

This report from FIDH and its Polish member organization, Polish Society of Anti-discrimination Law, analyzes the harmful effects, starting in 2015, that the ultra-conservative Polish government’s anti-democratic reforms had on women’s sexual and reproductive rights and on LGBTI+ persons’ rights, regression which was accompanied by a rapid degradation of rule of law in the country. The report’s authors aimed to trigger change in the government’s approach towards these rights, and in the European Union’s way of dealing with the situation in Poland.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/lgbt-rights/eu-poland-attacks-against-lgbt-rights-and-abortion-left-behind>







## Philippines: Casualties on the rise in President Duterte's war on human rights defenders

FEBRUARY 2019

The report from the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint FIDH-OMCT program, documents how human rights defenders in the Philippines have been increasingly subjected to killings, attacks, threats, and other forms of harassment under President Rodrigo Duterte. Entitled "I'll kill you along with drug addicts: President Duterte's war on human rights defenders in the Philippines" analyzes the hostile environment for human rights defenders through the lens of Duterte's policies, actions, and words.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/philippines-casualties-on-the-rise-in-president-duterte-s-war-on>



## Vanished Without a Trace: The Enforced Disappearance of Opposition and Dissent in Bangladesh

APRIL 2019

Based on 30 interviews with victims of enforced disappearances that occurred between 2012 and 2017, their family members, eyewitnesses, and information from other civil society organizations, this report details how state actors, including military and police, worked in tandem to make people disappear, particularly political dissidents. Cases of enforced disappearance in Bangladesh share key features and a common modus operandi, strongly suggesting that they are part of a concerted and systematic strategy which amounts to a state policy. This, combined with the fact that most of the victims were targeted on political grounds, qualifies these acts as a crime against humanity.

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/bangladesh/bangladesh-enforced-disappearances-amount-to-crimes-against-humanity>



## Punished for Being Vulnerable: The Death Penalty in Pakistan

OCTOBER 2019

In a joint mission to take stock of the death penalty in Pakistan, five years after a moratorium was lifted, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and FIDH observed a strong systemic bias against the poor and marginalized. This bias was found to permeate various aspects of the institution of capital punishment, from detention conditions and lack of sufficient legal counsel to the impact of the death penalty on families. This report explores other pertinent issues such as flawed police investigations, lack of fair trials, and the conviction and execution of juveniles.



## Practical Information for the Media

### Location

The Human Rights Forum will take place at the Grand Hotel on the 21st and 22nd of October.

#### Address:

No. 1號, Section 4, Zhongshan North Road, Zhongshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan 10461

### Accreditation

The two-day Human Rights Forum – *"Our rights, Our fight, Our future – Reclaiming the Universality of Human Rights"* – is entirely open to journalists, provided they have registered with the FIDH press office. Journalists who wish to attend the Forum must send requests for accreditation to [congress.press@fidh.org](mailto:congress.press@fidh.org).

### Press room and technical means for the media

– There is a dedicated press room which will be available to journalists on the VIP floor.

– In the Grand Ballroom there is a dedicated area for journalists who wish to record audio or video.

### Media contacts

For further information, or to request interviews, visuals, or pictures, please contact:

#### Eva Canan, FIDH

MOBILE, WHATSAPP, SIGNAL:  
+33 6 48 05 91 57

EMAIL: [ecanan@fidh.org](mailto:ecanan@fidh.org)

#### E-ling Chiu, Secretary General, TAHR

MOBILE, WHATSAPP, SIGNAL:  
+886 2 25969525, +886 910032293

EMAIL: [eeling@tahr.org.tw](mailto:eeling@tahr.org.tw)

### Follow the Congress on Facebook and Twitter

<https://www.facebook.com/FIDH.HumanRights/>

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Bureau  
Français  
de Taipei  
法國  
在  
協會



21–25 October 2019  
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