

**fidh**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**



Sudanese demonstrators throw teargas canisters back at security forces in the capital Khartoum on May 19, 2022, during a demonstration calling for civilian rule and denouncing the military administration. © AFP



KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - SEPTEMBER 19: Afghan women hold banners and taped their mouths as they gather to stage "silent protest" for their education rights at the entrance of the shopping mall opposite the Ministry of Education, in Kabul, Afghanistan on September 19, 2021. Bilal Guler / Anadolu Agency via AFP

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2021

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Dear friends,

2021. Another especially difficult year has gone by in a world which is sick in the true sense of the word. Restrictions connected to the worldwide pandemic, discrimination, poverty, inequality, political violence, conflicts, corruption, massive violations of human rights ... all battles which we must fight day in day out, and which often make us wonder what the point is, of all of our efforts. Although our actions do not systematically or immediately generate the desired results, we persist, because they represent what the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu said *"Do your little bit of good where you are because it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

We cannot forget those who live in places which lack "those little bits of good", where impunity and arbitrariness are the norm and where justice is lacking. We cannot forget our Vice-President, Valiantsin Stefanovich, our former International Board member, Ales Bialiatski and their colleagues from Viasna in Belarus, who have been in prison since July 2021. We salute their commitment and their courage. We also cannot forget our other colleagues and friends who have been arbitrarily detained, like Khurram Parveez in Kashmir; Nasrine Sotoudeh and Narges Mohammadi in Iran; Yuri Dmitriev in Russia, and Abdhulhadi al-Khawaja in Bahrain. In Bangladesh,

our member organisation Odhikar is being targeted by the State. In Afghanistan, Armanshahr has had to go into hiding and destroy all its documents ... and then there are our member organisations in Egypt, Poland, and Myanmar...

Throughout the world, there are continued attacks on civil society and human rights movements, leading to a substantial increasing of shrinkage of civil society space (where it still exists) within which we are able to operate. Various state strategies are used against our member organisations, who go from being labelled "terrorist organisations" in Palestine, to being accused of channelling "foreign funding" in Russia, and in Nicaragua it is through the use of arbitrary legal actions and the disbanding of organisations. These strategies often reduce the capacity of our organisations to develop the innovative, deeper and stronger consultative methods needed to continue their activities.

The far-reaching effects of the COVID pandemic continue to wreak havoc on the protection and enjoyment of human rights. Some States, as we all know, used emergency measures to ostensibly contain the pandemic, but in reality used the pandemic to violate the rights of their citizens, including the



harassment of political opponents. In addition, with the economic downturn in several countries, there has been an increase in unemployment and poverty – further exacerbating pre-existing inequalities. Economic and social rights are under increased threat.

2021 was also the year of direct attacks on the rule of law. This was a year of governments being overthrown (coups d'Etat) from Burma to Afghanistan, from Mali to Chad, and of endangered democratic transitions, as in Tunisia and Sudan.

It was also the year of a steep global increase in cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women, children and gender non-conforming (transgender) persons the world over. These developments were paired with the rise in anti-rights and anti-gender movements.

In such a world, how can our member organisations (and FIDH which works through them) strengthen their capacities to act? How can we respond to the many “new issues” and look ahead to the next 100 years? How can we strengthen our foundation? These are the questions we will be answering in 2022, the year of our centenary and of our 41st Congress which will be held in Paris in October 2022. This is the year for preparing our new 2023-2030 Strategy. We need to move forward; to be more constructively engaged to enable our organisations to work in an environment

which protects rights and freedoms; to strengthen links with our partners and civil society movements; to work on expanding both access to and exercise of rights - these tasks will remain forever ours: “Acting is the best way to hope”.

I cannot end this Introduction without paying tribute to the women, men and others, who make FIDH what it means in real terms, to our member organisations, who are located throughout the world, to our partners who are working increasingly in cross-cutting ways, and to our human rights defenders, who are there to alert, inform and defend. I pay tribute to our International Bureau, whose elected members lead our network and reflect on our strategy. I also pay tribute to our staff, who tirelessly work to implement our policies, to go on fact-finding missions in the field, to work together with our activists, and to ensure the daily life of a federation which was born a century ago and which intends to ‘keep going’. Standing together we will always be stronger in facing adversity which is increasingly more brazen, more aggressive and more apparent around the globe.

**Alice Mogwe,  
President**



# OUR FUNDAMENTALS

## **Mandate: the protection of all rights**

FIDH is an international NGO that defends all human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural - as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **Our commitment: three pillars of action**

FIDH acts in conjunction with its member and partner organisations. Its actions are founded on three strategic pillars: securing the freedom and capacity to act for human rights defenders, the universality of rights and their effectiveness.

## **Guiding principle: the accountability of all**

FIDH's work is directed at states as primary human rights duty bearer. However, it also addresses non-state actors such as armed groups and multinational corporations. FIDH is committed to holding individual perpetrators of international crimes to account through the international criminal justice system.

## **FIDH's governing ethic: independence and objectivity**

FIDH is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, apolitical and not-for-profit organisation. Its International Secretariat is headquartered in France, where FIDH is a recognised NGO. FIDH's independence, expertise and objectivity are the hallmarks of its credibility. It maintains this by acting with complete transparency.

## **Interaction: local presence and global action**

As a federal movement, FIDH operates on the basis of interaction with its member organisations. It ensures that FIDH merges on-the-ground experience and knowledge with expertise in international law, mechanisms of protection and intergovernmental bodies. This unique combination translates into joint actions between FIDH and its member organisations at national, regional and international levels to remedy human rights violations and consolidate processes of democratisation. It makes FIDH highly representational and legitimate.

## **A system of governance: universality and transparency**

FIDH's structure and operations place its member organisations at the heart of the decision making process, and reflect its principles of governance.

## The Congress

- Is composed of FIDH's member organisations: 192 as of the end of the FIDH Congress in Taipei in 2019;
- Meets every three years;
- Discusses the FIDH thematic and geographical priorities and decides on FIDH's policy orientations.

## The International Board

- Comprises 22 volunteers from FIDH member organisations. The Board is elected by the Congress and consists of the President, the Treasurer, 15 Vice-Presidents and 5 Secretaries-General;
- Determines FIDH's main strategic goals and orientations, according to the policy orientations set by the Congress, and approves the annual accounts;
- Meets three times a year and reports to the Congress.

## The Executive Board

- Is composed of the President, the Treasurer, 5 Secretaries-General and 5 Deputy Secretaries-General;
- Prepares and organises the meetings of the International Board;
- Meets once a month and reports to the International Board.

## The International Secretariat

- Based in Paris, it is composed of a team of professionals managed by a Chief Executive Officer and a Deputy Chief Executive Officer, who sit as non-voting advisory members of the International and Executive Boards. The team is structured by regions and thematic priorities. In addition, the International Secretariat has permanent delegations at the United Nations in Geneva, at the European Union in Brussels, before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, as well as a regional office in Tunis; and offices in conjunction with member organisations in Abidjan, Bamako, Caracas and Bogota. It also comprises a Communication, Fundraising, Human Resources and Technical Department and an Administrative and Finance Department.
- In permanent contact with the actors in the field, the International Secretariat implements the decisions of the FIDH policy-making bodies in conjunction with the member organisations, chargés de mission, and members of the International and Executive Boards.

## LAG

- The FIDH Litigation Action Group (LAG) is a global network of practising lawyers, magistrates and legal experts working in support of victims of grave human rights violations. The LAG has approximately 90 members active in current proceedings, the majority from FIDH member organisations. The LAG is coordinated by FIDH Honorary President, Patrick Baudouin and Clémence Bectarte, both French-qualified lawyers. The LAG acts under the responsibility of the FIDH Board and, ultimately, the FIDH President.

# 192 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

**AFGHANISTAN**, Armanshahr/Open Asia / **ALBANIA**, Albanian Human Rights Group (AHRG) / **ALGERIA**, Collectif des familles de disparu(e)s en Algérie (CFDA) / **ALGERIA**, Ligue Algérienne de défense des droits de l'homme (LADDH) / **ANGOLA**, Associação Justiça Paz e Democracia (AJPD) / **ARGENTINA**, Centro De Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) / **ARGENTINA**, Comité De Acción Jurídica (CAJ) / **ARGENTINA**, Liga Argentina Por Los Derechos Del Hombre (LADH) / **ARMENIA**, Civil Society Institute (CSI) / **AUSTRIA**, Österreichische Liga Fur Menschenrechte (OLFM) / **AZERBAIDJAN**, Human Rights club (HRC) / **BAHRAIN**, Bahrain Center For Human Rights (BCHR) / **BAHRAIN**, Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS) / **BANGLADESH**, Odhikar / **BELARUS**, Human Rights Center Viasna / **BELGIUM**, Liga Voor Menschenrechten (LVM) / **BELGIUM**, Ligue Des Droits De L'Homme – Belgique / **BOLIVIA**, Asamblea Permanente De Derechos Humanos De Bolivia (APDHB) / **BOTSWANA**, The Botswana Centre For Human Rights – Ditshwanelo / **BRAZIL**, Justiça Global (CJG) / **BRAZIL**, Movimento Nacional De Direitos Humanos (MNDH) / **BURKINA FASO**, Mouvement Burkinabé Des Droits De L'Homme Et Des Peuples (MBDHP) / **BURUNDI**, Ligue Burundaise Des Droits De L'Homme (Iteka) / **CAMBODIA**, Cambodian Human Rights And Development Association (ADHOC) / **CAMBODIA**, Ligue Cambodgienne De Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (LICADHO) / **CAMEROON**, Maison Des Droits De L'Homme (MDH) / **CANADA**, Canadian Centre for International Justice (CCIJ) / **CANADA**, Ligue Des Droits Et Des Libertés Du Québec (LDL) / **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, Ligue Centrafricaine Des Droits De L'Homme (LCDH) / **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, Observatoire Centrafricain des Droits de l'Homme (OCDH) / **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**, Observatoire Centrafricain des Droits de l'Homme (OCDH) / **CHAD**, Association Tchadienne Pour La Promotion Et La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (ATPDH) / **CHAD**, Ligue Tchadienne Des Droits De L'Homme (LTDH)

/ **CHILE**, Corporacion De Promocion Y Defensa De Los Derechos Del Pueblo (CODEPU) / **CHILE**, Observatorio Ciudadano / **CHINA**, China Labour Bulletin (CLB) / **CHINA**, Human Rights In China (HRIC) / **CHINA (TIBET)**, International Campaign For Tibet (ICT) / **COLOMBIA**, Comité Permanente Por La Defensa De Los Derechos Humanos (CPDH) / **COLOMBIA**, Corporacion Colectivo De Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CCAJAR) / **COLOMBIA**, Instituto Latinoamericano De Servicios Legales Alternativos (ILSA) / **COLOMBIA**, Organización Femenina Popular (OFP) / **CONGO**, Observatoire Congolais Des Droits De L'Homme (OCDH) / **CROATIA**, Civic Committee For Human Rights (CCHR) / **CUBA**, Comision Cubana De Derechos Humanos Y Reconciliacion National (CCHDN) / **CZECH REPUBLIC**, Human Rights League (HRL) - Liga Lidskych Prav / **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, Association Africaine Des Droits De L'homme (ASADHO) / **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, Groupe Lotus / **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, Ligue Des Électeurs (LE) / **DJIBOUTI**, Ligue Djiboutienne Des Droits Humains (LDDH) / **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, Comisión Nacional De Los Derechos Humanos Inc (CNDHRD) / **ECUADOR**, Acción Ecológica / **ECUADOR**, Comisión Ecuaménica De Derechos Humanos (CEDHU) / **ECUADOR**, Fundación Regional De Asesoría En Derechos Humanos (INREDH) / **EGYPT**, Cairo Institute For Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) / **EGYPT**, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) / **EGYPT**, Human Rights Association For The Assistance Of Prisoners (HRAAP) / **EL SALVADOR**, Comision De Derechos Humanos Del Salvador (CDHES) / **ETHIOPIA**, Human Rights Council (HRCO) / **EUROPE**, Association Européenne Pour La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (AEDH) / **FINLAND**, Finnish League For Human Rights (FLHR) – Ihmisoikeusliitto / **FRANCE**, Ligue Des Droits De L'Homme (LDH) / **FRANCE (FRENCH POLYNESIA)**, Ligue Polynésienne Des Droits Humains (LPDH) / **FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA)**, Ligue Des Droits Et Du Citoyen De Nouvelle Calédonie (LDHNC) / **GEORGIA**, Human Rights Center (HRIDC) / **GERMANY**, Internationale Liga Fur Menschenrechte (ILMR) / **GREECE**, Hellenic League For Human Rights (HLHR) / **GUATEMALA**, Centro De Acción Legal En Derechos Humanos (CALDH) / **GUINEA-BISSAU**, Liga Guineense Dos Direitos Humanos (LGDH) / **GUINEA-CONAKRY**, Mêmes droits pour tous (MDT) / **GUINEA-CONAKRY**, Organisation Guinéenne De Défense Des Droits De L'Homme Et Du Citoyen (OGDH) / **GULF**, Gulf Center for Human Rights (GCHR) / **HAITI**, Solidarite Fanm Ayisyèn (SOFA) / **HAITI**, Centre Oecumenique Des Droits Humains (CEDH) / **HAITI**, Réseau National De Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (RNDDH) / **HONDURAS**, Centro De Investigación Y Promoción De Los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH) / **HONDURAS**, Comité de Familiares de Detenidos-



Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) / **HUNGARY**, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) / **INDIA**, Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) / **INDIA**, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) / **INDIA**, People's Watch / **INDONESIA**, KontraS / **IRAN**, Defenders Of Human Rights Center In Iran (DHRC) / **IRAN**, Justice for Iran (JFI) / **IRAN**, Ligue Pour La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme En Iran (LDDHI) / **IRELAND**, Free Legal Advice Centres Limited (FLAC) / **IRELAND**, Irish Council For Civil Liberties (ICCL) / **ISRAEL**, Adalah / **ISRAEL**, Association For Civil Rights In Israel (ACRI) / **ISRAEL**, B'tselem / **ISRAEL**, Public Committee Against Torture In Israel (PCATI) / **ITALY**, Lega Italiana Dei Diritti Dell'uomo (LIDU) / **ITALY**, Unione Forense Per La Tutela Dei Diritti Dell'uomo (UFTDU) / **IVORY COAST**, Ligue Ivoirienne Des Droits De L'homme (LIDHO) / **IVORY COAST**, Mouvement Ivoirien Des Droits Humains (MIDH) / **JAPAN**, Center For Prisoners' Rights (CPR) / **JORDAN**, Amman Center For Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) / **KAZAKHSTAN**, International Legal Initiative (ILI) / **KAZAKHSTAN**, Kazakstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (KIBHR) / **KENYA**, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) / **KUWAIT**, Human Line Organisation (HLO) / **KYRGYZSTAN**, Human Rights Movement (Bir Duino-Dyrgyzstan) / **KYRGYZSTAN**, Kylym Shamy / **KYRGYZSTAN**, Legal Clinic Adilet / **LAOS**, Mouvement Lao Pour Les Droits De L'Homme (MLDH) / **LATVIA**, Latvian Human Rights Committee (LHRC) / **LEBANON**, Centre Libanais des Droits Humains (CLDH) / **LEBANON**, Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) / **LIBERIA**, Regional Watch For Human Rights (LWHR) / **LIBYA**, Human Rights Association for Recording and Documenting War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity / **LIBYA**, Libyan League For Human Rights (LLH) / **LITHUANIA**, Lithuanian Human Rights Association (LHRA) / **MALAYSIA**, Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram) / **MALDIVES**, Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) / **MALI**, Association Malienne Des Droits De L'Homme (AMDH) / **MAURITANIA**, Association Mauritanienne Des Droits De L'Homme (AMDH) / **MEXICO**, Comision Mexicana De Defensa Y Promocion De Los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH) / **MEXICO**, IDHEAS, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos (IDHEAS) / **MEXICO**, Liga Mexicana Por La Defensa De Los Derechos Humanos (LIMEDDH) / **MOLDOVA**, Promo-LEX / **MOROCCO**, Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM) / **MOROCCO**, Association Marocaine Des Droits Humains (AMDH) / **MOROCCO**, Organisation Marocaine Des Droits De L'Homme (OMDH) / **MOZAMBIQUE**, Liga Mocanbicana Dos Direitos Humanos (LMDDH) / **MYANMAR**, Altsean Burma / **MYANMAR**, Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA) / **MYANMAR**, Women Peace Network (WPN) / **NICARAGUA**, Centro Nicaraguense De Derechos Humanos (CENIDH) / **NIGER**, Association Nigerienne Pour La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (ANDDH) / **NIGERIA**, Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) / **NORTHERN IRELAND**, Committee On The Administration Of Justice (CAJ) / **NORWAY**, Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) / **PAKISTAN**, Human Rights Commission Of Pakistan

(HRCP) / **PALESTINE**, Al Haq / **PALESTINE**, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights (Al Mezan) / **PALESTINE**, Palestinian Centre For Human Rights (PCHR) / **PALESTINE**, Ramallah Centre For Human Rights Studies (RCHRS) / **PANAMA**, Centro De Capacitación Social De Panamá (CCS) / **PERU**, Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) / **PERU**, Centro De Derechos Y Desarrollo (CEDAL) / **PERU**, Equidad / **PHILIPPINES**, Philippine Alliance Of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA) / **POLAND**, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (HFHR) / **POLAND**, Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law (PSAL) / **PORTUGAL**, Liga Portuguesa dos Direitos Humanos - CIVITAS / **ROMANIA**, The League For The Defense Of Human Rights (LADO) / **RUSSIA**, Anti-Discrimination Center Memorial (ADC Memorial) / **RUSSIA**, Citizens' Watch (CW) / **RUSSIA**, Memorial HRC – Moscow / **RWANDA**, Association Rwandaise Pour La Défense Des Droits De La Personne Et Des Libertés Publiques (ADL) / **RWANDA**, Ligue Rwandaise Pour La Promotion Et La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (LIPRODHOR) / **SAUDI ARABIA**, Alqst (Alqst) / **SENEGAL**, Ligue Sénégalaise des Droits Humains (LSDH) / **SENEGAL**, Organisation Nationale Des Droits De L'Homme (ONDH) / **SENEGAL**, Rencontre Africaine Pour La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (RADDHO) / **SOUTH AFRICA**, Lawyers for human rights (LHR) / **SOUTH KOREA**, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) / **SPAIN**, Asociacion Pro Derechos Humanos De Espana (APDHE) / **SPAIN**, Federacion De Asociaciones De Defensa Y Promocion De Los Derecho (FDDHH) / **SUDAN**, African Center For Justice And Peace Studies (ACJPS) / **SUDAN**, Sudan Human Rights Monitor (SUHRM) / **SWITZERLAND**, Ligue Suisse Des Droits De L'homme (LSDH) / **SYRIA**, Al Marsad / **SYRIA**, Damascus Center For Human Rights Studies (DCHRS) / **SYRIA**, Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) / **TAIWAN**, Covenants Watch Taiwan (CWT) / **TAIWAN**, Taiwan Association For Human Rights (TAHR) / **TAJIKISTAN**, Tajik "Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law" (BHR) / **TANZANIA**, The Legal And Human Rights Centre (LHRC) / **THAILAND**, Internet Law Reform Dialogue (iLaw) / **THAILAND**, Manushya Foundation (Manushya) / **THAILAND**, Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) / **THAILAND**, Union For Civil Liberties (UCL) / **THE NETHERLANDS**, Liga Voor De Rechten Van De Mens (LVRM) / **TOGO**, Ligue Togolaise Des Droits De L'Homme (LTDH) / **TUNISIA**, Association Tunisienne Des Femmes Démocrates (ATFD) / **TUNISIA**, Doustourni / **TUNISIA**, Forum tunisien pour les droits économiques et sociaux (FTDES) / **TUNISIA**, Ligue Tunisienne Des Droits De L'Homme (LTDH) / **TURKEY**, Human Rights Foundation Of Turkey (HRFT) / **TURKEY**, İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD) Ankara / **TURKEY**, İnsan Hakları Derneği (İHD) Diyarbakir / **UGANDA**, Foundation For Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) / **UKRAINE**, Center for Civil Liberties (CLC) / **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, Center For Constitutional Rights (CCR) / **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, Center For Justice & Accountability (CJA) / **UZBEKISTAN**, Human Rights Society Of Uzbekistan (HRSU) / **VENEZUELA**, Programa Venezolano de Educación – Acción en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA) / **VIETNAM**, Comité Vietnam Pour La Défense Des Droits De L'Homme (CVDDH) / **YEMEN**, Mwatana (Mwatana) / **YEMEN**, Sisters' Arab Forum For Human Rights (SAF) / **ZIMBABWE**, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights)

# INTERNATIONAL BOARD

OUR RIGHTS.  
OUR FIGHT.  
OUR FUTURE.

40<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

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Botswana

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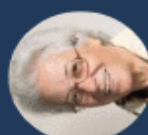
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**Sandra CARVALHO**



**Alexis DESWAEF**



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**Guissou JAHANGIRI**



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**Artak KIRAKOSYAN**



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**Tola Thompson ADEBAYOR**



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# International Secretariat

(as April 2022)

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Director Operations and  
Programmes Department

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Accountant

Salmata BA  
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Centenary

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Management Officer

Maurane DORE  
Human Resources  
Assistant

Lidya OGBAZGHI  
Facilities Management  
Assistant

Sébastien SIMON  
Head  
Information System

Florian CORNET  
IT Technician &  
System Administrator

### GOUVERNANCE & EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Sarah LERENARD  
Assistant

Marie-Agnès  
COMBESQUE  
Liaison Officer

Audrey COUPRIE  
Head of Congress  
Organisation

## DELEGATIONS

### INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

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Delegation to the EU

Gisela CASTRO  
Delegate  
Delegation to the EU

Catherine ABSALOM  
Liaison Officer  
Delegation to the EU

Maria SOLOGIANNI  
Permanent Representative  
Delegation to the UNOG

Manon KARATAS  
Delegate  
Delegation to the UNOG

#### BRUSSELS

#### GENEVA

## OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

### Headquarters, Delegations, Regional Offices and Joint Offices FIDH/Member Organisations

Yosra FRAWES Head Middle East & North Africa Desk Tunis	Khitem BARGAOUI Programme Officer Middle East & North Africa Desk Tunis	Mouna DACHRI Programme Officer Middle East & North Africa Desk	Radhouane SFAXI Head of Administration & Finance - Middle East and North Africa Desk - Tunis	Maddalena NEGLIA Head Globalisation & Human Rights Desk	Maria-Isabel CUBIDES Programme Officer Globalisation & Human Rights Desk	Sacha FEIERABEND Programme Officer Globalisation & Human Rights Desk	Emy Laura TAPIA MAGNE Assistant Globalisation & Human Rights Desk
Jimena REYES Head Americas Desk Focal Point on Corruption and Human Rights Brussels	Natalia YAYA MARTELLO Programme Officer Americas Desk	Elisa QUIROZ Programme Officer Americas Desk Brussels	Simon GOMEZ Consultant Coordinator Provéa-FIDH Joint Programme - Caracas	Delphine CARLENS Head International Justice Desk	Maria Teresa TIENDA RIVERA Programme Officer International Justice Desk	Danya CHAIKEL External Affairs and Communication Consultant Delegation to the ICC - The Hague	
Clara Sivent Miralles Consultant Outreach				Permanent Representative to the ICC La Hague	Dorine LLANTA Programme Officer Delegation to the ICC The Hague	Christelle GARNIER Financial Consultant Delegation to the ICC The Hague	
Ilya NUZOV Head Eastern Europe & Central Asia Desk	Natalia MOROZOVA Research Consultant Eastern Europe & Central Asia Desk			Hugo GABBERO Head Human Rights Defenders Desk	Manon CABAUJ Programme Officer Human Rights Defenders Desk	Alma OCHOA Observatory's Grants Officer Human Rights Defenders Desk	
Elena CRESPI Head Western Europe Desk Brussels	Güley BOR Research Consultant Turkey			Eve RINAURO Afghanistan's Grants Management Officer Human Rights Defenders Desk	Nadia Anna MANDL Advocacy Coordinator on Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Desk	Justine LAVARDE Consultant Human Rights Defenders Desk	
Juliette ROUSSELOT Programme Officer Southern & Western Asia Desk Brussels				Alice BORDAÇARRE Head Women Rights Desk			
Hassatou BA-MINTÉ Head Africa Desk	Julia DOUBLAIT Deputy Head Africa Desk Nairobi	Willy Neth West Africa Programme Officer Abidjan	Abigail GERARD Sahel Programme Officer Dakar				
Victoire D'HUMIÈRES East Africa Programme Officer	Stella Ndirangu Delegate in charge of advocacy to the African Union Nairobi						
Drissa Traoré Coordinator AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako	Mamoutou TAOU Programme Officer AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako	Mariam DIAMA SANOGO Resource Management Officer AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako	Fousseini COULIBALY Consultant Head of Administrative & Finance AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako				
Yacouba WOYOKOTE Accountant AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako	Kankou SANGARÉ Finance Assistant AMDH/FIDH Joint Programme Bamako						
Clarisse REBERTEAU Coordinator of Multi Country Programme on Rule of Law							

For security reasons, some colleagues are not mentioned.

## SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

## ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

One of the main trends suffered by human rights movements and human rights defenders globally in 2021 was, and remains, the increasingly shrinking space for civil society which extends from authoritarian countries, to previously democratic ones, across the world. 2021 was marked by unprecedented crisis and widespread attacks against human rights defenders and their organisations in countries including Belarus, Afghanistan, Russia, Palestine, Turkey, and Nicaragua, just to name a few. It is against this increasingly common backdrop that the targeted and deadly threats waged against human rights defenders have increased exponentially as clear reprisals for their work and support for human rights.

States have also continued to use repressive laws and subservient courts to criminalise, arrest and detain human rights defenders in all regions, in an attempt to silence them. Amongst these defenders are human rights lawyers, defenders of freedom of expression, indigenous, land and environment defenders, migrants rights defenders, women human rights defenders, LGBTQI+ persons' rights defenders, trade unionists, and other activists.

Many States, on all continents, have continued to use the COVID-19 crisis to arbitrarily increase their prerogatives, retain power, control their populations, reduce fundamental rights, and suppress critical voices and civic space for civil societies. More generally, various legal grounds have been used to reduce the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, specifically targeting human rights organisations in order to hinder them from continuing their legitimate work. Human rights defenders and rights building groups continued to face all kinds of harassment, both online and offline, including administrative harassment and judicial harassment, often resulting in arbitrary arrests and detention. In some cases, states have used counter-terrorism legislation against civil society and human rights defenders such as in Palestine, Turkey and Egypt.

Under the programmes of the Observatory for Human Rights Defenders and *ProtectDefenders.eu*, FIDH with its member organisations, responded to these challenges with a two-fold objective: to protect human rights defenders in situations of insecurity, both online and offline, especially from arbitrary detention and harassment, and to strengthen human rights defenders' capacity to take action.



**THE OBSERVATORY**  
for the Protection of  
Human Rights Defenders

*The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*: since 1997, FIDH has been running a wide range of actions to protect defenders in cooperation with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) through a unique partnership: *the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders*.



**PROTECT DEFENDERS.EU**

*ProtectDefenders.eu*: since 2015, FIDH has been part of a consortium of 12 international and regional NGOs to strengthen their coordination and complementarity in supporting and urgently assisting defenders threatened across the globe.

## I. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

**Alerts** – Alerts are one of the main protection tools used by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. They consist of sounding the alarm about defenders' cases of insecurity and repression in order to mobilise decision-makers and potential levers to put an end to these situations. In 2021, FIDH published **367** alerts (urgent appeals, press releases and open letters to authorities), involving 65 countries. Many of these Alerts were followed by targeted advocacy to mobilise the EU



# SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

and the UN's protection mandates to call for an end to harassment and for the release of human rights defenders, some of whom have been detained for months, or even years (see impacts below). These alerts directly contributed to 7 resolutions from the European Parliament (Vietnam, Iran, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Cuba, Russia), and at least 19 statements from the UN Special Rapporteurs urging to protect and to stop the harassment of human rights defenders at risk (Israel, Cambodia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Philippines, India, Peru, Morocco, Bahrain).

Following **Russian** authorities' lawsuits to liquidate the International Memorial and the Human Rights Centre (HRC) Memorial (the latter being an FIDH member organisation), on November 8th and 12th, respectively, the FIDH issued 6 statements and urgent appeals condemning the move to shut down two of the most prominent civil society organisations that stand up for human rights and work to commemorate victims of Soviet repression. Among these alerts was a statement signed by 55 of the FIDH's member organisations that stood in solidarity with both "Memorial" organisations. FIDH also set up live text broadcasts of the hearings against both Memorials, with English translations. The twitter broadcasts were seen around 5,000 times.

**#FreeViasna campaign** – In September 2021, FIDH with 23 international and Belarusian NGOs launched a global campaign **#FreeViasna** (<https://belarus.fidh.org/freeviasna>) to call for the release of 7 members of the Human Rights Centre "Viasna", FIDH's member organisation in Belarus, including FIDH Vice-President Valiantsin Stefanovic and former Vice President Ales Bialiatski. The campaign included the organisation of demonstrations and individual pickets in Paris, Kyiv, Helsinki, Vilnius and other capitals, social media posts with photos of political prisoners and the #FreeViasna hashtag, and letters to political prisoners and diplomats. The campaign reached over 17,000,000 individuals around the world.

**Judicial observation of procedures and unfair trials against defenders** – In the face of legal systems being used and manipulated to impede or criminalise defenders' actions, and politically motivated criminal cases often waged, FIDH organises trial observation missions. Such missions encompass

various goals: to provide expert legal assistance in these unfounded types of case in support of criminalised defenders; to bring solidarity and international attention to these cases to ensure the right to a fair trial is respected; to shed light on procedural violations nationally and internationally; and to urge the authorities concerned to respect and implement fair trial standards.

Table – Trials observed in 2021

- **Thailand:** 23 defendants, including human rights defenders, workers, and a journalist, for the alleged defamation of the Thai company Thammakaset. Although many hearings were postponed due to COVID-19 in 2021, some positive news can be noted, such as, the upholding by the Supreme Court of the dismissal of a case against woman human rights defender Ngamsuk Ruttanasatian, on 22 September 2021, or more recently the Appeals Court's upholding of the dismissal of criminal defamation charges against women human rights defenders Nan Win and Sutharee Wannasiri (2022).
- Human rights defenders in **Algeria** facing judicial harassment for their involvement in the "Hirak" social movement
- on the case of the murder of land and environmental rights defenders Berta Cáceres, in **Honduras** with a series of trial observations ahead of David Castillo's sentencing, and articles analysing the hearings (see *impacts below*)
- still in **Honduras**, on the arbitrary detention of Guapinol environmental rights defenders, via 4 trial observations in 2021, as part of an inter-NGO initiative which eventually led to their release in February 2022.
- on the cases of the liquidation of International Memorial and HRC Memorial (an FIDH member organisation) in **Russia**

**Trainings to strengthen the capacity of human rights defenders to protect themselves from risk of repression** – In a context of continued online surveillance of human rights defenders around the globe, the FIDH organised a digital security training in November 2021 in Burkina Faso for 15 defenders (including 4 women), on the basis of FIDH's Digital Security Kit. FIDH also organised training on digital security for 20 human defenders in Haiti (including 10 women). Last but not least, two workshops were conducted online in the fall of 2021 to raise

awareness among 13 human rights defenders in Turkey about well-being issues and particularly organisations' role in supporting individual well-being, and to provide them with a platform to share their experiences with other participants.

**Emergency assistance to defenders at risk in highly volatile contexts** – To respond to life-threatening situations and targeted acts endangering defenders' physical and psychological integrity, in 2021 FIDH provided 57 material assistance grants to 111 defenders and their families (7 women, 102 men and 2 non-binary persons) and 2 NGOs in the following countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Myanmar, Uganda, Pakistan, the Philippines, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Syria, Chad, Thailand, Tunisia, and Venezuela. These grants covered the following costs: legal action; home and office security; medical care including psychosocial support; etc. This year was marked by a significant increase of temporary relocation support, benefiting 36 defenders and their families in 2021 (compared to 29 defenders in 2020). This is particularly due to the crisis in Afghanistan which is marked not only by explicit and widespread targeting of defenders, but also by the dire humanitarian situation which only aggravates the urgency of relocation and protection efforts.

Since the fall of **Afghanistan** to the Taliban on 15 August 2021, FIDH has tirelessly and devotedly worked around the clock to respond to the human rights crisis in the country. This response has taken place on several different levels. Notably, FIDH has supported the human rights defenders of its member organization in Afghanistan, Armanshahr/OPEN ASIA, and provided assistance in identifying safe passage outside of Afghanistan, facilitating access to resettlement abroad, and provided material/financial grants to enable these vital efforts. This work has included extensive coordination with various stakeholders, including national authorities in various EU countries, other FIDH member organisations, and NGO partners. FIDH has also received hundreds of requests for help from other Afghan human rights defenders at risk and has supported (and still continues to do so) many through its grant-making capacities.

## II. STRENGTHENING DEFENDERS POWER FOR ACTION

**Fact-finding documentation on defenders' working environments and the human rights violations they face** – In 2021, The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders published 10 reports, the topics of which include: 1) the closing of space for civil society; 2) the attacks on rights to freedom of peaceful assembly; 3) freedom of association and its impact on human rights defenders and human rights organizations (Thailand, Turkey, Nicaragua, Palestine, Peru); 3) the hostile and stigmatizing narrative portraying civil society and human rights organizations as foreign agents posing a threat to national security and promoting terrorist activities (Europe, Palestine, Turkey); 4) the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights defenders (Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil); 5) and the harassment and violence against indigenous, land, and environment defenders (Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Brazil). Many of these reports analysed the dire situation of women rights defenders, LGBTQI+ defenders, and/or indigenous rights defenders.

### *Table - Reports published in 2021*

- Brazil: "The impacts of COVID-19 on the defence of human rights in Brazil"
- Guatemala: "Una deuda sin saldar"
- Peru: "Undermining Rights. The Defence of Human Rights hampered by economic interests"
- Venezuela: "Internal Enemies: Defending Human Rights in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Venezuela"
- Thailand: "Standing tall – Women human rights defenders at the forefront of Thailand's pro-democracy protests"
- Nicaragua: "The New Laws of Repression"
- Nicaragua: "Nicaragua: A year of violence against those defending the rights of the Mayangna and Miskitu indigenous people"
- Turkey: "Ongoing Crackdown Poses Existential Threat to Independent Civil Society"
- Palestine: "Target Locked"
- Europe: "Europe: Open Season on Solidarity"

**Advocacy for a favourable working environment for defenders** – These reports and their recommendations were used by FIDH and its member organisations for advocacy at national, regional and international levels. At the national level for instance, the Guatemala report addressed a roadmap containing a series of HRD-protection-oriented recommendations to the national government on the first anniversary of its assumption of duties. At the international level, the Thailand report was presented to Bangkok-based diplomats in order to raise their awareness on the issues faced by women human rights defenders and LGBTQI+ rights

# SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

in the country and urge them to take protective actions, while the Brazil report was used within the framework of the OECD Open Government Review of Brazil assessing civic space and citizen engagement practices in public life in the country. The Observatory also engaged on a regular basis with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, who, for instance, quoted the Brazil report at an online event on human rights defenders gathering almost 600 participants in February 2021. The Observatory also delivered an intervention at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, outlining the challenges faced by human rights defenders on the continent, and addressing recommendations to the state parties and the commissioners.

Ahead of the UN Global Counter-Terrorist Review held in early June 2021 in New York, a public letter from the Observatory on the impact of counter-terrorism policies on civil society and human rights defenders was sent to several Permanent Missions of UN Member States to the United Nations. It called on the international community to take responsibility for the detrimental effects that counter-terrorism policies have on civil society and to take action to reverse this trend.

Since April 2021, the Observatory along with an NGO coordination in France pushed French diplomacy to adopt national guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders, based on the EU Guidelines on human rights defenders as well as the Action Plan from the 2018 Paris World Summit on human rights defenders.

**Establishing the State and individual responsibility in emblematic cases involving violations of defenders' rights** – FIDH runs legal action and quasi-judicial actions before national courts and regional and international human rights protection mechanisms:

**Legal and quasi-judicial actions before national courts:** In 2021, while FIDH and its member

organisations in DRC were able to put forward new elements in the judicial case (opened since 2016) over the assassination of Congolese defenders **Floribert Chebeya and Fidèle Bazana**, the proceedings were reopened and one of the accused in the case was arrested by the Congolese authorities. In Russia, on 14 and 16 December 2021 respectively, FIDH also filed two *amicus curiae* to the Supreme Court in support of **International Memorial**, and to the Moscow City Court in support of the **HRC Memorial**, requesting the courts to dismiss lawsuits filed by the prosecution under the "Foreign Agents" Law. Both organisations were eventually liquidated at the end of December following two politically motivated trials where no substantial evidence was presented to support the charges against the two organisations. The real reasons behind the dissolution are obviously political: during the trial, prosecutors notably accused International Memorial and HRC Memorial of "distorting historical memory, especially that of the Great Patriotic War" and "creating a false image of the USSR as a terrorist state." Last but not least, in Mexico (August) and Honduras (November), the Observatory jointly filed two *amicus curiae* respectively with the Upper Tribunal of Oaxaca and the Supreme Court of Honduras in support of detained land and environmental defenders. The *amicus curiae* in Honduras contributed to the release of the Guapinol defenders in early 2022.

**Material and capacity building support** - FIDH made 17 capacity building grants in 2021 to strengthen NGOs capacities to cover training sessions; and to grant financial and operational assistance to NGOs persecuted for their activities (Bahrain, Bolivia, Chile, DRC, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.). Capacity-building grants went mainly to HRDs and NGOs organisations outside of our network (13 out of 17).

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1 – Protect human rights defenders in situations of insecurity

#### 1.1. Intended outcome: Defenders escape repression and are better protected

##### THE RELEASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS : STRONG AND TIRELESS MOBILISATION

In 2021, the combined efforts of FIDH on documentation, advocacy, and direct support contributed to at least 129 releases of human rights defenders in the following countries: Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Algeria, India, Chile, Iran, Tunisia, Morocco, Pakistan, Egypt, Mexico, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Belarus, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Guinea, Russia, Cuba, Thailand, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Philippines, Honduras, Cambodia, Togo and Niger. Further, in 2021, 61 defenders and NGOs from 17 countries witnessed an improvement of their situation, in the form of acquittals, dismissal of charges, pardons, reduction of prison terms, and suspended sentences, while 36 human rights defenders from 13 countries were relocated.

Relentless efforts contributed to several positive outcomes, where several of our colleagues were released, including Saudi women's rights defender Loujain Al-Hathloul, after three years' imprisonment, but also Tito Magoti in Tanzania, Max Bokayev in Kazakhstan, Khaled Drareni in Algeria, Teresita Naul in the Philippines, and Paulina Acevedo in Chile. Some of our leagues were also acquitted from trumped-up tax-related accusations (e.g. ILI and KIBHR in Kazakhstan).

Nonetheless, many other colleagues remained arbitrarily detained as of 15 June 2022, and such as FIDH's Vice-President Valentin Stefanovich in Belarus, Khurram Parveez from our league in Kashmir, Nasrin Sotoudeh and Narges Mohammadi from the DHRC in Iran, Yuri Dmitriev from our league in Russia, and Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja from our league in Bahrain, just to name a few. Our mobilisation continues.

## HONDURAS: CONVICTION IN BERTA CÁCERES' CASE: A LANDMARK RULING

On 5 July 2021, military intelligence officer and former executive of hydroelectric company Desarrollos Energéticos (DESA), David Castillo, was sentenced for the murder of Lenca leader and indigenous, land and environmental rights defender Berta Cáceres on March 2, 2016. In its ruling, the national court in Honduras convicted David Castillo as co-perpetrator of the crime, and considered that the motive for the murder was to stamp out opposition to the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project by the indigenous communities of Río Blanco, led by Berta Cáceres, as coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations of Honduras (COPINH).

This conviction is a historic ruling in the fight against impunity for the murder of land and environmental defenders in Honduras and highlights the value of defending nature and the rights of indigenous peoples and farmers. It is a precedent that must be considered when rendering justice in other cases.

FIDH had denounced the harassment against Berta Cáceres before she was murdered and never stopped mobilising, demonstrating the strength of the unity and constancy of the different organisations that participated and accompanied the search for justice and truth in this case. FIDH participated, together with other international and Latin American human rights organisations – including FIDH's member organisations such as CAJAR, CALDH and CIPRODEH – in the Qualified Observation Mission in the Case of Berta Cáceres. This inter-NGO initiative observed the hearings in the case, published analyses of the hearings and reports on the progress of the process, and issued numerous open letters to the Honduran authorities calling for due process to be respected during the first trial in 2018 against the main perpetrators of Berta's murder, for which seven people were convicted in January 2019.

Nonetheless, although the oral ruling declaring the criminal responsibility of Roberto David Castillo Mejia as co-perpetrator of the murder was issued on July 5, 2021, the First Chamber of the Sentencing Court had still not published the written sentence as of June 20, 2022, further delaying the rights of the victims - including her family, organisation, and colleagues - to truth, justice and reparation.





## Objective 2: Strengthen human rights defenders' capacity to take action

### 2.1. Intended outcome: Decision-makers take more action to protect defenders

#### APPEAL TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES: REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PERPETUATED BY ISRAEL

At the end of April, in a context of a new cycle of violence, the Observatory in cooperation with all nine FIDH member organisations from the region published a report titled "Target locked", denouncing the Israeli government's and affiliated GONGOs' smear campaigns and harassment tactics against human rights organisations and defenders in Israel, Palestine and the Syrian Golan. The report aims at countering the Israeli government's and GONGO's narratives associating independent NGOs and human rights defenders to terrorism, anti-semitism, treason, foreign agents, in order to delegitimise them and eventually cut their funding sources.

Following the publication, joint advocacy actions have been carried out and are still ongoing: a webinar on the issues outlined in the report, with 50 participants to encourage States and private donors to continue and/or increase their support to civil society organisations, a submission to the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression within the context of her HRC47 report on disinformation, individual meetings with European Union Member States, as well as meetings between the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Palestinian HRDs.

In October, the Israeli government designated six Palestinian civil society organisations, including FIDH member Al-Haq, as terrorists. FIDH and its member organisations organised several interfaces at EU level on the issue of counter-terrorism with good engagement from the European Parliament and EU Special Rapporteur Eamon Gilmore, in order to highlight the fabricated character of the terrorism accusations, and push for an international reaction.



# FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM

## ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Around the globe, 2021 was marked by widespread and major backlash against the Rule of Law, a decline of democracy, a degradation of human rights and individual freedoms, the increased influence of conservative groups and right wing movements, several military coups (Guinea, double-putsch in Mali since 2020, Chad, Sudan, Myanmar etc.) and major crisis (Afghanistan, Belarus, Russia, etc.). The closing space for civil society was (and still is) part of a general authoritarian push-back against democracy. These negative developments intensified in a context still affected by the COVID-19 crisis which has been used as a pretext to justify restrictive measures against fundamental rights.

In this context, FIDH and its member organisations continued to monitor human rights violations with tireless efforts to counter authoritarianism, to support the fight against terrorism while respecting human rights, to promote universal abolition of the death penalty, and to support the protection of populations in conflict and crisis situations.

### **Focus on Africa**

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, 2021 general elections were marred by obstructions—including human rights violations—before, during, and after the elections in several countries, ultimately undermining the credibility of the results and the electoral process as a whole. In cooperation with our member organization on the ground, FIDH followed-up on the situation during and after the elections held in January in **Uganda**, marked by violence and restrictions to democratic space, including to political opponent Bobi Wine. Our advocacy for the release of Bobi Wine and his wife, on house arrest, eventually resulted in the withdrawal of the police and the military from their premises. In **Kenya**, as the 2022 elections approached, FIDH and its member organizations continued to document sexual violence against women in the context of the elections. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, and **Tanzania**, FIDH and its member organisations closely monitored

the situation and condemned election-related violence, urging the international community to pressure national authorities to respect the rule of law, to put an end to human rights violations, and to engage in peaceful processes to resolve ongoing political crises. In **Central African Republic**, the Ligue centrafricaine des droits de l'Homme (LCDH), the Observatoire centrafricain des droits de l'Homme (OCDH), and FIDH called on the 17 Presidential candidates to commit to upholding 10 fundamental human rights principles. In **Guinea**, the military coup of September 2021 overthrowing President Alpha Condé, left the country in a fragile situation. FIDH and its member organization, while publicly condemning the *coup*, alerted ECOWAS and the Conference of Heads of State of the sub-region to the negative consequences of their retaliatory measures against the junta, particularly regarding the right of the victims to obtain justice within a reasonable time-frame.

In **Mali**, following the second coup d'état in less than 10 years, FIDH and the Association malienne des droits de l'Homme (AMDH) condemned the military takeover and expressed concern about the human rights situation in the country, which has already been weakened by years of conflict leading to a humanitarian crisis and, more recently, by the public health situation. FIDH with its member organization issued several press releases and statements to shed light on the situation. FIDH also organized a workshop on line with AMDH delegations in charge of the documentation on violent extremism and crimes committed by fundamentalist groups in Northern and Central Mali, with a specific focus as of how to document sexual crimes.

Threats posed by the fight against terrorism and extremist violence for civilians in various regions of sub-Saharan Africa continued to impact human rights. A regional approach was fostered through and FIDH who allied with Crisis Action and dozens of partners to launch the People's Coalition for the Sahel in order to facilitate a more effective response to the human security challenges facing

# FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM

people in the Sahel – to uphold their human rights, and to address the underlying injustices that fuel the crisis. The People's Coalition for the Sahel launched in April 2021 a report titled *The Sahel: What needs to change*, which recommends a radical reorientation in the Sahel region from the current, primarily counter-terror and militaristic approach, to one that prioritises civilian protection, dialogue between all parties to the conflict, tackling corruption, improving access to aid, and putting an end to impunity. Collective efforts of the coalition have led FIDH and our member in Mali to brief officials in France, and at the UN level in New York, ahead of significant discussions of the UN Security Council. The coalition has also contributed to the renewal of a dedicated mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council on Mali.

In **Sudan**, FIDH condemned the military coup of 25 October, the dissolution of the governing bodies and the establishment of a nationwide state of emergency which aimed at silencing the voices of civilians, human rights defenders and civil society organisations. FIDH successfully supported the suspension of the participation of Sudan in all AU activities until the effective restoration of the civilian-led Transitional Authority and supported the ask for an AU lead mission to Sudan to engage with all stakeholders.

## **Focus on Middle East and North Africa**

A decade after the 2011 uprisings, many countries in the Middle East and North Africa, the region with the most inequalities in the world, are experiencing a recurrence of renewed forms of uprising and citizen-led movements against the backdrop of impediments to economic, social and cultural rights, which have been reinforced by the COVID-19 crisis.

Taking stock 10 years after the Arab Spring, FIDH organised a regional webinar in partnership with the IREMMO (French research center specialised on the Mediterranean and the Middle East) to present

the perspectives of three renowned human rights defenders from our member organisations in Tunisia, Egypt and Syria. The facebook event reached 11.000 people interested, and the webinar itself, held in Arabic with interpretation in French, was attended by around 200 participants live on January 30th 2021.

In the first week of May, as the cycle of violence resumed in **Palestine/Israel**, FIDH advocated to put an end to the violence and the apartheid system, and mobilized the UN with more than 50 of its member organizations, notably calling for : the adoption of an embargo on the supply, sale or transfer of any arms and ammunition to the warring parties; the establishment of an independent investigation into violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in both Palestine (including Gaza and the West Bank) and Israel; the impositions of targeted sanctions against those responsible for human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law; and ending the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

In addition, FIDH continued to support, monitor and conduct advocacy efforts on situations where leading counter-revolutionary forces in power in **Palestine (see impacts below), Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Bahrain and Egypt**, and other countries, have been perpetrating grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, while portraying themselves as bulwarks against terrorism and Islamist extremism. On 11 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in **Bahrain** deploring that the human rights situation in the country continues to deteriorate. Despite prominent human rights defender Nabeel Rajab's release from prison mid-2020, trumped-up charges against him have not yet been dropped and he remains subjected to a travel ban. Over the past ten years, FIDH and its Bahraini member organisations have

regularly engaged with EU institutions and Member States to inform them about ongoing human right violations in the country. In their latest resolution, the European Parliament echoed our organisations' calls to mainstream human rights across all areas of cooperation with Bahrain. The sustained mobilisation of the international community is essential to meaningfully improve the human rights situation in the country.

### **Focus on the Americas**

In Nicaragua, where a context of repression continued to endure in 2021, the Nicaragua Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) continued to face criminalization of their mandate and activities,, with its headquarters in Managua destroyed and transformed into a health centre on 29 January 2021. Despite this situation, FIDH and the CENIDH, presented a joint report analysing extrajudicial executions constituting crimes against humanity committed since April 2018 in Nicaragua. The report, *Accountability now! Extrajudicial executions and repression in Nicaragua, 2018-2020* is the result of FIDH's and CENIDH's close monitoring and analysis from 2018 to 2020. A communication campaign was launched at the same time as the report, aiming to explain how the repression was carried out and calling for international solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. FIDH also denounced the proliferation of so-called "Foreign Agents" laws and measures as means to stifle NGO activities, and especially human rights organisations. In parallel to this, our advocacy with the OAS, EU and UN has led to the inclusion of certain key issues (e.g., the recognition of extrajudicial killings and the dismantling of paramilitary groups) in the resolution on Nicaragua in the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

In **Venezuela**, the unprecedented political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis that the country has faced since 2018 has deeply affected human rights. FIDH and PROVEA documented how the institutional and democratic deterioration of the Venezuelan State, as well as the State's public policies, have resulted in serious violations to the right to food since 2016.

In **Colombia**, FIDH published a report that highlights the serious deficiencies in public policies to prevent murders. The report shows that despite the early alert system in place at the head of the ombudsman's office, which registered 572 homicides of social leaders and human rights defenders, 254 homicides of former militants of the defunct FARC-EP and 184 massacres since 2018, the administration of President Iván Duque did not act diligently and failed to prevent serious human rights violations, especially those in which the risk has been foreseen.

FIDH also litigated remotely before the *Inter-American Court of Human Rights* on the implementation of the Chilean state's conviction for racial discrimination in the Mapuche case.

### **Focus on Asia**

In order to monitor the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, in a region where large-scale and sustained protests have increasingly occurred in restrictive political contexts, FIDH has started to establish a roster of international observers from the region who will be dispatched to conduct observation of public assemblies in Asia. The trainings and the creation of a comprehensive Assembly Observation Manual (AOM) co-written with FIDH member organisations will be concluded in 2022. With its members organisations in India, Thailand, Cambodia, and Pakistan, the FIDH documented violations of the right to freedom of assembly and association, provided legal assistance to more than 800 individuals in cases related to rights of freedom of expression and assembly, and conducted more than 30 observation missions of public assemblies.

In December 2021, FIDH published a report, entitled *Out of control - Human rights and rule of law crises in Bangladesh* which reveals a weakened rule of law characterized by a judiciary that lacks independence from the executive branch of government, widespread censorship of the press, repression of critical voices, and severe restrictions on freedom of assembly and of association.

In **Thailand**, we remain concerned about the ongoing repression of pro-democracy activists, particularly under the draconian provision of lèse-majesté legislation (Article 112 of the Criminal Code). Our ongoing documentation and advocacy on this issue, particularly through the publication of the report *Second wave. The return of lèse-majesté in Thailand* contributed to a record number of recommendations on lèse-majesté being made to Thailand during its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in November, when 12 UN member states (50% more than during the previous UPR) called for the amendment on the end of the use of Article 112. FIDH also petitioned the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) which led to an opinion from WGAD calling for the release of Anchan Preelerd, who is currently serving the longest prison sentence ever imposed under Article 112 of the Thai Criminal Code (lèse-majesté).

In addition, FIDH supported and implemented documentation and advocacy efforts related to the most serious human rights violations committed in



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countries where the ability of local civil society to safely and freely operate is either extremely limited or non-existent. In these countries, advocacy at the national scale is often impossible, too dangerous, or ineffective. The objective is thus to alert the international community about these violations and generate effective actions that can lead to an improvement of the situation (**Thailand, India, Indonesia, Nepal, North Korea, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal**).

Since February 2021, FIDH and its member organisations in **Myanmar** have advocated for sanctions that directly target the large junta-owned conglomerates whose revenues fuel the violent repression by the Tatmadaw. This advocacy contributed to the decision by the EU to sanction 10 individuals, including the new information minister and two military-controlled conglomerates (see *below impacts*).

## **Focus on Western Europe**

In **Hungary**, FIDH continued with its member and partner organisations to mobilize the EU institutions to move forward with the Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) procedure to address the ruling party's continued disregard for EU principles, including judicial independence, media freedom, freedom of association and civic space, academic freedom and minority and migrants' rights. In **Poland**, FIDH's collaboration with a large coalition gathering Polish and European and international human rights and women's rights organisations has intensified to pool resources and expertise in order to expose the deteriorating Rule of Law and human rights situation in Poland. In April, a letter signed by about 200 European NGOs was sent to the EU Council's Portuguese Presidency and EU Ministers highlighting civil society concerns. Thanks to mass mobilisation, including intense advocacy efforts both at the EU level and with EU member state's capitals and thanks to media work, the Council decided to resume the Article 7 TEU procedures against Poland and Hungary, breaking

a 3-year long political stalemate and paving the way for further progress towards these countries' being held accountable for violating EU principles.

Following consultations with civil society in EU countries to inform this year's **European Commission's annual Rule of law (RoL) review cycle**, FIDH took the lead - along with Liberties.eu, on coordinating input by the Human Rights & Democracy Network (HRDN). The submission focused on regional trends and identified areas for improvement to the process going forward. FIDH also facilitated virtual 'country visits' between the Commission's services and its members in EU countries. It also provided input into the European Parliament's reporting response to the 2020 RoL report by the EC. Future efforts will focus on further engaging member organisations in EU countries in this process, by coordinating input, liaising with other networks and feeding back from them to the EC on both content and process.

## **Focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)**

Hundreds of political prisoners in **Uzbekistan** have been released since the 2016 regime change. On February 25, FIDH presented its report *Uzbekistan: The Right to Reparations of Political Prisoners* with comparative case-studies based on experiences of other transitioning states on implementing reparations and other transitional justice measures. It explains the importance and urgency of upholding survivors' rights to restitution, rehabilitation, compensation and guarantees of non-recurrence of the thousands of arbitrarily detained and tortured during the precedent regime, and offers policy recommendations for domestic authorities in order to do so. An online conference enabled presentations from a former political prisoner, an Uzbek human rights lawyer, representatives of Amnesty International, the International Center for Transitional Justice, Freedom Now, a Professor of University of Southern California School of Law, and FIDH head specialized on this region. A dedicated event website was created <http://reparations.live/#about>.

In **Belarus**, Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, continues to claim victory in the falsified August 9, 2020 Presidential elections, and has cracked down on peaceful protests that have since then swept the country. With more than 30,000 arbitrary arrests and hundreds of reports of torture just in the last quarter of 2020, a complete breakdown in the rule of law, and COVID-19 denial as State policy, Belarus is suffering the worst human rights crisis in its modern history. FIDH and Viasna, its member organisation in Belarus, called for an independent investigation into human rights violations following the re-election of **Aliaksandr Lukashenka** and into authorities' violent repression against peaceful mass protests, and to take decisive action at the regional and international levels. Advocacy contributed to the OSCE establishing the Moscow Mechanism on Belarus, mandating an independent investigation into the human rights violations and the conduct of the elections in Belarus. Advocacy efforts contributed to the UN Human Rights Council holding a special session and the EU adopting conclusions and dedicated sanctions against Belarusian authorities. FIDH's advocacy effort also has ensured the establishment of a strong investigative mechanism into human rights violations in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath. FIDH also launched a website to track, compile, and present detailed information on the human rights situation in the country, including on political prisoners, violations against vulnerable groups, and efforts to advance accountability for the regime's crimes: <https://belarus.fidh.org/>.

In **Russia**, in light of the important role that historical memory plays in underpinning the authoritarian Russian regime, a report outlining the restrictive legal framework targeting human rights defenders working on historical memory, and the factual impediments to their work gleaned from interviews and desk research, was published in March 2021 (see below impacts).

### ***Promoting universal abolition of the death penalty***

FIDH and its member organizations remained engaged on the issue of **abolition of the death penalty throughout 2021**. FIDH was re-elected to the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against Death Penalty (WCADP) during the Coalition's General Assembly in June 2021, where it has sat since its creation in 2002. FIDH contributed to the 2021 World Day Against the Death Penalty, which focused on women, by contributing to the production of materials created by the WCADP, distributing relevant materials to its member organizations, and disseminating key messages via social media.

Throughout the year, FIDH seized several opportunities to discuss the issue of the death penalty and to push for its full and universal

abolition. On 28 January 2021, FIDH sent an open letter to the President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, encouraging him to welcome the country's first ever vote in favor of the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA's) resolution to establish a global moratorium on the death penalty, and to call on the government to establish an official moratorium on executions and to move towards abolition. On 12 March 2021, FIDH President Alice Mogwe spoke during a virtual event organized during the UN's 14th Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, during which she shed light on regional trends and best practices in Africa, with a focus on the role played by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. FIDH also endorsed a joint statement on the occasion of the UN Crime Congress, which called on UN bodies and member states to make abolition an integral component of programs to prevent crimes and to make meaningful criminal justice reforms.

At the end of March 2021, FIDH and its member organization, Union for Civil Liberty, published a joint submission ahead of Thailand's third Universal Periodic Review which focused on developments related to the death penalty and prison conditions in the country. During the November review, Thailand received 22 recommendations related to the death penalty, of which it only accepted seven. In May 2021, FIDH and its member organization Kontra submitted a briefing paper ahead of the human rights dialogue between the EU and Indonesia which highlighted, among other issues, the lack of progress of the country towards the abolition of the death penalty.

On the occasion of International Children's Day in November 2021, FIDH published, in partnership with the European Saudi Organization for Human Rights (ESOHR), a briefing note about the application of the death penalty on minors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The briefing provides an analysis of the legal framework in Saudi Arabia as it applies to minors, and briefly examines the number of children executed over the course of the reign of King Salman. The briefing explains why the authorities continue to allow the execution of children despite Saudi pledges on the international level to the contrary, and recent legal reforms such as the new 2018 Juvenile Law.

### ***Protection of civil populations in the context of crises and conflicts***

FIDH's delegations continued to involve human rights defenders and member and partner organisations in the strategic planning to influence the UN, the AU and the EU, with sustained international advocacy dedicated to country-specific monitoring/safeguards mechanisms, and/or individual sanctions. In that regard, FIDH and its member organisations successfully advocated for the

# FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM

renewal of dedicated country-specific human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council regarding the situations in **Sudan** and **Nicaragua**. The Human Rights Council also adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in **Burundi**, which renewed the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry for one year, following extensive advocacy from FIDH and its member organisation in Burundi, Ligue Iteka.

FIDH and its member organisations in **Burundi** and **DRC** facilitated a round of online advocacy meetings with EU Member States, successfully convincing them to extend for an additional year the EU sanctions regime against Burundian and senior DRC officials responsible for human rights violations. Since February 2020, FIDH and Justice for Iran have conducted joint advocacy based on in-depth investigation conducted in the aftermath of the November 2019 protests in **Iran** to urge the EU and its Member States to extend the list of persons under sanctions. On 11 April 2021, the Council of the EU announced its decision to add 8 Iranian public officials and 3 detention facilities to the list of persons under restrictive measures for their involvement in human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Specific advocacy was also carried out to influential third countries, either to advocate for their mobilisation for targeted inter-governmental fora or to obtain leverage and support in the following-up of UN and EU resolutions on the following countries: Belarus, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, China, DRC, Egypt, EAU, India-Pakistan/Kashmir, Iran, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Sudan and Palestine (*see impacts below*).

Following the arrests made against the FIDH's member organisation in Egypt, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), in November 2020, FIDH has scaled up its mobilisation and participated in the collective advocacy effort to push States to establish a human rights monitoring and reporting mechanism on **Egypt** at the Human Rights Council. The push translated into a joint statement on the

human rights situation in Egypt at HRC46, the first in seven years.

After the takeover of **Afghanistan** by the Taliban on 15 August 2021, FIDH published a number of press releases and advocated through the UN Human Rights Council (including a Special Session on Afghanistan), at the European Parliament and in France. This contributed to the adoption of a Resolution passed during the September session of the UNHRC establishing a Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. While welcoming the resumption of the International Criminal Court investigation into Afghanistan, FIDH and its members Armanshar/OPEN ASIA and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), expressed their deepest concern over the Prosecutor's announcement on 27 September, 2021 to focus on crimes committed by the Taliban and the Islamic State, and to "de-prioritize" crimes committed by other actors, namely Afghan national forces, the US armed forces, and CIA personnel in secret detention facilities, without prior information gathering and consultation with victims. Finally, FIDH joined Amnesty International and OMCT in the publication of a briefing note released in September 2021 and a *100 days update* released on 23 November 2021. This briefing note has helped bolster our advocacy work, which has included meetings with the French Elysée, the Cabinet of President of the European Council Charles Michel, and the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore, amongst others. FIDH has also brought on the help of a consultant to establish a methodology for remotely documenting violations and producing evidence-based analysis of the situation on the ground.

Many aspects of this work are being undertaken in close cooperation with other international non-governmental organisations, and this cooperation has taken on the form of various emerging coalitions, some of which FIDH is and will continue playing a leadership role in.

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1 – Counter Authoritarianism

**Expected outcome 1.1: Member and partner organisations with enhanced capacity to act for freedoms and democratic principles**

#### RUSSIA : CRIMES AGAINST HISTORY

On June 10, FIDH published a report titled *Russia: Crimes Against History* and organized a virtual conference to coincide with the report launch. The report catalogues human rights abuses targeting historians, activists, journalists, and NGOs working on historical memory of the Soviet past in Russia, and makes recommendations to national authorities and international organisations on how to improve the situation of these so-called “history producers.” The report, published in Russian, English and French, and based on interviews with 16 Russia-based historians, journalists and activists, generated strong media attention. France’s daily *Le Monde* dedicated a two-page special to the report. On the day of the launch, and Deputy Head of its International Services moderated the conference, which was attended by hundreds of academics, NGO practitioners, representatives of governments, and international and donor organizations. The conference panelists included world renowned historians including Nicolas Werth, President of Memorial France, and Elena Zhemkova, co-founder of International Memorial.

*“The report is important not only for Russia,” remarked Valiantsin Stefanovic, FIDH vice president. “Its findings and recommendations could be applied to other countries in the region and around the world that manipulate historical memory. In Belarus for instance, we see a similar use of memory laws to crack down on the pro-democracy movement”.*

**Expected outcome 1.2: Authorities obstructed in their freedom-destroying, arbitrary, and anti-democratic initiatives**

#### HONDURAS AND CORRUPTION : AN HISTORIC PRECEDENT FOR CORRUPTION JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

In September, together with CAJAR, CALDH, and CIPRODEH, FIDH presented an Amicus Curiae before the Supreme Court of Justice in Honduras to recognize the indigenous group COPINH as a victim of the corruption judicial case against officials and the company of the “Agua Zarca” hydroelectric project who ordered the murder of Berta Cáceres. The Supreme Court quashed the first instance decision and recognized their right to be part of the trial because of the human rights violations caused by the corruption, setting an important and historic precedent for corruption judicial proceedings that were the cause of human rights violations against indigenous communities. Success that adds to the conviction on July 5 of the Manager of the hydroelectric project company as a co-author of the murder of Berta Cáceres. FIDH has monitored this trial for the last 3 years.

## Objective 4 - Support the protection of populations in situations of conflict and crisis

### Expected outcome 4.1: Populations in situations of conflict and crisis better protected

#### MYANMAR AFTER THE 1 FEBRUARY MILITARY COUP D'ÉTAT: SANCTIONS ADOPTED

AFIDH was shocked by the tragic developments in Myanmar following the 1 February military coup d'état which resulted in the overthrow by the military forces of the elected government of Myanmar, the suspension of Parliament and the arbitrary detention and arrest of Myanmar government officials and politicians, human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society members. In cooperation with its member organizations, FIDH issued several reactions to condemn the military's illegal seizure of power and atrocities committed by security forces against peaceful anti-coup protesters, including during two UN Human Rights Council Sessions - the special session on Myanmar in February and the regular sessions. FIDH, along with its member organisation ALTSEAN-Burma and other civil society partners, advocate at the international level for targeted sanctions against the military's economic interests, and specifically advocated for additional sanctions that directly target the large junta-owned conglomerates whose revenues fuel the violent repression by the Tatmadaw; and for a UN Security Council referral of the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

As a result, the EU adopted sanctions against the Tatmadaw and its conglomerates, MEC and MEHL, and, in early 2022, against the state-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), as well as against senior Tatmadaw officials, including the Commander-in-Chief, Min Aung Hlaing, and Deputy-Commander-in-Chief, Soe Win and the 14 individuals sanctioned in 2018 for serious human rights violations against the Rohingya in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan States. Restrictive measures taken by the EU against Myanmar now apply to a number of high ranking individuals and several state-owned companies. They include a travel ban and asset freeze, and prohibit EU citizens and companies from making funds available to the listed individuals and entities. Previously adopted sanctions, including an arms embargo, an export ban on dual-use goods, and export restrictions on equipment for monitoring communications remain in place. Our advocacy also reached French energy giant TotalEnergies, one of the remaining European corporations active in the country, to ensure they suspend financial transfers to the illegal junta, on the basis of the junta's illegal takeover of power. While the sanctioning of financial transfers in the oil and gas industry was not decided by European or US officials, TotalEnergies finally announced it would disengage from Myanmar in 2022.

#### HISTORIC RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE

In June 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a historic resolution, with 24 yeses, 9 noes, 14 abstentions, establishing a standing Commission of Inquiry to address Israel's latest and ongoing violations against the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line while also addressing the root causes of Israel's settler colonialism and apartheid, effectively taking up the NGO call to action carried by FIDH and its partners.





SHANGHAI, CHINA - People line up at a food store on June 02, 2022 in Shanghai, China. Photo by Hu Chengwei/Getty Images via AFP

# PRIORITY

## PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women remain all too prevalent around the world, a scourge further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, anti-rights and anti-gender movements chipped away at the very concept of human rights and gender justice. They continued to lash out at women's sexual and reproductive rights – the foundation of their emancipation – by pushing for regressive policies or standing in the way of progress.

The patriarchal structures of many States enabled the rise in power of populist and conservative forces on all continents. These regressive forces threaten the achievements of the rule of law and the primacy of positive law. They target human rights – those of women and girls in particular; emphasise cultural "specificities" to the detriment of the universality of human rights; and undermine gender equality and jeopardise certain rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, which are a cornerstone of the empowerment of women and girls and a prerequisite for the achievement of gender equality. 2021 witnessed myriad attacks on women's rights; these rights are never definitively recognized and must be constantly fought for. Women's and human rights organisations such as FIDH's member and partner organisations are keenly aware of this reality and worked tirelessly throughout the year to block these attempts at regression.

Against this backdrop, FIDH placed special emphasis on advocacy-oriented documentation of gender-based violence and discrimination against women – in times of peace and crisis. Moreover, FIDH continued to promote sexual and reproductive rights in countries where our member and partner organisations have been particularly active over the past few years.

#### ***Mobilisation of states to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence***

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, three fact-finding missions were carried out with LIDHO (*Ligue ivoirienne des droits de l'Homme*) and MIDH (*Mouvement ivoirien des droits de l'Homme*) in 2021 to collect testimonies on **barriers to justice and other services for survivors** of SGBV. These missions aimed to highlight the gaps between law and practice and the measures needed to remove obstacles to justice and other services. The recommendations of an interim report on the subject were presented to ministries, the presidency, members of Parliament, national institutions, and Ivorian civil society leaders during an international advocacy mission in December 2021. The National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire adopted a law on protective measures for victims of domestic violence and non-domestic sexual violence on 21 December. This law provides for free medical certificates when requested by SGBV victims, echoing one of the report's recommendations.

In **Kenya**, FIDH and its member organisation, Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), jointly presented their findings and analyses on cases of **sexual violence committed during the 2017 elections**, to demand justice for the survivors and with a view to draw attention to the need to prevent and protect against further violations during the 2022 elections. Garnering significant media coverage at the national level, the launch of the report fostered debate on SGBV during elections in Kenya. KHRC visited six regions of the country to engage the public. The report was also sent to the



Feminist activists during a demonstration in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) on 1 September 2021. © SIA KAMBOU / AFP

European Union in preparation for the upcoming EU election observation mission.

In **Senegal**, FIDH supported the legal clinics run by the *Association des juristes sénégalaises* (AJS, Association of Senegalese Women Lawyers) to strengthen legal counselling for victims and survivors of SGBV. Following the 2020 adoption of a **law criminalising rape**, AJS, with FIDH's support, organised a high-level panel, "Law 2020-05 criminalising rape and paedophilia," in Dakar in December 2021. The two-day event brought together nearly one-hundred professionals from the judicial, legal, associative, medical, academic, and media sectors to discuss challenges in applying the law and the difficulties encountered in fighting SGBV in Senegal. Participants from human rights associations from Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Guinea, and Mali shared their work on the protection of women and girls and their analysis of the application of criminal sanctions for rape in their respective countries. Mame Gor Diouf, Secretary General of Senegal's Ministry of Women, Family and Gender offered the Ministry's support to break the silence on this issue and promote efforts to eradicate violence via a national awareness-raising campaign: "*Na Dakk Mbaa Mou Da*" ("It must stop – or the law will be applied!").

In September 2021, FIDH, Amnesty International, and OMCT published research on human rights violations in **Afghanistan** since the Taliban takeover on 15 August. The briefing titled *The Fate of Thousands Hanging in the Balance : Afghanistan's Fall into the Hands of the Taliban* specifically covers incidents demonstrating **repression of women's and girls' rights and intimidation faced by women human rights defenders**.

### **ICC and accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes**

In recent years, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has succeeded in improving access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based crimes. That

said, the Court has also had several shortcomings in this area, and significant progress is still required. This is why, as the term of ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda came to an end on 15 June 2021, FIDH took stock of her accomplishments and setbacks during her nine-year term with regard to three specific areas, including accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes. The report, titled *International Criminal Court, An Analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's Legacy* offers recommendations for her successor, Prosecutor Karim Khan. It is based on extensive consultations with nearly 70 FIDH national member and partner organisations working in and on ICC situation countries.

### **Protection of sexual and reproductive rights**

22 October 2021 was the first anniversary of the Polish Constitutional Court's decision introducing a de facto abortion ban in **Poland**. Women, girls, and all pregnant people have faced extreme barriers to accessing legal abortions in the year since a Constitutional Tribunal ruling virtually banned legal abortion in the country. Sexual and reproductive rights more broadly are under assault in Poland. Women's rights organisations and activists in Poland and across Europe have confronted and denounced this continued and persistent rollback on women's rights – and indeed all human rights – under Poland's current government, calling for action and solidarity from the general public and decision-makers, particularly at the EU level. Since the troubling ruling, women human rights defenders have faced an increasingly hostile and dangerous environment. FIDH, along with Defend the Defenders and IPPF-Europe, released and disseminated widely a short video with testimonies of women rights defenders from Poland, Turkey, and Chile.

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1 – Fighting against violence and discrimination against women, in times of crisis and peace

Expected outcome 1.1. Member and partner organisations were supported to build their capacity to act

#### STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY TO ACT ON SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Following its launch on 25 November 2020, the **Glossary A to Z on sexual and gender-based violence**, available in English, French, and Spanish (<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/international-justice/when-it-comes-to-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-words-matter>), was translated into **Arabic, Russian, and Farsi**, and broadly disseminated to members and partners. The glossary contains 61 terms and an annex with relevant regional and international instruments. It helps identify and clarify key definitions that practitioners should be well-acquainted with when working on issues of sexual and gender-based crimes or violations, and when engaging victims and witnesses of these crimes. The glossary can be used globally, although some States may apply different definitions or follow different approaches. It is a tool for member and partner organisations that can be used in their daily work towards accountability for SGBV.

Tailored trainings were provided to about **60 participants** from member and partner organisations in **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Mali** as well from FIDH's International Secretariat. These trainings followed FIDH's internal guidance note on SGBV documentation methodology, developed over the course of several years and finalised in 2021. This methodology adopts a do no harm approach and is in line with the Murad Code, a global, voluntary code of conduct for those collecting information from survivors of systematic and conflict-related sexual violence, and the Peace Model.



## Expected outcome 1.2. Greater normative protection of women from violence and discrimination

### TOWARDS A MODEL BILL ON EQUAL INHERITANCE IN THE MAGHREB

In **Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria**, civil society — women, in particular — has fought for decades to attain greater equality and freedom. If there is one subject that epitomises the legacy of injustices they seek to abolish, it is the inequality between men and women when it comes to inheritance. In none of these countries are women equal to their brothers, sons, cousins, or husbands in terms of inheritance.

FIDH and its partner organisations are fighting for the eradication of this entrenched patriarchal injustice, which prevents women from fully enjoying their independence. Inheritance inequality — part of all the codes governing family life in these countries and in the many sexist laws — contributes to the impoverishment of many women or to keeping them in poverty. FIDH and *Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates* (ATFD, Tunisian Association of Democratic Women) joined forces to make their campaigns more effective. Together, they organised a regional seminar on equality in inheritance in the Maghreb in 2018.

All of the observations resulted in a *report on gender-based discrimination in inheritance* comparing the situation in the three Maghreb countries on 12 December 2021, **a powerful toolbox for feminist organisations to advocate for equality in inheritance**. It devotes a chapter to demonstrate the loss of income by maintaining discrimination in inheritance with socio-economic elements, presents the evolution of the debate around this issue, and includes a legal and technical chapter summarising gender-based discrimination in inheritance. The report concludes by demonstrating how countries' constitutions and international commitments are at odds with such discrimination. A long-term objective is to propose a model bill on equal inheritance, which can be put forward by courageous elected officials concerned with modernising their countries in this regard.



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# FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

## ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

All across the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people (LGBTQI+) fall victim to serious human rights violations: stigmatisation, discrimination, criminalisation, violence, and even murder. Besides personal attacks, they suffer from unequal treatment and legal status, especially in relation to private and family life, employment and freedom of association. Anti-rights actors are operating with increased frequency, coordination, resources and impact on human rights systems. They are attacking the “gender ideology” to justify laws and policies discriminating against LGBTQI+ people. Defenders of LGBTI+ rights are particularly at risk. Protecting those who defend the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons continued to be a priority in 2021.

Nine urgent alerts and statements were published by the Observatory on attacks against HRDs of LGBTQI+ (**Russia, Tunisia, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Georgia**). FIDH also provided material support to seven individuals or local LGBTQI+ NGOs (Kenya, Tunisia, Belarus, Cameroon, Uganda) and two institutional grants that benefited 68 human rights defenders (**Tanzania, Bolivia**).

On June 26 and July 1, 2021, the 19th Pride March took place against the backdrop of Turkey’s withdrawal from the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention by a mere presidential decision on March 20, 2021 based on anti-LGBTQI+ grounds. The rising anti-LGBTQI+ narrative has also proved to be detrimental to women’s rights in **Turkey**. Women across Turkey took to the streets to denounce Turkey’s official withdrawal from the Convention on July 1, 2021. In some locations, including Istanbul’s Taksim area, protests took place under heavy police

surveillance, and the police used tear gas and rubber bullets against protesters. The Observatory strongly condemned the violent aggression against peaceful protesters and journalists during the Pride March and the protests against Turkey’s withdrawal of the Istanbul Convention, and urged the Government of Turkey to put an end to the ongoing criminalisation and harassment of LGBTQI+ and women’s rights defenders in the country.

In February, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders released a report titled *Standing tall - Women human rights defenders at the forefront of Thailand’s pro-democracy protests* based on interviews conducted with 22 women human rights defenders, both youth and adults, who peacefully protested and promoted fundamental human rights and freedoms in connection with the demonstrations. During the demonstrations in **Thailand**, women criticized gender stereotypes, unequal power relations, and other injustices in Thai society that obstruct women and LGBTQI+ people from enjoying their fundamental human rights. Women’s and LGBTQI+’s rights groups also organized and led their own rallies to insist on their calls for gender equality and reaffirm the demands of the pro-democracy movement. LGBTQI+ and gender non-conforming activists face another layer of attacks because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression as well as for defending rights related to gender and sexuality.



## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 2 – Fight against violence, discrimination, and stigmatisation

**Expected outcome 2.1: Engaging the responsibility of States for violence and discrimination against LGBTI+ persons**

#### **CASE AGAINST UKRAINE AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES**

In June 2021, FIDH, CCL (Center for Civil Liberties, Ukraine), NELFA (Network of European LGBTIQ\* Families Associations), and ECSOL (European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law) submitted an amicus curia in a case against Ukraine at the European Court of Human Rights relating to the issue of discrimination of same-sex couples following a complaint lodged on 24 November 2014 : The applicants are two men living in a committed and stable relationship since 2010. They complain under Article 14, taken in conjunction with Article 8 of the Convention, that the fact that Ukrainian law does not permit them to enter into marriage or any other type of civil union recognizing their relationship amounts to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



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# PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

## ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

In recent years, attacks on human rights organisations and activists working to defend migrants' rights have increased dramatically in Europe. Migrant deaths have also soared, with 1,146 people losing their lives in the Mediterranean Sea in the first half of 2021 alone, and more than 40,000 people having drowned at sea since 2014. However, policies to deter migration and seal off borders continue to prevail over the imperative to respect human rights and save lives at both the European Union and member State level. This, coupled with an overall closing of civic space in the region, has increased pressure on individuals and organisations that continue to raise their voices to defend migrants' rights and provide assistance to people in distress at Europe's land and sea borders.

In November 2021, the *Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders* published a report, titled *Europe: Open Season on Solidarity*, which provides an analysis of the patterns of criminalisation of solidarity through the voices of those defending migrants' rights throughout Europe. Its findings are based on 20 interviews with organisations and defenders in 11 European countries, as well as with civil society networks working on this issue at a European and global level. Three concerning patterns are consistently observed across the continent: the creation of a hostile environment; a rise in stigmatising narratives, often amounting to hate speech, against migrants and those working in their defence; and the hindering of the work of these defenders and their organisations which, in some cases, leads to their criminal prosecution. The report contains a set of recommendations to the EU, the Council of Europe and UN stakeholders as well as national governments.

The protracted Libyan crisis following the fall of Qaddafi's regime in 2011 and its impact on migration flows to Europe have resulted, inter alia, in the European Union's policies externalizing control of its borders to often abusive States and non-state armed actors not only in Libya itself but also in sub-Saharan countries.

The FIDH, the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) conducted a joint project on the documentation of crimes against humanity committed against migrants and refugees in Libya. In November 2021, the three organisations published a public report, along with an executive summary, titled *NO WAY OUT: Migrants and Refugees Trapped in Libya Face Crimes Against Humanity* which contains the main findings of the documentation work, including a brief summary of the legal analysis on the main crimes against humanity identified, as well as an analysis of EU responsibility in the situation of migrants and refugees in Libya through its support (i.e. financial, training, equipment) and the support of its member States (i.e. cooperation agreements with Libyan authorities) and an interactive representation of survivor Tesfay's journey. The report issued a certain number of recommendations to the ICC, the United Nations (UN), the Libyan authorities and the EU and its member States. In addition to the public report, the FIDH, the ECCHR and LFJL submitted a confidential 300 page Article 15 communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1 – Support Laws and Policies that Protect the Rights of Migrants

**Expected outcome 1.2: States, intergovernmental bodies, transnational agencies, and companies are more aware of the rights of migrants**

#### CONSECRATION OF THE "PRINCIPLE OF FRATERNITY" NEUTRALISING THE "OFFENCE OF SOLIDARITY" CONCERNING THE ASSISTANCE TO THE STAY OF A FOREIGNER IN AN ILLEGAL SITUATION

Since 2016, **Cédric Herrou** has been the target of relentless judicial actions for his human rights and humanitarian work helping migrants at the French-Italian border, in the Roya valley in France's Alpes-Maritimes department.

Under constant surveillance, the Roya Valley has been the target of a major police operation since 2016 to prevent the passage and presence of migrants and those who help them. Cédric Herrou has become the symbol of those denouncing the illegal refoulement of migrants, particularly minors, from the Alpes-Maritimes to Italy. On 12 December 2018, the Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation partially annulled Herrou's conviction after the decision of the Constitutional Council of 6 July 2018, which marks the consecration of the "principle of fraternity" neutralising the "offence of solidarity" concerning providing assistance to a foreigner in an irregular situation to stay in a country. However, the judicial persecution did not stop until 31 March 2021. On 13 May 2020, the Lyon Court of Appeals acquitted him of "aiding the illegal entry, movement and residence of foreigners in France," but the Public Prosecutor's Office appealed his acquittal on 22 May 2020. The Court of Cassation finally rejected the appeal, making his acquittal final on 31 March 2021.

*The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders* and France's Ligue des droits de l'Homme (LDH) welcomed this decision, while recalling that Mr. Herrou should never have been prosecuted for his acts of solidarity with migrants in the Roya Valley in the first place. It is hoped that this decision of the Court of Cassation will put an end to the harassment of all those who defend migrants' rights in France, and that this legal endorsement of the "principle of fraternity" will become a reality, recognising the legitimacy of the defence of migrants' rights.

# FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROTECTING POPULATIONS FROM THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES

## ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Access to justice for victims of serious international crimes (crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, torture, and enforced disappearances) remained one of FIDH's most important priorities in 2021. FIDH supports victims in accessing national justice mechanisms in countries where crimes are committed, but too often national authorities lack the willingness or capacity to hold perpetrators of grave human rights violations accountable, thus forcing victims to seek justice elsewhere. In these situations, FIDH, in close collaboration with its member and partner organisations, and along with its Litigation Action Group (LAG), supported victims in their fight for justice before extra-national, regional, and international justice mechanisms. Through the reinforcement of representatives of national civil society organisations, lawyers, and human rights activists, joint documentation work on international crimes situations, strategic litigation in support of victims, and complementary advocacy activities, FIDH and its members have contributed to the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes, to the effective implementation of victims' rights and meaningful victim participation in all justice processes.

International justice mechanisms – most notably the ICC – continued to experience pressure and attacks from states opposing investigations that would potentially target their citizens. In April 2021, the new US administration rescinded the Trump-era executive order that was impeding ICC's work in response to the Court's interest in alleged crimes committed by US personnel and certain allies, particularly relating to the situations in Afghanistan and Palestine. Even with this development, the ICC Office of the Prosecutor continued to work in a difficult political climate impeding the effectiveness and impact of its work. These attacks added to the already existing burden of challenges, including financial, facing this Court of last resort, but the ICC strongly defended its independence against these demands for a de facto system of selective justice, opening for example a long-awaited investigation into the situation of Palestine. FIDH and its member and partner organisations continued to advocate for States Parties to the Rome Statute to actively support the Court.

Moreover, 2021 was a pivotal period for the ICC in terms of governance, as one third of its bench was renewed following the States Parties' election of six new judges who were sworn in in March 2021, as well as the judges' election of a new ICC Presidency (President and two Vice-Presidents); a new and third ICC Prosecutor was elected who took office in June 2021, to serve for the next nine years; a new President of the Assembly of States Parties began her tenure; and the Court and States Parties engaged in discussions around the assessment and implementation of recommendations by the Independent Experts Review to strengthen the performance of the Court.

In parallel, space for accountability for international crimes at national level, in countries where the crimes were committed, continued to shrink even more in 2021. The impacts of amnesty laws and a lack of political will was apparent in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, with promising criminal proceedings stopped or stalled, in the name of 'reconciliation', or in Guinea Conakry, where the trial for the international crimes committed during the 28 September massacre did not start contrary to the numerous announcements by the national authorities, leaving victims waiting for more than 10 years without an effective remedy at the national level.

In face of these challenges, FIDH engaged in 2021 in different types of activities contributing to the fight against impunity for international crimes, and victims' access to justice.

**Capacity building and documentation** – The documentation of serious international crimes, aiming to establish facts and responsibilities regarding the most serious crimes, and the documentation of the state of national justice mechanisms to genuinely investigate and prosecute these crimes, continued to play a vital role in FIDH's efforts. FIDH seeks to build capacity of its members, and carry out documentation missions with a view to raise awareness, produce fact-finding reports, and/or initiate judicial proceedings.



# FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROTECTING POPULATIONS FROM THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES

Throughout 2021, and despite the limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, FIDH conducted and supported several in-person or remote **documentation missions** undertaken with its member and partner organisations on international crimes and/or assessing the implementation of the principle of complementarity between national and international justice mechanisms to provide redress for victims of these crimes.

FIDH was able to undertake a fact-finding mission to **Sudan** of several weeks in January/February 2021, jointly with its member organisation, the African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS). The mission delegates went to Khartoum and were able to travel to different parts of Darfur to mainly document the serious crimes which occurred in Darfur, in particular West Darfur, since Bashir's fall. The delegation conducted mostly individual, and occasionally group interviews with over 100 people. This in-country research and documentation was recorded in a joint report entitled 'Delays and Dilemmas: New Violence in Darfur and Uncertain Justice Efforts within Sudan's Fragile Transition', which was published on 30 November 2021. The report highlights the increase in violence in Darfur since the 2019 transition, notably in West Darfur, and addresses the impunity gap still existing in the country. A media briefing was held on 24 November 2021 during which the report was presented under embargo. The report, and its recommendations, has been presented in several well attended advocacy meetings held in 2021.

From 25 to 29 October 2021, FIDH conducted a mission to Kyiv, **Ukraine**, in collaboration with its member organisation the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL), meeting with more than 70 representatives of Ukrainian authorities, NGOs, international organisations, and embassies, in order to assess domestic justice efforts for accountability for international crimes committed in Donbas and Crimea during the previous eight years. This research and documentation informed our advocacy with relevant stakeholders in order to obtain justice for these crimes. While our

organisations saw encouraging developments in recent years, important legal and operational obstacles persisted, and political will seemed lacking for victims to effectively to obtain truth, justice, and reparations. A closed workshop was organised during the mission with around 15 Ukrainian civil society representatives and the participation of ICC representatives to discuss the state of the Ukraine situation at the ICC and prospects for victims' role.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, FIDH, the *Mouvement Ivoirien des droits humains* (MIDH) and the Ligue ivoirienne des droits de l'Homme (LIDHO) conducted a mission in Abidjan from 5 to 11 December 2021 during which our organisations met with representatives of the national authorities, civil society, diplomats, and international partners, in order to discuss issues related to the national 'reconciliation process', and more particularly, the situation of victims of serious human rights violations and the current state of the justice system, which is showing worrying signs of politicisation. This research and documentation will serve as advocacy towards accountability to be conducted in 2022 around an advocacy paper to be launched in 2022.

On 23 November 2021, FIDH, together with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), and Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL), issued a public report entitled 'No way out: migrants and refugees trapped in **Libya** face crimes against humanity', based on research and mainly remote documentation work conducted over almost two years. The organisations conducted in-depth, remote and in-person, semi-structures interviews with 21 individuals including 14 migrant and refugee survivors of crimes committed when they were in Libya. While the documentation mission was also used to transmit a detailed legal submission to the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, that has an ongoing investigation opened on Libya, the report offers an analysis of the findings on crimes against humanity as presented in the ICC



Demonstration in front of the Nayarit Public Prosecutor's Office, 31 August 2020. © IDHEAS

Communication and examines the EU policies designed to prevent migrants and refugees from reaching Europe through Libya. The report argues that EU policies have in practice trapped migrants and refugees in Libya, and it calls on the EU and European states to immediately stop returns to Libya, comply with their international obligations, and suspend all forms of support and assistance to Libyan authorities in relation to migration management policies.

Based on research and documentation undertaken by FIDH and IDHEAS since 2019, including in-person interviews with victims' families, both organisation published in June 2021 a 56-page report entitled '**Mexico**: Criminal structure within the public prosecutor's office of the State of Nayarit and crimes against humanity, demonstrating that, between 2011 and 2017, former Governor Roberto Sandoval and Public Prosecutor Edgar Veytia created a criminal structure within the Nayarit Prosecutor's Office, through which they committed acts of homicide, torture, theft of property, extortion, and enforced disappearance. Between June and September of 2017, at least 47 people were forcibly disappeared by the Public Prosecutor's Office in Nayarit, Mexico.

On **Colombia**, based on national and local NGOs reports, judicial documents, and supplementary documentation missions and research done in 2020 and 2021, FIDH and its member organisation CAJAR published in October 2021 a report entitled 'The Wound in the Heart of the World: Crimes against humanity committed against indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia'. The report shows that 180 members of Indigenous groups of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, Colombia were victims of crimes against humanity perpetrated between 2002 and 2009, committed by the Colombian army and paramilitary groups. The report reveals that 180 members of Indigenous group of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta were victims of crimes against humanity perpetrated between 2002 and 2009 by

the Colombian army and paramilitary groups, and calls upon the ICC to include these crimes in its preliminary examination opened on Colombia.

#### **Strategic litigation for international crimes and support to victims' access to justice mechanisms–**

Through a multidimensional, multi-regional, and multi-jurisdictional approach, FIDH is collaborating with a wide variety of actors – from local partners working on the ground to international criminal lawyers – to strengthen its involvement in strategic litigation proceedings. Every year, FIDH seeks to improve its approach to better support victims and affected communities. Based on effective documentation of human rights violations, it is adapting, together with the LAG, its strategy and methodology to explore, together with its member organisations, all available legal and judicial avenues to end impunity.

In December 2021, FIDH was engaged in 71 strategic litigation proceedings relating to violations committed in 31 countries. This includes 25 new proceedings since June 2019. Together with lawyers from the LAG as well as FIDH member and partner organisations, FIDH directly supports 1,059 victims, human rights defenders and NGOs worldwide in their search for justice and reparation. Litigation before national courts (both extraterritorial and territorial) makes up the majority of FIDH's judicial cases (58%). Litigation before the ICC in 10 situations makes up 16% of all judicial cases.

#### **• Before national courts**

Civil society, victims, and affected communities continue to face a considerable shrinking space for accountability, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Mali. In response to this reality, FIDH and its member organisations have implemented a renewed strategy of intervention in 2021 at the national level.

FIDH, the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR), IDHEAS, and Strategic Litigation in Human

# FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROTECTING POPULATIONS FROM THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES

Rights, continued their joint efforts to contribute to the fight against impunity for extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances in **Colombia and Mexico**. In addition to documentation work, training and exchange activities, FIDH supported members in creating spaces for the exchange of experiences between groups of victims in Colombia and Mexico, continuing to carry out litigation in support of victims of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances at local level, as well as complementary actions to raise awareness of the existence of crimes against humanity in both countries.

Following the August 2018 Order adopted by President Ouattara, which allowed virtually all suspects of international crimes committed during the post electoral crisis to benefit from amnesty, FIDH and its member organisations in **Côte d'Ivoire**, LIDHO and MIDH, decided to challenge the order on behalf of the 165 victims represented by LAG lawyers since 2012 before national jurisdictions. In April 2019, an appeal was introduced before the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court, on the basis that the order issued by the President was inconsistent with the State's obligations under international law. As the organisations' appeal at national level was unsuccessful and the unexpected announcement in 2021 of a hearing to examine the submissions was never followed up, LAG lawyers assessed other litigation avenues to challenge this amnesty law, and started developing a filing against the State of Côte d'Ivoire at the ECOWAS Court of justice, organ of the Economic Community of West African State, to be submitted in 2022.

However, and despite these obstacles, a trial against Amadé Oueremi, one of the few persons who did not benefit of the amnesty law, took place in March and April 2021. He was prosecuted for abuses committed in Duékoué on 28 and 29 March 2011, qualified as crimes against humanity. Despite the last-minute notification of the trial hearings, FIDH and its members in Côte d'Ivoire participated as civil parties and next to 34 victims in the only trial of the post electoral crisis, that ended with Oueremi being convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

In November 2021, while an ICC mission was in Conakry, authorities in **Guinea** announced once again an eminent start of the trial of those responsible for the 28 September 2009 massacre by the end of March 2022, raising many hopes that the victims' demands for justice would finally be met, more than 12 years after the events. Despite several discussions of the steering committee in charge of organising the trial, the opening date of the trial was postponed once again. In 2021, FIDH, the Association of Victims, Parents and Friends of 28 September 2009 (AVIPA), and the Guinean Association for the Defence of Human Rights (OGDH) mobilised to push Guinean authorities to deliver justice to victims and their families, while continuing discussions with the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, which has been conducting a preliminary examination into the situation for over 10 years.

- **Before national courts applying universal or extra-territorial jurisdiction**

Before national courts, FIDH and its member organisations also continued to support victims' access to justice through universal and extraterritorial jurisdiction. In December 2021, FIDH was engaged in 25 proceedings involving the exercise of universal or extraterritorial jurisdiction, which represents a little over 1/3 of FIDH's strategic litigation activities. These cases relate to the commission of international crimes in 10 countries, across Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, with a majority of cases relating to crimes committed in Rwanda (48%) and in Syria (20%). A large majority of these legal proceedings initiated by FIDH are before courts in France.

FIDH and the LAG continue to be active in litigating cases relating to Syria. In 2021, FIDH supported the testimonies of civil parties, including one of its member organisation SCM, in the Dabbagh case, in which three high level officials of the Syrian Regime were indicted. It also enabled the hearing by the French investigative judges of civil parties in the criminal investigation over the killing in Syria of journalists of Rémi Ochlik, Marie Colvin and Edith Bouvier. In the Jaysh al Islam case, in March 2021,

around 10 victims and witnesses were heard in the case. FIDH firmly denounced an intimidation campaign, including serious attempts to intimidate all witnesses, and civil parties participating in the Jaysh al Islam case proceedings, and aimed at discrediting the work carried out by the complainant organisations in favour of the manifestation of the truth.

In 2021, FIDH and the LAG also explored ways to broaden the scope of accountability for international crimes committed in Syria. Extensive efforts were made in the preparation of a complaint filed by FIDH with SCM (Syria) and Memorial (Russia), and in support of Abdullah Elismail, Mohammed Elismail's brother, and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation in March 2021 in Moscow against Russian paramilitary fighters from the Wagner group involved in the murder committed with extreme cruelty in Syria against a Syrian civilian. The legal action represents the first ever attempt to hold a Russian national accountable for international crimes committed in Syria. Since then, Elismail's lawyers asked twice (on 26 March and 13 October) the Investigative Committee for information about the complaint's registration, the progress and results of the preliminary investigation, as well as copies of procedural documents, to no avail. Three complaints were subsequently filed with the Basmany Court, on 19 April, 4 May, and 19 July. Twice, they were returned on dubious technical grounds, and the lawyers had to undertake significant efforts to get information about the fate of the complaints and the rulings justifying their return. On 1 October 2021, lawyer Piotr Zaikin applied with the chairman of the Basmany Court with a request to inform him in writing of the decision on the third complaint. The litigation strategy is to exhaust all remedies at national level before eventually bringing a case against Russia to the European Court of Human Rights.

In the case against two French ISIS members, investigated in France for genocide and crimes against humanity committed in **Syria and Iraq** against Yazidis, FIDH supported three of its clients, Yazidi victims who testified during a hearing on gender-based crimes that they suffered.

FIDH and its LAG also continued to monitor the different ongoing proceedings in which it is participating as civil party, relating to the genocide committed in **Rwanda**. In early 2021, in the Turquoise case, thanks to new elements revealed by a report released by a commission put in place by the French president on the role of France in the 1994 genocide of Tutsis, FIDH and its member in France filed an official request to reopen the investigation. This was later dismissed in May 2021.

On 3 December 2021, FIDH and 10 other NGOs sent an open letter to the French President denouncing the implications of a November 2021 Court of

Cassation decision stating that French courts do not have jurisdiction over these crimes against humanity case against a Syrian national arrested in France in 2020, because crimes against humanity are not criminalised under Syrian law. FIDH then explored the possibility to review the November 2021 Court of Cassation decision to challenge it due to a procedural error.

To respond to the situation in **Belarus** of past and contemporary grave human rights violations, FIDH explored litigation avenues using extra-territorial jurisdiction and joined the Advisory Council of the International Accountability Platform Belarus, a database created with EU funding that is collecting and preserving evidence of human rights abuses taking place in Belarus since the protests started in 2020. The Belarus Platform is led by the Danish organisation Dignity.

Finally, FIDH supported the drafting and publication of the 2021 Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review, published early 2022, which describes the main developments in universal jurisdiction (UJ) cases around the world, and advocates for meaningful and effective victim-centered UJ proceedings.

#### • Before the International Criminal Court

Before the International Criminal Court, FIDH and its members submitted Article 15 communications and *amicus curiae* observations concerning different situations where victims were unable to access effective justice mechanisms at national level, urging the Court to conduct meaningful investigations and/or prosecutions.

Following extensive documentation work (in country and remotely) of international crimes committed in particular in Libya, Colombia, and Mexico, FIDH and its member organisations submitted five (including confidential) Article 15 communications to the ICC Office of the Prosecutor. Following the submissions, a series of meetings were arranged with members of the OTP, including investigators, to discuss the findings and push for either the opening of an investigation, or effective investigative and prosecutorial measures in ongoing investigations.

In 2021, FIDH also intervened as *amicus curiae* in three important ICC situations: Afghanistan, Sudan (in the Abd Al Rahman case), and Uganda (in the Ongwen case). In the framework of the **Sudan/Darfur situation** before the ICC, the first Sudanese suspect, **Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman** was transferred to the Court in 2020. Victims within the scope of the Al Rahman case can apply to participate as victims in the confirmation of charges hearing, which was scheduled for 24 May 2021. FIDH requested leave to appear as *amicus curiae* in the case, to convince the Pre-Trial Judge to reverse his decision of 18 January 2021 to appoint the Office of the Public Counsel for Victims as unique common legal representative for all victims



for the Al Rahman confirmation of charges hearing, and to advocate for victims' right to choose their counsel, and for a meaningful victim participation and legal representation at the ICC.

On 10 May 2021, FIDH and OPEN ASIA/Armanshahr submitted a request for leave to submit *amicus curiae* observations to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber in the **Afghanistan situation**, on the following issues: (1) the rights of victims at the investigation stage; (2) the importance of establishing a clear plan and channel of communication with victims at this stage of the proceedings; and (3) the impact of the Afghan government's deferral request and the OTP's interpretation of article 18(2) on the rights of victims. This request also aimed to support victims' legal representatives in their call for more transparency and effective participatory rights of victims during the investigation, opened since March 2020, and on the process of deferral requested by the Afghan government.

Both requests to intervene as *amicus curiae* to clarify victims' rights to meaningful participation, legal representation and information were denied by the ICC Chamber assigned to both situations.

On 7 June 2021, FIDH joined REDRESS and other international and Ugandan NGOs and submitted a request to intervene as *amicus curiae* in the **Ongwen case, in the situation of Uganda**, on the issue of reparations. ICC Judges had called upon interested parties to submit observations on adequate reparation measures for victims in this specific case where the accused was found guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes, and sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment.

Aside from Article 15 communications and *amicus* briefs, FIDH and its member organisations drafted other types of submissions to the ICC. On 30 September 2021, FIDH and CAJAR (Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo) submitted a confidential report to the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, in response to their invitation to stakeholders to contribute to the development of a benchmarking framework for the situation in **Colombia**. The aim of the report was to provide the OTP with a set of criteria that could ease the analysis conducted at the preliminary examination phase to avoid overextended preliminary examinations of country situations. However, on 28 October 2021, ICC Prosecutor concluded the preliminary examination of the situation in Colombia without opening an investigation, and signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Government charting the next stage in support of domestic efforts to advance transitional justice.

Finally, FIDH and its member organisations continued to monitor developments at the ICC on various situations, including those of **Afghanistan and Palestine**, especially since the landmark decision on 5 February 2021 by the Court confirming that the territorial jurisdiction of the Court in the investigation on international crimes committed in Palestine, extended to Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This decision was followed by the announcement of the ICC Prosecutor on 3 March 2021 of the opening of a full-fledged investigation into the situation of the State of Palestine. In the situation of the **Central African Republic**, FIDH, LCDH (Ligue Centrafricaine des droits de l'homme), and OCDH (Observatoire Centrafricain des droits de l'homme) welcomed the arrest and transfer to the ICC of the first ex-Seleka (after two anti-balakas were arrested and transferred in 2020), showing a new and important step towards equal accountability for the crimes committed on the territory, from all parties to the conflict – while still calling for greater accountability, including at the national level.

**Advocacy towards strengthened international justice mechanisms** – In 2021, FIDH conducted advocacy activities to reinforce international justice mechanisms. Such mechanisms, most notably the ICC, experienced increasing **pressure and attacks** from states such as the US opposing investigations that would potentially target their citizens. The intimidation tactics escalated to the Trump administration's adopting in June 2020 Executive Order #13928 and related sanctions. Facing two lawsuits in the US and many calls by human rights groups, including FIDH and members, legal experts, bar associations, UN officials, and ICC Member States from around the world, the Biden administration rescinded Executive Order #13928 lifted Trump's sanctions against the ICC) on 2 April 2021. Leading up to this decision, FIDH and 28 of its member organisations had urged the US to constructively engage with the ICC and demonstrate its commitment to accountability for serious international crimes, including those committed by the most powerful.

Ahead of the **20th Assembly of States Parties to the ICC Statute**, held in The Hague from 6-11 December 2021, FIDH issued on 18 November its position paper containing six key recommendations to States Parties to strengthen the Court's work in the field of: cooperation, victims' role in ICC proceedings, gender equality, elections, and the assessment and implementation of the Independent Expert Review's



findings and recommendations. The position paper was circulated among NGOs and States parties, as well as Court officials, and its recommendations were presented in various speeches at the plenary meeting and during virtual side events. FIDH held four side events on: (1) the Independent Expert Review of the ICC with State Party support and participation; (2) ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's legacy, in relation to sexual and gender-based crimes, preliminary examinations, and outreach to victims and affected communities; (3) Complementarity (in Guinea, Colombia, Sudan, and Venezuela); and (4) The crimes against migrants and refugees in the context of the ICC Libya investigation. On 8 December, Guissou Jahangiri, FIDH Vice-President and Director of OPEN ASIA | Armanshahr, delivered FIDH's [statement](#) during the general debate via a pre-recorded video.

To reinforce its advocacy activities, FIDH and its member organisations published a series of reports and notes, as well as increased their engagement with key institutions:

- **Towards a meaningful implementation of victims' rights at the ICC by the judges**

From early outreach to reparations, judges have the highest authority within the ICC. They have the duty and privilege to ensure that justice is carried out, not just for the victims but also with the victims. On 4 June 2021, FIDH published a report entitled 'Whose Court is it? Judicial Handbook on Victims' Rights at the International Criminal Court', on victims' rights at the ICC, presenting lessons drawn from past practices at the Court and concrete recommendations that can be implemented by ICC Chambers towards meaningful victim participation, representation, and reparations. The public launch in June allowed to hear practitioners with first-hand experience working with survivors, experts and ICC representatives. This allowed for in-depth discussions on this very important topic.

- **Towards more effective ICC prosecutorial policies and strategies**

In 2021, FIDH, with member and partner organisations, conducted a thorough stocktaking exercise of the policy, strategy and practice of the Office of the Prosecutor during Fatou Bensouda's mandate on three target issues: investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, preliminary examinations, and outreach. These papers have the aim to convey recommendations to the new ICC Prosecutor.

- **Towards a more meaningful consideration of NGOs, victims and affected communities' expertise**

FIDH remained very involved with the Independent Experts Review Mechanisms, Court's focal points, and other key actors mandated to assess the recommendations and discuss possible implementation according to a plan of work published in July 2021. Due to its involvement, FIDH became co-leader, together with Human Rights Watch, of a civil society 'Review Team' to ensure a more central and meaningful participation from NGOs around the world in the discussions, including by breaking down this complex process and developing joint position papers and recommendations.

- **Towards strengthened or new engagement of NGOs with IIIM Syria and IIMM-Myanmar**

FIDH and member and partner organisations working on Syria and Iraq continued throughout 2021 to cooperate with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), assisting in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for international crimes committed in Syria since March 2011. Remote meetings enabled the continued support, interaction with, and transmission of information to the IIIM by FIDH member and partner organisations in Iraq and Syria (SCM and Kinyat).

FIDH continued its regular engagement with the EU Genocide network, a network of national war crimes units within Member and observer States of the EU, during bi-annual meetings during which only select NGOs have the right to participate or observe.



A member of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras demonstrates outside the court where the trial of the accused in the murder of Honduran Indigenous environmentalist Berta Caceres is expected to begin in Tegucigalpa on October 15, 2018. © Orlando Sierra/AFP

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1 – Document the most serious crimes

#### Expected outcome 1.1: Establishing the facts and responsibilities regarding the most serious crimes

#### ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN LIBYA

Crimes against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers constitute serious human rights violations and may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes, the gravity of which cannot be negated by how the victim's journey across an international border started. This has led the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, after the situation of Libya was referred by the UN Security Council in 2011 triggering the opening of an investigation into crimes committed in the context of the protests leading to the toppling of the Gaddafi regime, to show interest in crimes committed against migrants and refugees by militias and armed groups in Libya. Enslavement of migrants and other related crimes may amount to crimes against humanity that demand international action and the accountability of perpetrators. FIDH, after discussing with its partner organisation Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) about the objectives and agreeing on methodology, decided to undertake a joint fact-finding mission to document crimes against migrants and refugees in Libya. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, this mission and the interviews with survivors in Europe and other countries outside Libya were mainly undertaken remotely. Close to 15 survivors were interviewed during this mission. These interviews have been transcribed, analysed and securely saved, feeding and illustrating the legal analysis that is being conducted.

In November 2021, after this extensive desk research and fact-finding documentation work that started in October 2020, FIDH, LFJL and ECCHR filed a confidential Article 15 communication to the ICC Office of the Prosecutor. The communication - of nearly 300 pages - contains a very detailed factual and legal analysis of the crimes committed against migrants and refugees during their journey in Libya, characterizing them as crimes against humanity and identifying a list of 19 alleged perpetrators. The filing immediately led to closed meetings with the Office of the Prosecutor, particularly investigators working on the Libyan situation, and was mentioned in the Prosecutor's statement to the Security Council in April 2022. It also triggered interest among other stakeholders, be it the UN Fact Finding Mission, State representatives, or national war crimes units. Extensive advocacy work was also conducted following the filing, on the basis of a public report that the three organisations published after the filing. This public report contains the main findings of the Article 15 communication as well as an analysis of the European Union and its member States' responsibility in this situation. The three organisations also presented their findings during several public events, including during the ICC Assembly of States parties in December 2021.

### Objective 2 – Support access to justice for victims

#### Expected outcome 2.1: Engaging criminal responsibility of the perpetrators of the most serious crimes

#### OPENING BY THE ICC OF AN INVESTIGATION INTO VENEZUELA

On 5 November 2021, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced the opening of an investigation into the possible commission of crimes against humanity in Venezuela, concluding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Venezuelan government. A preliminary examination was initiated in February 2018 with the objective of analysing crimes allegedly committed in Venezuela since at least April 2017, in the context of the demonstrations that took place that year. Earlier in 2021, FIDH and PROVEA conveyed their analysis of national justice efforts, showing that the Venezuelan justice system is not carrying out genuine judicial proceedings to prosecute the perpetrators of international crimes committed on its territory. The current justice system has been subject to control and interference by the executive branch, with serious violations of due process, threats to victims and witnesses, long delays and structural shortcomings in terms of material and human resources. Therefore, FIDH and its member organisation PROVEA welcomed this ICC decision, bringing hope to victims of serious crimes committed in Venezuela, who have been fighting for justice for many years.

## DESPITE STATE ATTACKS AND PRESSURE, THE ICC OPENS A LONG-AWAITED INVESTIGATION INTO INTERNATIONAL CRIMES COMMITTED IN PALESTINE

On 5 February 2021, the ICC Pre-trial judges decided that the Court's jurisdiction over Palestine extends to Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and that the Prosecutor is thus allowed to investigate international crimes committed on these territories. FIDH welcomed this landmark decision, in line with its *amicus curiae* observations filed in March 2020. *"With the confirmation by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the territorial jurisdiction of the ICC over Palestine, including its occupied territory, and the lack of justice at national level, it is imperative that the Prosecutor immediately moves to effectively investigate and prosecute the full array of international crimes committed in Palestine. An ICC investigation into the Situation in Palestine would serve as a historic step in renewing victims' hopes for justice and accountability,"* said Shawan Jabarin, FIDH Secretary General and General Director of Al-Haq.

On 3 March 2021, the Prosecutor announced the opening of a full-fledged investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine since 13 June 2014.

### Objective 3 – Strengthen Justice Mechanisms

#### Expected outcome 3.1: Mechanisms to fight impunity created or strengthened

## STOCK TAKING OF THE ICC PROSECUTOR FATOU BENSOU DA'S LEGACY: SGBC, PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS, AND OUTREACH

As the term of ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda came to an end on 15 June 2021, FIDH has decided to engage in a stock taking exercise of her accomplishments and setbacks, during her 9-year term, with regard to three specific areas: accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes, preliminary examinations, and outreach to victims and affected communities. Papers on each area of focus were published throughout 2021, containing an analysis and recommendations to the next Prosecutor Karim Khan. The three papers were then been compiled in a report launched in December 2021, during the ICC Assembly of States Parties.

The first paper on investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes (SGBC) entitled 'Accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes at the ICC: An analysis of the Prosecutor Bensouda's legacy', drafted together with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ), was launched on 19 June 2021, during a high-level event gathering in the panel both ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and ICC Prosecutor-elect Karim Khan to mark the international day against sexual violence in conflict. The presence of both Prosecutors was a very unique opportunity to address this important topic and discuss the way forward. It was extremely well attended and raised interest of many stakeholders with regard to the upcoming papers on preliminary examinations and outreach.

The second and third papers' findings were based on online consultations with civil society organisations, from the different regions directly affected by the topics. More than 30 organisations, mostly FIDH member organisations, participated in the consultations.

This stock taking exercise culminated in a very well received global launch in December well attended, with speakers and participants both from the international arena and from situation country, in a joint hope to enhance the Office of the Prosecutor's methods and results.

# PRIORITY

## PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY ECONOMIC PLAYERS

### ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN 2021 IN LIGHT OF THE OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

**Strengthening network relationships** among members and partner organisations on corporate accountability for human rights abuses through the exchanges of experiences and expertise, newsletters, briefings, continued to be essential in 2021. FIDH facilitated a thematic cross-regional working group with about 55 member organisations which met remotely on a regular basis to discuss issues such as the access to justice through litigation and non-judicial mechanisms and, advocacy for binding norms on Business and Human Rights.

On the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, FIDH published an updated version of its long standing resource *Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Abuses: A Guide for Victims and NGOs on Recourse Mechanisms*. The guide was revamped in the form of an interactive website to become more accessible and widely used. With this guide, FIDH seeks to provide a practical tool for victims and their representatives, NGOs, and other civil society groups, including unions, social movements, and activists, to seek justice and obtain reparation for victims of human rights abuses involving multinational corporations. The publication took place with a Webinar on corporate accountability which was attended by around 100 participants among different stakeholders (civil society, government representatives, donors, lawyers, academics, investors...)

**Corporate accountability** work continued through **direct engagement** with companies. FIDH continued to have regular bilateral meetings with companies (such as Carrefour, Michelin, Total, Vale, etc.) in order to reinforce their work on human rights protection. FIDH and its member organisation in Uganda, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) jointly engaged with French energy giant Total following the 2020 report "*New Oil, Same Business? At a Crossroads to*

*Avert Catastrophe in Uganda*" and the acceleration of East African oil projects by Total, CNOOC and the governments of Tanzania and Uganda. The joint advocacy meetings with Total contributed to a better consideration of human rights by the company to implement the recommendations contained in the report. FIDH and its partners also sustained discussions with Vale, following their work on Brazil and specifically on the community of Piquià de Baixo.

**Corporate accountability** work also continued through **strategic litigation**, in close collaboration with FIDH's Litigation Action Group. Litigation contributes directly to the prevention of human rights violations linked to companies' activities. In 2021, FIDH and its member organisations held multinational corporations accountable for violating human rights, the right to a healthy environment and for contributing to climate change in three countries (Ecuador, Chile, Colombia) with five legal actions that were launched with a communication campaign *See you in Court* (see *impact below*).

FIDH also intervened as third-party in a case against Italy and Germany before the European Court for Human Rights regarding steel giant **ThyssenKrupp's corporate accountability** for human rights violations following an accident that occurred in a steel plant in Turin, Italy in 2007, which killed seven people and injured one. In the amicus, submitted to the Court in March 2021, FIDH and its Italian partner, Human Rights International Corner (HRIC), insisted on the need to ensure access to **effective remedies for victims** of cross-border human rights abuse deriving from irresponsible business conduct and to develop harmonised standards and **a more coherent system of access to remedies throughout European countries**.

During 2021, progress has also been made in **extra-territorial jurisdiction cases against companies and**





**their executives.** In the **BNP Paribas case**, relating to complicity for international crimes committed in Darfur, Sudan, a judicial inquiry was opened in 2021 in France. In June and July 2021, four executives of the **Amesys** company, as well as the company itself, were indicted by the investigative judges for complicity in torture committed in Libya under the Gaddafi regime. During the same months, four executives of **Nexa Technologies**, and in September 2021 the company itself, were indicted for complicity in torture and enforced disappearances committed in Egypt between 2014 and 2021 (*see impacts below*). In November 2021, FIDH and its Litigation Action Group organised in Turkey a meeting with all civil parties represented in the Amesys case, in order to provide them with full explanation about the latest judicial developments, assess their personal situation, especially in terms of their security, and gathering their views about the next steps of the procedure.

**Strengthening the normative framework on business and human rights** – FIDH’s efforts to ensure corporate accountability and improve victims’ access to justice for abuses caused by business activities include strengthening the national, regional, and international normative framework on business and human rights. In 2021, FIDH and its member organisations provided numerous legal and policy briefs and textual proposals in support of the states drafting a **legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises** with respect to human rights. At the European level, FIDH is part of the informal core group of European NGOs working on the European Commission’s initiative on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, which includes a proposal for a mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence directive in the EU.

The 7th session of the intergovernmental group in charge of drafting a binding treaty was held from 25 to 29 October 2021 at the United Nations. Following a long process launched in 2014, this session’s discussions were also held in a ‘hybrid’ format with state and civil society delegates participating both in Geneva and online. FIDH published its position and made many oral statements during the session

providing substantive comments and textual suggestions on the draft. The session ended with the adoption of the final report for the seventh session, calling for a new session next year, the publication of a new draft, the organization of inter-session discussions among states, but also the appointment of a group of Ambassadors to act as “Friends of the Chair” to lead consultations among States on the draft of the legal binding instrument.

FIDH continued working to strengthen the consideration of human rights in the context of **trade and investment agreements (China, India, Mercosur, Vietnam, South-Korea)** that the EU negotiates and concludes with third countries (*see impact below*).

**Responsible investment** – To encourage companies and investors to be more active in protecting human rights and the environment, FIDH engaged in **enhanced spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue** between local human rights groups’ members and partners and companies, investors, or national and international institutions. FIDH briefed, on two occasions, 20 to 30 private investors on the situation in Myanmar following the coup in 2021 in order to identify potential levers of influence, given the weight some of these investors have on the oil and gas sector – a sector that directly benefits the junta. In partnership with **La Banque Postale Asset Management** since 2001, FIDH has developed a specific methodology to measure and monitor the human rights performance of commercial enterprises (equity) and States (bonds). In 2021, FIDH updated its methodology to assess companies’ performances in investment portfolios by including specific criteria to tackle modern slavery and forced labour in different sectors such as tourism, construction, food and beverage, and apparel and textile.

- In February, FIDH released its *biannual non-financial rating of European Union Member States and the United Kingdom*. In its report,



# PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY ECONOMIC PLAYERS

FIDH ranks **state performance** based on one environmental and 12 human rights criteria, to help investors who buy sovereign bonds use their leverage to support and promote responsible state practices.

- On 10 May 2021, FIDH published *From Policies to Impacts: Analysing Modern Slavery Risks in Portfolio Companies*, a report which provides **tools to investors** to identify and address human rights risks, including modern slavery risks, in their investment portfolios. The report offers guidance from the perspective of an international human rights organization working with members and communities around the world to protect human rights from corporate abuses. The results of the report show that investors need to improve the indicators they take into account when assessing companies; be more critical regarding how companies are effectively putting in place their human rights commitments; and engage and consult with rights-holders and organizations on the ground in the design and implementation of preventive and mitigating measures. The report was presented at an online event hosted by FIDH in May 2021 in which FIDH discussed with a panel of experts how investors can analyze the risks of modern slavery in their portfolios and engage in dialogues with companies regarding serious human rights impacts. The panel was composed of experts in the field of human rights and business and sustainable investment, members of NGOs, researchers, investors or members of investor alliances. Approximately 190 participants, representing different stakeholder groups from around the world, attended the event.
- On September 2021, the *Don't Buy into Occupation* coalition published a report on the financial relationships between businesses involved in the illegal Israeli settlement enterprise in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and European Financial Institutions. The Coalition is a joint project between 25 Palestinian, regional and European organisations based in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom, including FIDH and its member leagues Al-Haq and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights. The report shows that 672 European financial institutions have financial relationships with 50 businesses

that are actively involved with illegal Israeli settlements. These financial institutions provided US\$ 114 billion in the form of loans and underwritings and held US\$ 141 billion investments in shares and bonds of these companies.

**Promotion of the justiciability of economic and social rights** – Many countries in the Middle East and North Africa are experiencing a recurrence of popular protests 10 years after the Arab revolutions and also in light of COVID-19 over impediments to economic and social rights. In 2021, FIDH and its member organisations began to take stock of deepening inequalities in access to economic and social rights in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine.

**Sates accountability for human rights violations linked to their economic policies and business activities** – In Asia, the human rights and environmental impacts of China's Belt and Road Initiative projects in recipient countries across Asia continued to be monitored and disseminated through the FIDH webpage on "the **Belt and Road Initiative** and human rights". In 2021, FIDH also stepped up its advocacy around the sale of arms and surveillance equipment by French companies to countries like **Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia**, and the **United Arab Emirates**—where French-made arms are used to commit grave, systematic human rights violations and international crimes. FIDH's advocacy aimed to strengthen parliamentary control over the licenses granted by the French government (see *impact below*). The report *Arms sales: France and the United Arab Emirates, partners in the crimes committed in Yemen?* was launched in December 2021. This report is the product of research conducted between April 2019 and April 2021 by FIDH and its member organisations from Yemen, Gulf States and France, respectively Mwatana for Human Rights, the Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), and the Human Rights League (LDH) in collaboration with the Observatoire des armements. This work reveals that French companies and the French state have failed to respect some of their international human rights commitments, making them potentially complicit in the crimes committed by the United Arab Emirates.

## SPOTLIGHTS ON IMPACTS & SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES

### Objective 1. To promote economic players' accountability

**Expected outcome 1.3: the responsibilities of companies for their human rights and environmental violations is engaged**

#### SEE YOU IN COURT : IT IS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND TO HOLD COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS

In September, FIDH and its member organisations announced the filing of coordinated legal actions across the world against corporations, brought by communities affected by environmental degradation and climate change. These lawsuits marked the launch of #SeeYouInCourt (<https://seeyouincourt.fidh.org/>), a global campaign to hold corporate actors to account for their contribution to climate change and environmental destruction.

Five legal actions were initiated :

- Ecuador: The Waorani community and our organisations sued PetroOriental for its contribution to climate change
- Chile: NGOs and community members of Quintero-Punchavi filed a claim against the company AES Gener (now AES Andes) and the Chilean Government for negligence and inaction in relation to serious environmental impacts of coal-fired power plants
- Colombia : #LaVerdadDelCarbon: Constitutional Action on the right to participation in mining in Colombia
- Chile: In Wake of Osorno Health Crisis, Water Giant SUEZ was summoned on Basis of the French Duty of Vigilance Law
- Colombia : Indigenous Communities asked the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights's intervention to prevent irreparable damage from mining in Guajira Province

This campaign and FIDH's advocacy efforts with a coalition of NGOs dedicated to pushing for the recognition of the right to a healthy environment at the international level contributed to reaching historic milestones at the United Nations Human Rights Council, with the adoption of two resolutions endorsed by an overwhelming majority of states. The first resolution establishes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as an internationally recognised right. The second resolution creates a mandate for a Special Rapporteur (UN expert) for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. Recognition of the right to a healthy environment will lead the way towards the development of state obligations and of stronger environmental laws and legal mechanisms to enforce such laws. It is particularly important for communities affected by polluting companies and for human rights and environmental activists who fight daily to protect the planet.

## SURVEILLANCE AND TORTURE IN EGYPT AND LIBYA: AMESYS AND NEXA TECHNOLOGIES EXECUTIVES INDICTED

In June 2021, four executives of Amesys and Nexa Technologies were indicted by investigating judges of the crimes against humanity and war crimes unit of the Paris Judicial Court for complicity in torture in the Libyan portion of the investigation and complicity in torture and enforced disappearance in the Egyptian portion. The two companies were also indicted in July and September 2021. They are accused of having supplied surveillance technology to authoritarian regimes in Libya and Egypt.

These indictments arise from *two separate complaints* filed by FDH and the French League for Human Rights (LDH), which denounced the companies for the sale of surveillance technology to the Libyan regime of Muammar Gaddafi (in 2011) and the Egyptian regime of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (in 2014).

On 19 October 2011, our organisations filed a *first complaint* against Amesys following the revelations published in the *Wall Street Journal* and WikiLeaks. In 2013, FIDH accompanied Libyan victims of the Gaddafi regime who testified before judges about the way they had been identified and then arrested and tortured, after having been subjected to surveillance by the Libyan security services.

On 9 November 2017, FIDH and LDH, with the support of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, filed a *complaint* with the crimes against humanity and war crimes unit of the Paris Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the participation of this same company (which has since become Nexa Technologies) in the repressive operations carried out by Sisi's regime, through the sale of surveillance equipment. This request to open a new investigation for acts of complicity in torture and enforced disappearances committed in Egypt followed revelations by the French newspaper *Télérama* in July 2017, according to which the company Amesys had "changed its name and shareholders to sell its services to the new Egyptian government—without the French state finding fault with this."

In May 2017, Amesys was placed under the status of assisted witness for complicity in acts of torture committed in Libya between 2007 and 2011.

Since then, our organisations and the civil parties who had the courage to testify before the French justice system have been waiting for developments in these cases, and had repeatedly expressed incomprehension at the slow pace of progress.

## Objective 2 : Promote the protection of human rights, in particular economic, and social and cultural rights, in the economic policies of States

### 2.2. Intended outcome: Trade and investment agreements take protection of human rights better into account

## COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE EU AND CHINA

FIDH and its members organisations, Human Rights in China (HRIC) and International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), denounced the longstanding violations in China, the systematic discrimination against Uighurs, forced labour and the lack of results of the 'business as usual' EU policy which relied mainly on an ineffective dialogue with Chinese authorities.

They denounced the draft Comprehensive Agreement on Investment negotiated between the EU and China as being unable to ensure that the investments encouraged by the agreement would comply with international law and called for the EU to take a stronger position through an official letter, a number of informal briefings before EU Member States and members of the European parliament, a briefing before the European Commission and a hearing at the European parliament, where HRIC exposed the impossibility for the EU to proceed with such an agreement in the current context and considering the lack of human rights safeguards.

In a tightening of its stance with China, the EU adopted sanctions against four Chinese individuals and one entity under its EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime for their role in severe human rights violations against the Uyghur and people from other Muslim ethnic minorities in China's Xinjiang region. Subsequently, taking stock of the persisting defiance of the regime. In May 2021, the European Parliament froze the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investments negotiation process in a strongly worded resolution which pointed to FIDH's comments to the draft agreement's defaults on human rights. Human rights were at core of this decision, which is a landmark step in the right direction.

## TRADE DEAL BETWEEN THE EU AND MERCOSUR AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In 2020 the FIDH and other human rights and environmental rights organizations filed a complaint before the EU Ombudsman against the Commission for its failure to complete a sustainability impact assessment (SIA). Following the filing, in March 2021 the European Ombudsman echoed FIDH's views and concluded maladministration by the European Commission for its failure to complete a sustainability impact assessment (SIA).

FIDH's views argued that by not finalising the assessment, the Commission disregarded its own guidelines on SIAs and breached EU law. This view was upheld by the Ombudsman who found that *"the Commission's failure to ensure that the SIA was finalised in good time constituted maladministration"*. The Ombudsman thus urged the Commission to ensure that, going forward, SIAs are completed prior to the conclusion of trade negotiations, and that the completion of such SIA is essential to evaluating the social and environmental impact of the negotiated trade deal between the EU and Mercosur, the South American trade bloc comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

### 2.3. States are held accountable for human rights violations linked to their economic policies and business activities

## COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RIGHTS REGARDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN BELGIUM

On Wednesday, February 3, 2021, the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) made public its decision regarding FIDH and Inclusion Europe v. Belgium alleging that by failing to make sufficient efforts to promote the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in mainstream primary and secondary education provided in schools attached to the French Community (Wallonia-Brussels Federation), Belgium was in violation of the European Social Charter, notably for failure to comply with the obligations resulting from Articles 15 (the right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in the life of the community) and 17 (the right of children and young persons to social, legal and economic protection) of the revised European Social Charter.

FIDH and its Belgian member organisation, La Ligue des droits humains (LDH), have long been advocating for a more inclusive policy towards people with disabilities in Belgium.

# LIST OF REPORTS

COUNTRY/REGION	TITLE	AUTHORS	DATE	LANGUAGES
AFGHANISTAN	The fate of thousands hanging in the balance: Afghanistan's fall into the hands of the Taliban	FIDH, OMCT, Amnesty International	22/09/21	EN
ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA	Les barrières juridiques à l'égalité dans l'héritage dans la région Maghreb (Algérie, Maroc et Tunisie)	FIDH, ATFD, Fondation pour l'égalité (CIDDEF), ADFM	10/12/21	EN/FR
BELARUS	Supplying the means for repression in Belarus Transfer of crowd-control weapons (mis)used to crack down on human rights	FIDH	13/01/22	EN/RU
BANGLADESH	Out of control Human rights and rule of law crises in Bangladesh	FIDH	01/12/21	EN
BRAZIL	The Impact of Covid-19 on the Defense of Human Rights in Brazil	The Observatory, Justiça Global	08/02/21	EN/PT
COLOMBIA	The Wound in the Heart of the World: Crimes against humanity committed against indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia	FIDH, José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (Cajar)	25/10/21	EN/ES
COLOMBIA	Muertes anunciadas : Diagnóstico sobre la prevención de homicidios de población vulnerable (2018-2020).	FIDH, Jose Alvear Restrepo group of attorneys (Cajar), Somos Defensores	07/12/21	ES
EU AND UNITED KINGDOM	States under the Spotlight: Incorporating Human Rights into Investment Strategies: 2020 Non-Financial Rating of the 27 EU Member States and United Kingdom	FIDH	17/02/21	EN
EUROPE	Open Season on Solidarity: A study on the patterns of criminalisation of solidarity through the voices of migrants' rights defenders	The Observatory	15/01/21	EN/ES
FRANCE, YEMEN AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Arms sales: France and the United Arab Emirates, partners in the crimes committed in Yemen?	FIDH, Mwatana for Human Rights, Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Human Rights League (LDH), Observatoire des armements	14/12/21	EN/FR/AR
GLOBAL	International Criminal Court An Analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's Legacy	FIDH	14/12/21	EN/FR
GLOBAL	Outreach to victims, affected communities and civil society: an analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's legacy at the ICC	FIDH, No Peace Without Justice	30/11/21	EN/FR
GLOBAL	December 2021: FIDH Recommendations to the 20th session of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC Statute	FIDH	18/11/21	EN/FR/ES
GLOBAL	Preliminary Examinations at the ICC: An Analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's Legacy	FIDH	30/09/21	EN/FR
GLOBAL	Accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes at the ICC: an analysis of Prosecutor Bensouda's legacy	FIDH, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice	18/06/21	EN/FR
GLOBAL	Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2021 A year like no other? The impact of coronavirus on universal jurisdiction	Trial International, Redress, FIDH, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), Centre for Justice and Accountability (CJA), Civitas Maxima	12/04/21	EN
GLOBAL	From Policies to Impacts: Analysing Modern Slavery Risks in Portfolio Companies	FIDH	10/05/21	EN/FR
GLOBAL	Sexual and gender-based violence: A glossary from A to Z	FIDH	25/11/21	EN/FR/ES/FA/AR/RU
GLOBAL	Whose Court is it? Judicial handbook on victims' rights at the International Criminal Court	FIDH	04/06/21	EN/FR



COUNTRY/REGION	TITLE	AUTHORS	DATE	LANGUAGES
GUATEMALA	Una deuda sin saldar Recomendaciones para un agenda pública que garantice el derecho a defender derechos	The Observatory	18/01/21	ES
INDONESIA	Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence. Briefing note on selected human rights issues in Indonesia	FIDH, KontraS	25/05/21	EN
IRAN	Undemocratic election cements status quo	FIDH, League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI)	16/06/21	EN, FA
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE	Target Locked: The Unrelenting Israeli Smear Campaigns to Discredit Human Rights Groups in Israel, Palestine, and the Syrian Golan	The Observatory	27/04/21	EN
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE	Don't Buy into Occupation: Exposing the financial flows into illegal Israeli settlements	Don't Buy into Occupation coalition	29/09/21	EN
LIBYA	No Way Out: Migrants and Refugees Trapped in Libya Face Crimes Against Humanity	European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), FIDH, Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL)	23/11/21	EN/AR
MEXICO	Criminal Structure Within the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Nayarit and Crimes Against Humanity	FIDH, I(DH)EAS	07/07/21	EN/ES
NICARAGUA	A year of violence against those defending the rights of the Mayangna and Miskitu indigenous peoples	The Observatory, Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH), The Centre for Legal Assistance for Indigenous Peoples (CALPI), the Centre for Justice and Human Rights of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast (CEJUDHCAN)	18/02/21	EN/ES
NICARAGUA	Las nuevas leyes de la represión	The Observatory, Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH)	03/11/21	ES
PERU	Peru undermining rights: The erosion of human rights by economic interests	The Observatory, the National Coordinator for Human Rights (CNDHH)	25/02/21	EN/ES
RUSSIA	"Crimes against History"	FIDH	10/06/21	EN/FR/RU
SAUDI ARABIA	Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia	FIDH, European Saudi Organization for Human rights (ESOHR)	20/11/21	FR, AR, ES
SUDAN	Delays and Dilemmas: New Violence in Darfur and Uncertain Justice Efforts within Sudan's Fragile Transition Fact-finding mission report	FIDH, African Center for Justice and Peace Studies	30/11/21	EN/AR
THAILAND	Thailand standing stall: Women human rights defenders at the forefront of Thailand's pro-democracy protests	The Observatory	03/02/21	EN/TH
THAILAND	Second Wave The return of lèse-majesté in Thailand	FIDH, Thai Lawyer for Human Rights (TLHR), Internet Law Reform Dialogue (iLaw)	05/10/21	EN/TH
TUNISIA	Droit à la santé au temps de la crise Covid 19, Quand les inégalités font souffrir et tuent	FTDES, FIDH	02/12/21	FR
TURKEY	Turkey's Civil Society on the Line: A Shrinking Space for Freedom of Association	The Observatory, Human Rights Association (IHD)	06/05/21	EN/TR
VENEZUELA	"Enemigos internos" Defender derechos humanos en el contexto de la pandemia por covid-19	The Observatory, COFAVIC, the Observatory and the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of Caracas	02/02/21	ES
VENEZUELA	Third Stage of the Universal Periodic Examination in Venezuela, in Session Period No. 26 of the United Nations Human Rights Council Right to Food Report – UPE 2020	FIDH, PROVEA	10/08/21	EN/ES

TOTAL EXPENSES PER PRIORITY	AMOUNT 2020	%	AMOUNT 2021	%
SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	685 276	10 %	897 586	12%
FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOMS	1 847 805	26 %	2 191 337	29%
PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS	234 206	3 %	111 718	1%
FIGHTING IMPUNITY AND PROTECTING POPULATIONS FROM THE MOST SERIOUS CRIMES	1 192 936	17 %	1 364 638	18%
PROMOTING RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY ECONOMIC PLAYERS	263 948	4 %	544 705	7%
FIDH NETWORK	709 735	10 %	466 059	6%
EXTERNAL NETWORK / OUTREACH	495 046	7 %	469 350	6%
LOGISTICS	206 185	3 %	211 512	3%
FUNDRAISING AND ADMIN. COSTS	1 196 185	17 %	1 087 170	15%
OTHER EXPENSES	235 910	3 %	147 881	2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES (IN K€)</b>	<b>7 067 231</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7 491 956</b>	<b>100%</b>

INCOME	2020	%	2020	%
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS	60 446	0,9%	61 056	0,8%
EARMARKED GRANTS AND DONATIONS	4 358 731	65,4%	5 116 277	68,2%
NON-EARMARKED GRANTS AND DONATIONS	1 784 843	26,8%	1 910 242	25,4%
OTHER INCOME	367 270	5,5%	375 676	5,0%
FINANCIAL AND EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	90 416	1,4%	43 876	0,6%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6 661 706</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7 507 128</b>	<b>100%</b>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The International Secretariat is the engine-room of our Federation. It is responsible for turning strategy into the action that will make a real, and lasting, difference to our member organisations and other partners around the world.

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## International and national institutions

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## Foundations, associations and other institutions

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## Corporate supporters

Carrefour and La Banque Postale Asset Management (LBPAM).

## In-kind supporters

Morgan, Lewis et Bockius UK LLP  
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- its interpreters, translators, interns and other volunteers;
- its members and partners – our actions are driven by our members and partners who are the heart and soul of our network. We thank them for their solidarity, courage and tenacity in our collective effort to create a fair and just world.

FIDH is an international human rights NGO federating

**192** organisations from **117** countries

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