

H.E. The Permanent Representative

13 November 2014

Open Letter: Support for the GA Third Committee's draft resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Dear Ambassador,

We are writing to urge you to vote in favor of the proposed resolution on "Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions" as introduced. This resolution upholds a central principle in human rights law: everyone has the right to life.

The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions has in his reports repeatedly confirmed that specific subgroups of society are particularly vulnerable to extrajudicial killings, because of prejudice or stigma related to their identity or profession. For well over a decade, these groups have been explicitly mentioned in the resolution. In the most recent resolution on this issue (A/C.3/67/L.36), the groups explicitly mentioned included: those subject to racially motivated violence; persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or those targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; persons affected by terrorism or hostage-taking or those living under foreign occupation; refugees; internally displaced persons; migrants; street children; members of indigenous communities; human rights defenders; lawyers; journalists; demonstrators; and those targeted for reasons related to "honor."

As in previous years, this year's draft resolution makes explicit mention of these groups in its operational paragraph 6(b). We urge you to ensure that this mention is retained.

The explicit mention of particularly vulnerable groups in the resolution does not mean these groups are more deserving of protection from extrajudicial killings than others, but rather that they often are deprived of the protection extended to others. We know this only too well from our work and experience. The purpose of the resolution—to protect everyone equally against extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions—cannot effectively be discharged without this mention.

We count on your support.

Sincerely,

African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
Amnesty International
Article 19
Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC)

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
CELS (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales)
CIVICUS
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
CREA
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)
Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
International Commission of Jurists
International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
International Lesbian and Gay Association
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
International Service for Human Rights
International Women's Health Coalition
IWRAW-Asia Pacific
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
Oceania Human Rights
Parliamentarians for Global Action
Peace Brigades International (PBI)
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
West African Human Rights Defenders Network (WAHRDN)
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)