



THE OBSERVATORY

for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Publication of the 2006 Annual Report

Press Kit

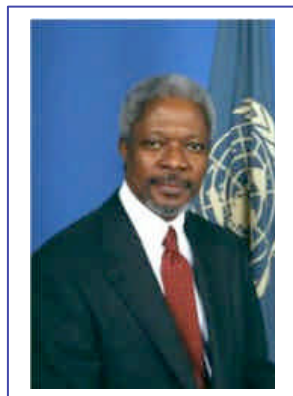
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Foreword



Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United Nations has aimed to render effective these rights for all, be they civil, political, economic, social or cultural.

Although the 1950s and 1960s were characterised by an unprecedented normative effort, which led to the adoption of fundamental covenants, the years that followed were dedicated to implementing these treaties and to monitoring the respect of standards recognised by the international community.

In this context, human rights defenders have played an irreplaceable role in protecting victims and denouncing abuses. Their commitment has exposed them to the hostility of dictatorships and the most repressive governments, whose practices they called into question.

In 1998, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the situation had degraded to the point where the United Nations General Assembly adopted a declaration recalling the legitimacy of the fight carried out by defenders, and requesting that all States of the world respect fundamental rights and the actions of those who defend them: the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

This Declaration - which is essential to clearly position State obligations regarding this issue - was completed in 2000 with a mechanism of international protection in the form of a Special Representative of the Secretary General on human rights defenders.

In the framework of my functions at the head of the United Nations, I have already had the opportunity to highlight the remarkable work carried out by Special Representative, Ms. Hina Jilani, and to evoke her indispensable contribution on this issue. The reform that I lead during the last years of my mandate should, through the Human Rights Council, further reinforce the weight and influence of this mechanism.

However, the protection of victims is only possible thanks to the concerted action of an organised civil society. The international intergovernmental system, which establishes a framework and intervenes in cases of massive violations, would not be able to guarantee respect for human rights on a daily basis and in all circumstances. Indeed, it is near victims and in the shortest timeframe possible that action must be undertaken.

Yet, this action, which is not only legitimate but essential, is too often hindered or repressed - sometimes brutally - by those whose abuses it calls into question. The initiative taken in 1997 by two non-governmental organisations, the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), to create the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders constituted a major step towards helping victims and their defenders. Year after year, their urgent interventions, field missions and the observations of trials against human rights defenders have greatly contributed to ensuring better protection for defenders.

The report that the Observatory releases each year while international bodies debate on the measures to adopt has contributed - thanks to its quality and rigour - to reinforce the role of defenders and, consequently, to improve the protection offered to victims.

Much remains to be done, as shown in the 2006 Report, which, unfortunately, continues to present grave violations aimed at criminalising and imposing abusive restrictions on the activities of human rights defenders.

I congratulate the Observatory and its two founding organisations for this remarkable work, and I invite all actors to conform to the rules adopted in 1948.

Mr. Kofi Annan

Former Secretary General of the United Nations (1997 - 2006)

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The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), was established in 1997. This action programme is based on the belief that strengthened co-operation and solidarity towards defenders and their organisations will contribute to break the isolation they are faced with. It is also based on the absolute necessity to establish a systematic response from NGOs and the international community to the repression against them.

The objective of the programme is double: to act in order to prevent or to solve specific situations of repression against human rights defenders, and to mobilise the international community in view of the recognition of their role and of their necessary protection both at regional and international levels.

The Observatory's main fields of action can be summarised as follows:

- a systematic alert of the international community on cases of harassment and repression of defenders, through urgent appeals, letters to authorities and press releases. In 2006 for instance, the Observatory launched 324 urgent interventions, concerning the situations of human rights defenders subjected to different types of reprisals (assassinations, acts of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, instrumentalisation of the judiciary, defamation campaigns, obstacles to freedom of association, etc.).
- international fact-finding and solidarity missions, regarding specific situations of defenders directly at risk. In 2006, the Observatory sent such mission to Vietnam, Peru, Kyrgyzstan and Colombia. For instance, the mission sent to Kyrgyzstan aimed at assessing the impact of the political changes that have occurred since the Tulip Revolution (March 2005) on human rights defenders. The mission to Colombia was sent in order to assess the situation of human rights defenders, with a particular focus on the impunity of perpetrators of violations against them.
- judicial observation or defence missions. Whenever defenders are prosecuted in their countries, the Observatory can send a mission so as to check if the right to a fair and impartial trial is guaranteed during the trial. In 2006, the Observatory organised such missions in Turkey, Israel and Zimbabwe.
- mobilisation of regional and international bodies in order to promote the creation of protection mechanisms of human rights defenders. In 2006, the mobilisation of the Council of Europe and of OSCE gave some results and led to the engagement of these instances towards the creation of such mechanisms. Over previous years, this activity of mobilisation had contributed significantly to the establishment of such mechanisms or instruments within the United Nations, the European Union, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The 2006 Annual Report of the Observatory presents an analysis of the situation of human rights defenders in each region of the world. These analyses are followed by compilations of all the cases handled by the Observatory in 2006, and by updated information on cases from the 2005 report. In addition to reporting the repression affecting individuals or groups, this report also aims at analysing trends in the repression targeting defenders and the strategies implemented by a number of actors, first among them being States.

The cases presented reflect the alert, mobilisation and support activities conducted by the Observatory, on the basis of information received from member organisations and partners of OMCT and FIDH.

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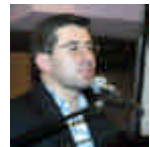
Testimonials

"The Observatory's contribution to the struggle of defenders of economic, social and cultural rights in Djibouti has been of crucial importance. It has revealed to the world the grave and blatant human rights violations perpetrated by the government, and has brought the situation of defenders in this country to the eyes of international and regional institutions, international organisations and press. In this sense, the Observatory has helped protecting the physical integrity of Djiboutian defenders, despite increasing repression".



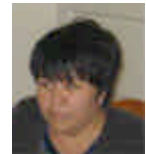
Hassan Cher Hared, secretary for international relations of the Djiboutian Workers' Union (UDT), was forced into exile after having been arrested several times, detained and prosecuted for his commitment to labour rights.

"A thousand thanks for your attention and interest. Your statements and the subsequent mobilisation of the international community have been very important, and have provoked a reaction from the authorities who subsequently contacted us and other organisations. Once again, thank you for all you have done for us here".



Luis Jairo Ramírez H., executive secretary of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights (CPDH) in the Arauca region of Colombia, has been harassed and particularly threatened for several years.

"Thanks to the financial assistance of the Observatory, Ms. Mukhtabar Tojibaeva's daughter was able to visit her mother, abusively detained in the psychiatric ward of Tashkent prison. After New Year, she was suddenly granted a visitor's permit. Your action was certainly not unrelated to this. She is most grateful to you".



A friend of the family of **Mukhtabar Tojibaeva**, president of the "Ardent Hearts' Club" organisation in Uzbekistan who was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment on March 6, 2006 and held in the psychiatric wing of Tashkent prison.

"Thank you for your support. I greatly appreciate the efforts expended by the Observatory to ensure we were given a fair and equitable trial".



Former president of ZimRights, laureate of the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders in 2006, **Arnold Tsunga** is systematically harassed and persecuted because of his fight for the rule of law in his country.

"Immense thanks for your urgent action with regard to my situation and that of my son. I am happy that I have friends like you in the world. With my respects to all".



Bakhtior Khamroev, president of the Djizak section of the Human Rights Society in Uzbekistan (HRSU), was a victim of ill-treatment in August 2006. In September 2006, his son was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

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"The Observatory's support has proved very encouraging in my battle against the arbitrariness of the Israeli military and judicial systems. Its presence at my trial hearings, and its urgent actions regarding my situation, have helped me keeping up the fight, by showing me that I was not alone. History will prove that human rights organisations are on the side of humanism and justice".



Jonathan Ben Artzi was sentenced and imprisoned from April 2004 to 2006 for refusing to serve in the Israeli army. He was released at the end of his sentence.

"Defending of human rights means consciously assuming the risk of exposing oneself to the power of those who violate these rights, and every day seeing how enriching this commitment is.

Each year, the Observatory gives us a painful compilation of these risks that result in deaths, disappearances, persecutions, defamation campaigns and personal attacks against these men and women, defenders of human rights, throughout the world.

Each case touches and affects us, but we continue to fight against injustice and impunity. We are not alone in this struggle: the encouragement, the force of condemnation, the solidarity reflected in the Observatory's report comfort us in our commitment and make us feel that we are fully and wholly participating in this combat for a true and just cause".

"On the rare occasions when my family and close friends could visit me in prison, they whispered that the Observatory had asked the Syrian government to do this or that, that it had had recourse to other organisations or mechanisms to take the steps necessary for my release, or that joint action had been undertaken to protect human rights defenders in Syria. Turning back to my cell, several feelings mingled inside of me: the most distinguished among them was that I no longer felt like a straw in a blowing wind.

I thank all these organisations who have achieved the impossible to give me back my freedom".

"Thank you very much for the splendid job done by the Observatory during its mission to Saint-Petersburg. We have campaigned to attract the local government's attention to the report and bring it to the public eye. Please render our thanks to the members of the Observatory, We express our thanks to the members of the Observatory, in particular the chargés de mission we met".



Vilma Nuñez de Escorcía, president of the Nicaragua Centre for Human Rights (CENIDH), whose members were subjected to defamation this year, and in some cases to ill-treatment.



Ali Shahabi, a writer and human rights defender in Syria, was arbitrarily detained for five months, including several weeks in solitary confinement. He was released on January 9, 2007 by virtue of a presidential pardon.



Reaction of **Boris Pusyntsev**, president of Citizens' Watch, in the Russian Federation, following the March 2006 publication of the report drawn up by the international fact-finding mission sent by the Observatory to investigate into attacks on human rights defenders in Saint-Petersburg.

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Executive Summary

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2006 was marked by a number of tragic assassinations of human rights defenders: Thabet Hussein Ali, an Iraqi trade union leader, Gregorio Izquierdo Meléndez, director of a Colombian human rights

association, and Thares Sodsri, an environmental activist in Thailand, all paid with their lives for their commitment.

Africa

In 2006, human rights defenders in Sub-Saharan Africa continued to carry out their activities in a highly hostile and dangerous environment. While some positive steps were taken, in particular in Mauritania, the situation was particularly worrying for defenders operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe, while it significantly worsened in countries undergoing armed conflicts or fierce political repression such as Burundi, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Sudan and Chad.

Authorities further implemented and diversified repressive strategies aimed at infringing or criminalising the activities of human rights defenders in 2006. For example, new restrictive legislation hampering the exercise of freedoms of association, expression and peaceful assembly were adopted in Ethiopia and Nigeria, while a growing number of defenders faced judicial proceedings, arbitrary arrests and detentions (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, etc.). Numerous cases of direct violence – beatings, cruel and degrading treatment – were recorded, while many African defenders were repeatedly threatened with death, harassed or slandered.

However, these dramatic situations only represent a tiny proportion of the 1,306 cases of repression of defenders recorded by the Observatory in 2006 in about 90 countries¹. Likewise, this list of cases is far from being exhaustive. These cases reflect the alert, mobilisation and support activities undertaken by the Observatory on the basis of information received from member organisations and partners of FIDH and OMCT.

When they are not assassinated, defenders risk their physical and psychological integrity, or their freedom. Death threats, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, smear campaigns are the daily experience of scores of men and women who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Observatory's Annual Report for 2006 presents an analysis of the situation of human rights defenders in each region of the world. These analyses are followed by compilations of all cases dealt with by the Observatory in 2006, as well as updated information on cases from the 2005 Report.

The law as an instrument of repression. Although States should be the first to protect defenders, they are only too often those sponsoring their repression. Suppression of dissident voices, obstruction of the pursuit of justice and truth: any

Americas

Defending human rights in Latin America remained a high-risk activity in 2006. The objective of those responsible for acts of intimidation and aggression against defenders was clear: to create a climate of fear that would discourage them from continuing their work. Those who persisted in promoting and protecting human rights continued to be subjected to various acts of reprisal and brutality, including assassinations (Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela), enforced disappearances or acts of torture.

Furthermore, human rights defenders remained victims of acts of intimidation and harassment that could take various forms (death threats, judicial harassment, etc.). The authorities also increasingly instrumentalised the judicial system for the purpose of punishing defenders' activities. Defenders are thus subjected to judicial proceedings, arrests and detention on the basis of trumped-up charges or evidence. Such practices were observed for instance in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico, while in Peru and Venezuela, the authorities introduced or adopted new laws designed to restrict freedom of association, thereby creating a climate that is hostile to human rights activities.

¹ See statistics p.12-13.

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pretext is seemingly good enough to increase even more restrictions each year on freedom of speech throughout the world.

2006 saw the consolidation of a growing trend: systematic reinforcement of the legislative arsenal - for example in the name of the fight against terrorism - for the purpose of restricting freedoms of association, speech and peaceful assembly by States that consider an independent civil society as a threat to themselves.

Impunity as the rule. Except in a very few cases, impunity remained the rule when it came to sanction the perpetrators of violations against human rights defenders. Moreover, the protection measures taken by certain governments often proved to be superficial, providing an excuse not to address the real causes of attacks on defenders, or the crucial issue of the fight against impunity.

Defenders operating in conflict or post-conflict situations continued to be at great risk, due not only to the overall insecurity affecting civilian populations but also and primarily –due to accusations of partiality levelled against them by the parties in the conflict, and whose exactions are denounced by the defenders. In post-conflict environments, defenders calling for an appeasement of confrontation were also subjected to retaliatory measures. Finally, defenders suffered serious acts of harassment in situations involving difficult political transition, where once again their impartiality was challenged.

Asia

In 2006, repressive acts against human rights defenders in Asia continued to be committed by both State and non-State actors. Extra-judicial executions and enforced disappearances were again observed in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Thailand. Defenders, only too often the victims of judicial proceedings and arbitrary detentions, also faced various threats and acts of harassment (Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam).

In addition, the restrictions placed upon freedoms of association, assembly, expression and movement remained serious obstacles to the creation of an environment favorable to the defence of human rights. Here too, the laws, restrictions and emergency measures implemented by many Asian States with a view to fighting terrorism, ensuring national security or controlling the activities of NGOs seriously hampered the defenders work.

In certain countries like Burma, North Korea or Laos, it remained virtually impossible to pursue human rights activities because of the severe repression imposed on defenders. Finally, impunity for acts of reprisal against defenders is flagrant throughout the region, sending a message of encouragement to the perpetrators of these serious violations.

Europe and the CIS

2006 saw the confirmation of strong tendencies of repression designed to hamper independent civil society's capacity for action – or even silence it completely – in many countries in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The strategies adopted by these countries, notably several CIS Member States (Belarus, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan), were aimed primarily at making national laws more restrictive with regard to freedom of association, thus making it easier to control independent civil society, which was often regarded as a threat to the authorities in power.

Freedoms of assembly and peaceful gathering were flouted in many States (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan), while freedom of expression remained the most common reason for repressing human rights defenders, particularly when denouncing the lack of democracy or freedoms, fighting against discrimination, denouncing corruption or condemning the use of torture. Moreover, because they uphold values that are universal in nature, defenders were often subjected to serious reprisals from far-right and nationalist groups, while receiving no protection from their States authorities.

Because these defenders are pursuing an indefatigable quest for truth and justice for past crimes, in the firm belief that social peace can only be possible if founded on truth, they are the prime targets of those, whether State-related or not, whom they seek to make sanctioned by courts.

In a world characterised by an ever-widening inequality gap between countries of the North and South, by unbridled economic growth in "emerging" countries like India and China and by the exclusion of whole sections of populations in the reallocation of the profits derived from the exploitation of natural resources – all of these factors being sources of violence and impoverishment – the men and women who struggle to defend economic, social and cultural rights are among the first to be targeted by repression.

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Women defenders doubly targeted. Women who defend human rights are the victims of reprisals on more than one front. As the leading advocates for women's rights in countries where these rights are denied on cultural, social or religious grounds, women defenders are on the frontline, both as militants and as women. As major players in the struggle for change and progress, they are often even more targeted.

Human rights defenders have thus continued to suffer violent reprisals for their activities, some of them were assassinated, others severely beaten or tortured. For instance, defenders remained subjected to threats, smear campaigns, or judicial proceedings and arbitrary detention and arrest in, among others, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, the Philippines, DRC or Zimbabwe.

Towards the international protection of defenders.

Awareness of the need to more effectively protect human rights defenders throughout the world seems to be shared by a growing number of actors in regional and international organisations. This trend is welcomed by the Observatory, of which a main activity is the mobilisation of the international community to create mechanisms to protect human rights defenders. As the Observatory celebrates ten years of existence, this report wishes to render a forceful homage to the women and men who fight for the respect of the rights of all humans.

Because they challenge the foundations of authoritarian regimes and certain economic interests in the name of international human rights law, because they fight to see the authors of the most serious and unacceptable crimes punished, and because they combat all forms of discrimination, it is more than ever necessary to recall the essential role played by these highly courageous men and women. It is incumbent upon all of us to support their action for the respect of human rights for all.

North Africa / Middle East

2006 has been the bloodiest year since the beginning of the second Intifada in the North Africa and Middle East region, which has been marked by the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Iraq, as well as by the Israeli offensive in Lebanon.

The States in the region continued to pursue repressive strategies aimed at limiting freedoms of association, assembly and expression. Although some progress could be welcomed, particularly in Kuwait, these freedoms remained extremely curtailed, when not non-existent, in other Persian Gulf countries and in Libya. In several countries in the region, a number of extremely repressive state-of-emergency laws were still in force (Algeria, Egypt, Syria), while others adopted new legislation further infringing fundamental freedoms, often in the name of the fight against terrorism (Bahrain, Jordan).

In this context, human rights defenders operating in the region faced a very high level of insecurity and various forms of repression: assassinations (Iraq), arbitrary detention and judicial proceedings (Algeria, Bahrain, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen), infringements to the freedom of movement (Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia) and numerous other acts of harassment.

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Anna Politkovskaya : The honour of the Russian defenders

For many of us she personified the only form of resistance to the power wielded by Vladimir Putin, by having the courage to denounce openly the human rights violations committed in the Russian Federation. Anna Politkovskaya, a journalist with *Novaya Gazeta*, and an indefatigable human rights activist, was shot dead in the elevator of her apartment building on October 7, 2006, when she was about to publish a series of articles on the exactions committed by Russian forces in Chechnya. Systematic torture, extrajudicial killings, abduction of civilians, so many unpunished crimes perpetrated by those brutal forces pledged to the authorities, and often close to the new President of the Republic of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov;

The circumstances of the death of Anna Politkovskaya are not yet known with certainty, but the assassination would appear to be one of the latest developments in the dramatic situation of the Russian defenders of fundamental rights, who are either condemned to silence, or kept under very close surveillance.

In 2006, Vladimir Putin's increasing power reached new heights, with the coming into force in April of a new law restricting what little freedom of action Russian associations could still enjoy (more stringent conditions of registration and financial control, the possibility of dissolving associations...). The law also applies to foreign organisations, so some of them have had to suspend - at least temporarily - their activities on the territory of the Russian Federation. On signing the new law early in 2006, Vladimir Putin added the finishing touch to the design that he himself has called "the dictatorship of the law".

Other measures, adopted at an earlier date, had already enabled the master of the Kremlin to strengthen markedly the role of the FSB (former KGB) – in the name of the fight against terrorism – and to impose considerable restrictions on the

freedom of the press. Certain provisions of the Law on the fight against extremist activities, which came into force in 2002, were also used in 2006 to hamper NGO activities.

This inflation in the number of laws comes on top of the multiple acts of pressuring and harassment association activists are subjected to in Russia. In a context of increasing xenophobia and racist attacks in the country at large, human rights defenders engaged in the fight against neo-fascism or for the rights of minorities continued to pay a heavy price for their commitment. On April 7, 2006, for instance, Samba Lampsar, an active member of the African Unity NGO, was assassinated in Saint Petersburg, on his way back from a meeting on inter-cultural friendship.

In their everyday activities, the conditions under which human rights defenders have to operate have become unbearable, and it is now more or less impossible to organise a peaceful demonstration. On February 1, 2006, for instance, several participants in a demonstration organised by Memorial and the All-Russia Public Movement for Human Rights, in order to denounce the control exercised by the authorities over the civil society organisations, were arrested and prosecuted. Likewise, on October 16, 2006, only a few days after the assassination of Anna Politkovskaya, security forces put down a peaceful gathering organised in Ingushetia as a tribute to the author of "Russian dishonour".

The Observatory, which reacted firmly to these events, also denounced the smear campaigns organised against human rights defenders, branded for instance as "Chechnyan terrorists", or at least their objective allies.

These examples are far from representing the full range of threats faced by the civil society, which is more and more isolated, and to be frank, inadequately supported by an acutely schizophrenic international community: dishonour knows no frontiers...



Anna Politkovskaya, at the Book-signing of her Best-seller : *The Russian Dishonour*

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Portrayals of defenders

CHEN GUANGCHENG



Chen Guangcheng is a self-taught Chinese lawyer. Blind since childhood, he studied law in Braille. As a lawyer, he has taken up the cause of thousands of women who have been victims of forced abortions. In Shandong Province, it is estimated that over 10,000 women have been victims of forced abortions, in some cases when they were over seven months pregnant. Although illegal, local authorities resort to such practices to avoid exceeding their "one child policy" quota and the consequent sanctions imposed by their superiors. A committed activist and "Barefoot Lawyer" (a group of Chinese lawyers determined to use all possible legal means to improve human rights in China), Chen Guangcheng has highlighted significant problems in Chinese society, in particular:

- the question of the legal status of a several month old foetus ; and
- the extent to which the Chinese population adheres to the "one child policy".

Chen Guangcheng was arrested on March 11, 2006. His wife was only informed three months later that he had been officially charged with "deliberate damage to State property" and "organising a rally that disturbed traffic". Chen Guangcheng remained under house arrest until August 2006 when he was sentenced to four years and three months' imprisonment, following an unfair trial, the outcome of which had been decided in advance. He was found guilty of "disturbing public order, damage to State property, and obstruction of traffic" by the Court of Yinan, the small town where he lives in Shandong. His many supporters, including the Observatory (see Urgent Appeals dated August 16, 18 and 28, 2006), have denounced the masquerade of a trial which was characterised by intimidation, false accusations, and arbitrary arrests, all of which had decisive effects on his conviction. Widely covered in the national media, Chen Guangcheng is a human rights defender who symbolises the obstacles within contemporary Chinese society.

BERNADETTE SAYO

Bernadette Sayo Nzale established the Organisation for Compassion and Development for Families in Distress (OCODEFAD) in Central African Republic (CAR) in 2004.

Today OCODEFAD unites more than 2000 women, men and children, victims of crimes, in particular crimes of sexual violence, committed since 2002 in CAR during the conflicts between rebel forces and the army.



Bernadette Sayo Nzale has had the courage to confront the indifference and stigmatisation of victims of rape in CAR. She has struggled to obtain micro-credit for members of OCODEFAD to develop activities to generate independent incomes and to assist their economic and social reconstruction. OCODEFAD also provides material and psychological support to victims, providing solidarity, and ensuring that children receive schooling, including children born of rape. The activities of the organisation extend across the country through its regional offices, including in areas currently devastated by the resurgence of armed conflict.

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OCODEFAD also aims at fighting impunity for the most serious crimes, demanding justice for victims before national tribunals and the International Criminal Court (ICC). For Bernadette Sayo Nzale, justice is a means of deterring the commission of crimes and supporting the psychological rehabilitation of victims.

OCODEFAD's activities for an end to silence and impunity have been threatened by repeated attacks. Bernadette Sayo Nzale, and several of those in charge of the regional desks of her organisation, have been subjected to threats and physical attacks. For security reasons, Bernadette and her children have recently been forced to leave CAR. The Observatory continues to support them and to accompany OCODEFAD in its activities in particular for justice before the ICC.

YESICA SANCHEZ MAYA



Discrimination against indigenous communities, violations of women's rights, harassment of human rights defenders: **Yésica Sánchez Maya**, President of the Oaxaca section of the Mexican League for the Defence of Human Rights (LIMEDDH), leads a remarkable struggle, in the face of threats and intimidation, in the third poorest state of Mexico. This young lawyer is dedicated to defending the rights of indigenous communities in the State of Oaxaca, who are particularly marginalised and suffer severe acts of repression on the part of the authorities, including threats, arbitrary detentions, and disappearances. Her work upsets the established order and unsettles local government.

During the major repression of the social movement in Oaxaca in May 2006, Yésica Sanchez and LIMEDDH worked tirelessly to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Nonetheless, she and other members of her organisation have been victims of acts of retaliation (including false testimony, and the issuance of a warrant for her arrest) orchestrated by the authorities to discredit human rights defenders. In this atmosphere of repression, the Observatory has alerted the international community through Urgent Appeals (see December 14, 2006 and January 10, 2007) to increase protection for Yésica Sanchez Maya.

LA LIGNE D'URGENCE - THE EMERGENCY LINE - LA LINEA DE URGENCIA :
E-mail : Appeals@fidh-omct.org

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STATES	Assassinations / Assassination attempts	Enforced disappearances	Ill-treatments, torture	Physical attacks / Assaults	Death threats	Arrests without detention	Arbitrary detentions**		Judicial proceedings	Sentencing		Harassment	Searches, break-ins, illegal seizure (office or home)	Defamation	Obstacles to freedom of movement	Reprisals at work (abusive lay off, forced dismissal...)	Releases		End of judicial proceedings	Number of defenders
							Prison	House arrest		Fines	Fines						Temporary	Definitive		
AFRICA																				
Angola	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Botswana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Burundi	-	-	1	1	2	-	6	-	4	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	10
Cameroon	-	1	2	1	-	2	7	-	7	1	-	5	-	-	-	2	5	3	3	18
Central African Rep.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Chad	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	6
Congo-Brazzaville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	2
Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	4	-	-	3	2	1	2	1	4	-	-	6
Dem. Rep. of Congo	1	-	-	4	11	5	6	-	8	-	-	15	4	9	-	-	4	2	-	38
Eritrea	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ethiopia	-	1	2	-	-	1	10	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	15
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Guinea	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mauritania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Niger	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	3
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Senegal	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Sudan	1	1	-	-	-	10	5	-	5	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	2	4	-	24
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Zimbabwe	-	-	2	2	1	11	15	-	13	-	-	5	6	-	-	-	2	11	-	36
Sub total	2	3	9	9	25	38	64	0	85	4	2	54	18	15	5	7	23	23	28	194
AMERICAS																				
Argentina	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Bolivia	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7
Brazil	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	6
Chile	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	4	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Colombia	20	1	3	6	122	4	11	-	23	-	-	35	6	-	-	-	1	224	29	
Costa Rica	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cuba	-	-	-	4	1	3	2	2	-	-	-	13	3	1	1	-	4	2	-	26
Ecuador	1	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	7	-	-	13	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	23
El Salvador	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Guatemala	9	1	-	3	17	-	1	-	9	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	46
Haiti	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Honduras	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	13
Mexico	3	-	2	3	14	1	5	-	8	1	-	15	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	41
Nicaragua	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Peru	2	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	12
Venezuela	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	5	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	9
Sub total	55	2	7	40	176	10	26	7	58	4	1	115	16	3	1	1	10	11	12	437

* These statistics are based on cases of individual repression presented in this report. Yet, this list is not exhaustive. Indeed, in some States, systematic repression by the authorities makes it impossible to carry out any independent and organised human rights activity.
 ** These figures concern cases of detentions that started in 2006 or in the past years.

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							Prison	House arrest		Prison	Fine						Temporary	Definitive		
ASIA																				
Afghanistan	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bangladesh	-	-	1	4	-	10	-	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Burma	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Cambodia	-	-	2	8	1	11	12	1	13	5	5	11	2	-	-	6	3	5	1	49
China	1	3	11	4	-	7	48	10	17	7	-	24	7	-	8	1	3	9	4	74
Fiji	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
India	-	-	3	-	-	4	5	-	4	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	2	4	2	14
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Iran	1	-	-	-	-	2	35	-	21	6	-	6	-	-	-	5	4	24	1	44
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	1	-	23	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	23	-	25
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Nepal	1	-	11	35	1	30	30	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	103
Pakistan	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Philippines	23	-	1	-	-	1	11	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	4	-	37
South Korea	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	10
Thailand	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Vietnam	-	-	1	2	2	3	8	6	-	-	-	18	6	-	-	-	-	3	3	32
Sub total	24	3	21	59	7	68	179	18	88	20	5	70	21	0	15	12	20	112	12	419
EUROPE																				
Armenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Belarus	-	-	-	1	-	7	5	-	14	11	3	2	3	-	2	-	1	9	2	15
Belgium	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	-	6	4	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	6	-	11
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	0	2
MIDDLE EAST / NORTHERN AFRICA																				
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
Moldova	-	-	1	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	5
Russian Fed.	3	-	1	4	4	11	2	-	12	2	10	15	-	1	-	1	2	8	35	
Serbia	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Turkey	-	-	4	-	-	2	7	-	17	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	20
Turkmenistan	1	1	3	-	-	3	3	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Uzbekistan	-	-	9	7	2	8	22	1	28	13	-	8	5	-	-	-	-	9	7	46
Sub total	4	1	18	17	9	39	48	1	89	37	16	36	10	12	4	0	9	33	21	181
MIDDLE EAST / NORTHERN AFRICA																				
Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	1	2	7	-	16	-	-	1	-	3	2
Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	
Iraq	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Israel/ Occupied Palestinian Terr.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	2	-	7
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Libya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Morocco	-	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	14
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8	
Syria	-	-	1	6	-	1	11	-	9	2	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	8	-	15
Tunisia	-	-	1	19	-	4	1	1	5	-	-	9	1	-	7	-	1	-	34	
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Yemen	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Sub total	3	0	4	25	1	14	17	3	44	6	3	33	7	0	37	2	2	16	9	100
TOTAL	98	9	69	159	112	189	334	29	344	71	27	398	72	39	61	22	44	195	81	1311

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