



the social entrepreneur's

Security Toolkit

guide to anticipating, preventing
and responding to threats

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the **Security Toolkit**

is a publication of **Law for All**, an initiative of

Ashoka Innovators for the Public

www.ashoka.org | www.lawforall.ashoka.org





About Ashoka

Ashoka is the global association of leading social entrepreneurs – individuals with systems-changing solutions to the world’s most urgent social problems. Since its founding 26 years ago, Ashoka has provided start-up financing, professional support, and connections to a global network of more than 2000 leading social entrepreneurs, elected as Ashoka Fellows, in over 60 countries. Ashoka envisions a world where Everyone is a Changemaker: a world that responds quickly and effectively to social challenges, where each individual has the freedom, confidence and societal support to address any social problem and drive change. For more information, visit www.ashoka.org.

About Law for All

Ashoka’s Law for All initiative empowers individuals to enjoy their, rights, dignity, and voice as full citizens. Law for All draws on the insights and expertise of Ashoka’s community of entrepreneurs to strengthen equity, justice, and social inclusion. We envision a world in which the law applies equally to every individual, where all people may participate actively and openly in the decisions that affect their lives. Fellow Security is a program of the Law for All initiative. Visit www.lawforall.ashoka.org.

About this Toolkit

This toolkit is a synthesis of the collective expertise and insights of the extended Ashoka community. It is very much a work-in-progress! Therefore, we appreciate your feedback! Please send your recommendations to safety@ashoka.org.



June 2008

Dear Friends,

Social change is complicated. Private political, economic, and special interest groups try to intervene in the work and lives of individuals promoting such social change. In recent years, social entrepreneurs, activists, and other human rights defenders around the world have experienced an escalation in both the persistence and severity of threats.

Those most at risk are not simply individuals explicitly expanding civil and political rights. Leaders promoting education, economic development, healthcare, environmental conservation, and opportunities for poor and marginalized communities are increasingly vulnerable. They have been threatened, their phone lines and email tapped, fabricated legal charges drawn against them, and – along with their family and colleagues – they have been interrogated, tortured, abused, or killed.

Ashoka launched its Fellow Security Program in July 2005 to define what Ashoka – Fellows, staff, partners, and friends – can do to protect Ashoka Fellows, and by extension their families, colleagues, and the communities they serve. This Security Toolkit is a product of these conversations. Drawing on the experience and advice of Ashoka Fellows, staff, and partner organizations around the world, this toolkit is designed as a resource for all individuals pursuing social change.

Following these suggestions of course cannot guarantee your safety. But we hope that they help you minimize the risks in your work – and know how to respond quickly, should the need arise.

Take care, and with much appreciation,

~ Ashoka's Law for All team
Ashoka: Innovators for the Public



Contents

- I Quick Guide - 7**
 - Safety Checklist
 - Security Barometer

- II Anticipate - 13**
 - Consider Context
 - Assess Potential Threats
 - Develop an Emergency Plan

- III Prevent - 17**
 - Counter-Surveillance Strategies
 - Home, Office, and In Between
 - Information and Communication
 - Taking Care of Yourself

- IV Respond - 27**
 - Documentation and Reporting
 - Urgent Action

- V Additional Resources - 29**
 - Citizen Sector Organizations
 - Legal Networks
 - International Mechanisms
 - Online Resources

Quick Guide

Safety Checklist

ANTICIPATE

1 Analyze Local Context

- Socio-Political. What's happening around you?
- Geography. Where are you / your colleagues most vulnerable?
- Activities. What activities put you at most risk?

2 Assess Potential Threats

- Who, besides yourself, may be at risk?
- What type of threats are they most likely to face? From whom?
- With what urgency? (Where do they fall on the security barometer?)

3 Create an Emergency Plan

- Ensure your families / colleagues understand security risks, precautions, and procedures
- Establish regular, safe communication with a trustworthy ally
- Identify safe-houses and plan evacuation route
- Ensure travel documents & bank information are up to date

PREVENT

1 Adopt Safety Measures

- Counter-surveillance tactics
- Home & office security (location, guards, alarms, cameras, etc.)
- Communication and Document Security (email, phone, computers)
- Taking care of yourself (trauma and psychosocial support)

2 Identify local resources. For example...

- local human rights networks
- media or universities
- police or justice system
- government or embassies

RESPOND

1 Document all Threats

- Nature of threats against you
- Perpetrator information
- Responses taken or planned
- Context

2 Report

- Alert your external ally
- Write an official statement or letter
- Inform relevant human rights networks (if needed)

3 Do you need...

- legal assistance?
- medical attention?
- psychosocial support?
- evacuation / relocation?
- emergency funding?

Security Barometer

Level	What's Happening?	What can you do?
<p>Level I</p>	<p>Normal Operations</p> <p>Context Social, political, and economic context in the region is stable</p> <p>Target Civil society leaders are not being threatened and are not in direct danger</p> <p>Vulnerability Work may proceed as normal</p>	<p>General Security Precautions</p> <p>Anticipate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify vulnerabilities and potential threats • Consider who else around you may be at risk • Develop an emergency plan • Prepare a list of emergency contacts • Ensure family and colleagues understand risks, security precautions, and emergency procedures. • Keep travel docs. and bank info. close, current <p>Prevent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay alert; note anything out of the ordinary • Identify trustworthy allies and partners within your community, citizen organizations, government entities, businesses, or media • Choose home and office locations carefully • Share your address and phone with discretion • Discuss travel and work plans cautiously • Consider that communication systems may be tapped (e.g. email, cell phones, and land-lines)

Level	What's Happening?	What can you do?
<p data-bbox="146 1365 171 1474">Level 2</p> <p data-bbox="455 1349 533 1403" style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">2</p>	<p data-bbox="146 954 171 1263">Insecure Environment</p> <p data-bbox="221 1143 245 1263">Context Social, political, or economic instability</p> <p data-bbox="334 1166 358 1263">Target Violent incidents or threats directed at other social change leaders, which could reach you, your family, or colleagues</p> <p data-bbox="536 1084 560 1263">Vulnerability Work of continues normally, though operating with additional security precautions</p>	<p data-bbox="146 526 171 824">Prevention Strategies</p> <p data-bbox="217 678 241 824">Anticipate</p> <ul data-bbox="253 240 341 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Level 1 precautions as routine practice. • Distinguish between direct and indirect threats • Review and revise emergency plan. <p data-bbox="387 716 411 824">Prevent</p> <ul data-bbox="423 228 767 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate anything out of the ordinary • Deal with people on “need to know” basis • Increase your visibility through public press presence • Strengthen relationships with support networks • Avoid registering office, homes, or cars in your name • Publicize address / phone no. with discretion • Vary routines, particularly to and from work • Avoid travel alone, particularly to public events • Avoid private meetings with unknown individuals • Investigate possible phone or email tapping • Use secure communication & info storage systems <p data-bbox="812 704 837 824">Respond</p> <ul data-bbox="849 266 969 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Document threats or incidents around you; store your documentation in a secure location • Alert a trustworthy ally – ideally someone able to intervene, should your situation escalate.

Level	What's Happening?	What can you do?
<p data-bbox="150 1377 171 1474">Level 3</p> <p data-bbox="458 1357 533 1403">3</p>	<p data-bbox="150 1105 171 1263">Direct Risk</p> <p data-bbox="224 1143 245 1263">Context Serious social, political, or economic unrest; permanent changes to government institutions or rule of law</p> <p data-bbox="389 1170 410 1263">Target Specific threats directed at you, your family, colleagues, or clients</p> <p data-bbox="517 1084 538 1263">Vulnerability You face a significant risk, and lack of an adequate response may result in direct harm to you, your family, or colleagues.</p>	<p data-bbox="150 483 171 824">Risk Mitigation Measures</p> <p data-bbox="219 716 240 824">Prevent</p> <ul data-bbox="251 224 607 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Levels 1 and 2 precautions as routine • Respond defensively; employ “counter-intelligence” to investigate and anticipate threats • Back off your work and lower public profile • Strengthen home & office security, (eg. alarms, guards) • Screen new staff members carefully • Avoid going out at night; when you do, stay alert • Have friends “accompany” you by phone as you travel • Include caller ID on your phone, noting unusual calls • Change cell phone numbers frequently (e.g. monthly) • Consider trauma support <p data-bbox="644 704 666 824">Respond</p> <ul data-bbox="676 228 900 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Document everything • Never respond with violence • Publicize threats and incidents – provided you can do so safely – so that aggressive acts don’t remain hidden • Request and share support letters from allies • Confirm evacuation strategy for yourself and family, • Maintain regular updates with external supporters

Level	What's Happening?	What can you do?
<p data-bbox="150 1377 176 1474">Level 4</p> <div data-bbox="380 1349 458 1403" style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; font-weight: bold; color: white;">4</div>	<p data-bbox="150 1105 181 1263">Emergency</p> <p data-bbox="227 1170 256 1263">Target An incident has occurred, where you, your family, colleagues, or organization are the direct targets</p> <p data-bbox="407 1089 439 1263">Vulnerability The incident may include:</p> <ul data-bbox="476 1036 692 1263" style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeat threats - Arrest - Prison / Detention - Kidnapping - Torture - Attacks - Assassination 	<p data-bbox="150 477 181 824">Activate Emergency Plan</p> <p data-bbox="219 704 251 824">Respond</p> <ul data-bbox="256 240 543 824" style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the situation immediately • Alert your allies and supporters • Take a low profile; go into hiding or evacuate the region if necessary • Take local action through organizations who protect and defend human rights defenders. • Consider international alerts • Seek legal assistance • Find professional counseling / trauma support

Anticipate

Anticipate

If you can **anticipate threats** before they happen, you will be best equipped to **protect yourself**. Stay alert to what is happening around you: How will current events, special interests, and your own activities affect you, your work, and those close to you?

A. CONSIDER CONTEXT

Socio-Political

- What circumstances might cause social or political unrest that could affect your work? (ex. elections, strikes, recessions, natural disasters, etc.)

Geography

- Where within your radius of work are you or your colleagues most vulnerable? (ex. particular neighborhoods, cities, districts, etc.)

Activities

- What actions or campaigns put you, your colleagues, or family at risk?

B. ASSESS POTENTIAL THREATS

Who is most vulnerable?

- Consider yourself, your family, colleagues, and the communities you are working with

What threats are most imminent?

- *Direct threats*: targeted attempts to impede your work
- *Indirect threats*: crime, armed conflict, or other social unrest

From whom? For example:

- Police, military, or political entities
- Opposition, guerilla, or militant groups
- Private economic interests
- Religious or cultural groups
- Others threatened by your work

With what urgency?

- Where do you fall on the Security Barometer?

C. CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency Contacts

- Prepare list of emergency contacts, stored securely & accessibly
- Identify a trustworthy ally in a less vulnerable situation as your primary emergency contact
- Maintain access to secure, reliable means of communication
- Choose code words for safe emergency communications
- Make sure your family, friends, and colleagues know what to do in case of emergency

Evacuation

- Ensure your travel documents are current (passports, visas, support letters, and bank account information)
- Keep a packed bag ready for quick departure
- Plan an evacuation route

To Assess a Threat

- 1 what are the *facts* surrounding the threat(s)?
- 2 is there a *pattern* of threats over time?
- 3 what is the *objective* of the threat?
- 4 *who* is making the threat?
- 5 is it likely the threat can be put into *action*

(adapted from [Protection Handbook for Human Rights Defenders](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals/), published by Front Line. [www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals.](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals/))

Prevent

You will not be a part of the decision if an attack comes. Those interested in attacking you will look at your activities and routines, including both your public and private life, to decide where and how to attack you. They will choose whatever is easiest for them, and will aim to disorient you with the element of surprise.

The best way to prevent security incidents is to be alert and prepared. This section outlines strategies for heightening your awareness and defending against potential attacks. Your staff and family should also be familiar with these strategies, as their actions and inactions may jeopardize your own, or their, security,

A. COUNTER-SURVEILLANCE

No one will attack you without observing you first. They may gather information over days, weeks, even months. Pay close attention to everything around you to catch others observing you.

Keep your eyes open. Be particularly vigilant around...

- places that feel most comfortable: where you relax, eat, meet, etc.
- security “choke-points” – places in your routine where you must slow down (ex. approaching your office or home driveway)
- people close to you who may leak valuable information (ex. “moles” in your organization, parking attendants, or custodial staff)

Respond defensively

- Ask trusted family members or neighbors to help you observe anything suspicious (ex. new people, changes in behaviors, or attitudes)
- Share information on a “need-to-know” basis
- Increase visibility: maintain a public presence, when safe to do so.
- Make yourself a hard target: vary routines, go into hiding, or seek others to accompany you
- “shake and lose” anyone you feel may be following you: make a sudden stop or turn, enter a store, etc. and watch the reaction

- if you surrender, don't release information that may further jeopardize you or your colleagues
- work through your state of fear / trauma quickly so that your attackers can't take further advantage of your disorientation.

Build Relationships

- Secure the trust and support of those around you (ex. neighbors, parking attendants, custodial staff, your constituents)
- identify trustworthy allies within
 - the communities you work in, with, and on behalf of
 - government
 - police
 - justice system
 - embassies
 - international institutions
 - human rights networks
 - universities
 - media
 - private business
- partner with like-minded org.'s to present a stronger, unified effort
- find a trustworthy ally – ideally someone outside your organization or region – who can intervene should your situation escalate

B. HOME, OFFICE AND IN BETWEEN

As most of your time is spent at or between your home and office, they demand special attention. They are also among the places where you are most vulnerable.

Note that to heighten surprise, well-orchestrated attacks may be disguised as accidents. For example: a seemingly “random” criminal attack in a public setting; a house fire; a car crash resulting from prior vehicular tampering; illness induced by poisons slipped into common foods or medicines.

Choose Home and Office locations carefully

- Well-lit
- Secure parking
- Access to public transportation
- Avoid one-way or dead-end streets
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- Consider apartments with guarded access
- Position doors and windows to allow easy exit if needed

Protect your address

- Use post office boxes for your mailing addresses
- Avoid listing your office address on websites and letterhead
- Avoid registering office space, homes, or cars in your own name
- Avoid signs outside your office to maintain a lower profile

Monitor entrance into your home or office

- Security alarms
- Buzzers and closed-circuit cameras for screening visitors
- Guards (from a reputable security company)
- Screen new staff members carefully

Travel safely

- Share travel plans judiciously: not in public; close to departure
- Vary routes and routines to deter those observing your actions.
- Inspect for tampering when approaching your car

Note all tampering will leave a mark, ex. a change in wheel position, or dripping brake fluid

- avoid traveling alone, particularly to public events. Invite a friend, the media, a police officer or trusted official to accompany you
- avoid going out at night (esp. to bars, clubs); when you do, stay alert
- ask friends to “accompany” you by phone as you travel, so they know when to expect you and how to intervene if needed; share your timing, not your route
- avoid meeting unknown individuals in private or isolated locations

C. SECURE COMMUNICATION / INFORMATION

Assume that all email and phone communications may be monitored. Most threats to information security are non-technical: unprotected passwords, leaked information, stolen documents. Technical threats include tapped phone and email correspondence; viruses and spyware; and other forms of digital surveillance. Those monitoring you may be seeking information on your movements and actions; details of your partners and constituents; or compromising documents.

Protect your information

- Passwords protect information on your personal computer
- Logout fully from public computers (eg. Internet cafes); these computers may be more easily monitored
- Back up important files in a secure physical or virtual location outside of the office.
- Delete, shred, or burn sensitive documents that are no longer needed.

Note wastebaskets may reveal not only information but also personal food or product preferences that could be used against you

- Avoid keeping work-related papers in your house
- Be judicious in accepting materials from unknown individuals; others may be waiting to “catch” or frame you with compromising information

Phone

- Get caller identification; record all suspicious or unfamiliar numbers
- Change cell phone numbers frequently
- Avoid sharing travel details by phone

Secure online communications

- Skype (www.skype.com) – secure voice and instant messaging; free.
- Hushmail (www.hushmail.com) – encrypted email services; free
- Spybot (www.safer-networking.org/en/home/) – anti-adware/spyware
- Martus (www.martus.org) – human rights bulletin system

*For more information, see: **Additional Resources***

D. TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

Human-induced trauma is one of the most prevalent yet least addressed elements of insecurity. Aggressors may try to exploit trauma symptoms, hoping that the feelings of powerlessness will deter you from your work.

Two types of trauma are common:

- **primary trauma:** direct experience of threat, intimidation, or assault; disappearance of family or friends, exposure to violence, etc.
- **secondary trauma:** indirect exposure from working with individuals with such experiences

While traumatic incidents are experienced individually, they often have collective elements. Incidents are designed to intimidate or eliminate individuals, control groups, and tear the social fabric. Such trauma may yield further violence if victims become perpetrators.

Recognize symptoms of trauma in yourself as well as your family, colleagues, and community. You will then be best positioned to help them recognize and manage the effects of trauma, and support their wellbeing and healing as best as possible under the circumstances.

Common symptoms of trauma

- nightmares, flashbacks, intrusive thoughts and images of the traumatic incident while awake
- depression, demoralization; feeling disconnected and numb
- inability to concentrate
- distrust, fear
- episodes of heart pounding, sweating, shortness of breath
- anger, aggression
- feeling acutely alert or “on guard”
- feeling vulnerable or powerless
- overlooking or otherwise disregarding new risky behaviors (eg. exposing family to threat, increased alcohol use, impulsive sexual encounters, not heeding security precautions.)

Transforming Trauma

- Recognize the symptoms and effects of trauma
- Remember that these are normal reactions to extreme circumstances; they are not signs that you are weak or sick
- Share this awareness with others
- Talk with trusted colleagues or friends, to relieve stress and brainstorm strategies
- Be a survivor, not a victim
- Maintain strong conviction & hope focused towards your ultimate goal
- Differentiate between what you can control and what you cannot control; focus on those actions and behaviors you can control
- Understand what those around you may be experiencing; help them work through their trauma

Sustain Yourself

- Maintain a balance between your personal and professional life, with time for rest, exercise, and good nutrition
- Rest or relax at least a few hours each day, and every once in a while for a few days or weeks.
- Use humor, and laugh every day
- Identify friends with whom you can talk about your concerns, ideally others in similar work who will understand your situation
- Keep an eye out for changes in your personal attitude (depression, frustration, etc.), as these may be signs of trauma or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Consult a reliable therapist or psychologist, religious community, or other support group with whom to work through your trauma
- Remind yourself why you do what you do: what is your energy, your source of motivation and inspiration?

Respond

When an incident happens, respond immediately. The following section offers recommendations for documenting incidents as they occur, and taking urgent action.

A. DOCUMENT AND REPORT

Your credibility when denouncing threats and security incidents depends on the detail and accuracy of your information. Clearly and thoroughly document everything as it happens, citing sources where possible.

Present objective information that links your and your organization's activities to the threats you receive. Such documentation demonstrates that the threats are intended to disrupt or deter your work. Documentation may be used to present your situation to local authorities, international organizations, or the press.

Consider the following guidelines for documentation and reports (adapted from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights standards):

1. Personal Information

- Full Name
- Age
- Gender
- Place of Residence
- Profession
- Description of your work
- International recognition, awards, public presence (what / when)

2. Nature of Threats

- Date
- Location
- Description of threat or incident
- Relationship between the incident and your work
- Cite sources – newspapers, legal decisions, published reports – on your work, security situation, and incidents

If you, a colleague, or family member is detained, also identify:

- Date and place where detention took place
- Authority responsible (person, ministry, or department)
- Circumstances leading up to the detention
- Nature of charges and legal proceedings, including possible appeals

- Penalties or sentences that could be imposed
- Length and location of detention (if known)
- Possibility of receiving assistance or family visits
- The court/tribunal familiar with the case
- Any measures adopted to ensure legal recourse

3. Authors – who is responsible?

- Name (if known)
 - Group (if known)
 - If security forces, include rank, function, unit
 - If paramilitary or armed group, include relationship to the state

4. Measures Adopted

- Was an official accusation or public statement made?
 - If yes, when, where, who presented it, and to which authorities?
- Other entities (human rights organizations, etc.) informed or involved
- Other measures taken

If authorities are involved

- Have investigations begun or concluded? By what authority?
- Status of investigation at point when public accusation made
- Result of investigation (ex. accusation or legal measures)
- Measures adopted by government to protect those under threat

5. Context

- Is the threat due to a combination of conditions, laws, policies and practices (as opposed to a single incident)? Describe these policies
- How have they been used to disrupt your work
- By what institutions
- What measures have been or may be adopted to change these policies

6. Responsible Authorities

- Contact information for the authorities responsible for investigating the acts being denounced and enforcing any outcomes
- If organizing a letter-writing campaign, also include the contact information for the person leading the campaign

For additional information see www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/7/b/mdef.htm

B. URGENT ACTION

If you face a direct threat or security incident

1. **Document the situation** including all threats or incidents
2. **Alert** your external allies and supporters
3. **Write an official letter** or statement
Note Public statements are not always the safest option; consider carefully before publicizing
4. **Take a low profile:** go into hiding, or evacuate the region if necessary
5. **Research and take local action** through organizations specializing in protecting human rights defenders
6. Consider an **international alert** or urgent appeal to put pressure on responsible authorities.
7. **Seek legal assistance** from public interest or pro bono attorneys
8. **Find professional counseling** or trauma support
9. Seek **financial assistance** for emergency security measures, legal or medical fees, or evacuation

Additional Resources

Additional Resources

A. CITIZEN SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS

Amnesty International

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes!

Description: Amnesty International leads a global movement of research, solidarity, and action on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Amnesty International campaigns to end discrimination, abuse, and infringements on human rights, physical and mental integrity, and the freedom of thought and expression.

Web site: www.amnesty.org

New York, Tel: (+1) 212 807-8400

London, Tel: (+44) 20-74135500

Asian Human Rights Commission

Where: East Asia; South & Southeast Asia

Type of Threat: Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Bahasa, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes!

Description: The Asian Human Rights Commission monitors, investigates, advocates, and takes solidarity action around human rights violations across Asia. AHRC's Urgent Appeal Programme mobilizes thousands of individuals to speak out around particular cases. (Directed by Ashoka Fellow Basil Fernando.)

Web site: www.ahrchk.net

Hong Kong, Tel: 852-2698 6339

Email: ahrchk@ahrchk.org

Committee to Protect Journalists

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: English

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The Committee to Protect Journalists promotes press freedom worldwide by defending the rights of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. CPJ reveals abuses against the press, acts on behalf of imprisoned or threatened journalists, and warns journalists of attacks on press freedom. CPJ's Journalist Assistance Program offers emergency support around medical attention, relocation, legal aid, and evacuation.

Web site: www.cpj.org

New York, Tel: (+1) 212 465-1004

Email: JournAsst@cpj.org

Conectas

Where: Brazil; Latin America, Africa, Asia

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination

Eligible: Human Rights advocates (activists and academics)

Language: English, Portuguese, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: Conectas' *Justice Program* supports strategic litigation and pro bono legal services to support vulnerable groups and victims of human rights violations. Conectas' *Global South Program* links human rights academics and activists in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to share knowledge, connect them to the UN, and strengthen the new generation of human rights defenders. (Directed by Ashoka Senior Member Oscar Vilhena.)

Web site: conectas.org

Sao Paulo, Tel: (+5511) 3884-7440

Email: conectas@conectas.org

CIVICUS & Civil Society Watch

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: English

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: CIVICUS strengthens civil society and civic action around the world through an international alliance of more than 1000 members across 100 countries. Civil Society Watch (CSW) mobilizes rapid responses in situations in which rights and liberties of citizens are threatened or limited. CSW makes statements of protests, letter-writing campaigns, press campaigns, public marches, and missions to verify acts of violations of rights.

Web sites: www.civicus.org; www.civilsocietywatch.org

Emails: info@civicus.org; cswatch@civicus.org

South Africa, Tel: (+27 11) 833-5959

Federation for Human Rights

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: FIDH works with over 141 non-governmental organizations in over 100 countries towards improvements in victim protection, prevention of human rights violations, and judicial punishment of perpetrators. Over the past 25 years they have organized over 1000 missions in 100 countries. FIDH works closely with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) through its Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Web site: www.fidh.org

Paris, Tel: (+33) 1 43 55 25 18

Front Line

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights

Language: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes!

Description: Front Line protects Human Rights Defenders through a 24 hour emergency hotline (phone and encrypted email), international advocacy, security training and training manuals, grants and fellowships (including emergency funding), and evacuation support. Front Line's Dublin Platform links grassroots human rights defenders with UN mechanisms, international human rights networks, and each other.

Web site: frontlinedefenders.org

Dublin, Tel: (+353) 1 212 3750

Email: info@frontlinedefenders.org

Brussels, Tel: (+32) 2 230 93 83

Secure Online Communication: web <https://secure.hyperlink.ie/frontline/comment.en.html>

24 hour emergency support, Tel: (+353) 1 21 00 489

Fund for Global Human Rights

Where: India, Pakistan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Mexico, Guatemala, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Arabic, English, French, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: The Fund for Global Human Rights channels financial resources to on-the-ground human rights organizations, strengthening human rights movements and communities around the world. The Fund for Global Human Rights pools funding from international donors, funds local and regional human rights groups, and creates networks to link often isolated activists.

Web site: www.globalhumanrights.org

Washington, DC, Tel: (+1) 202 347-7488

Email: info@globalhumanrights.org

Human Rights First

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: English

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: Human Rights First protects people at risk, including victims of human rights violations and discrimination. Their Human Rights Defenders program supports human rights defenders targeted for threats and attack through advocacy and mobilizing their volunteer network.

Web site: www.humanrightsfirst.org **New York, Tel:** (+1) 212 845-5200

Human Rights Watch

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: Human Rights Watch stands with victims and activists to prevent discrimination, uphold political freedom, protects people from inhumane conduct in wartime, and brings offenders to justice by exposing human rights violations and holding abusers accountable. HRW's principal advocacy strategy is to shame offenders through press attention, exert diplomatic and economic pressure, and build coalitions around specific human rights issues.

Web site: www.hrw.org
Email: hrwnyc@hrw.org

New York, Tel: (+1) 212-290-4700

International Service for Human Rights

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: English

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: ISHR provides information, training, and support to human rights defenders around the world. Their Human Rights Defenders Offices strengthens UN procedures to support Human Rights Defenders, and is promoting similar mechanisms in Africa and the Americas. They do not take urgent appeals, as they focus on training and aggregating knowledge.

Web site: www.ishr.ch

Geneva, Tel: (+41) 22 733 51 23

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: English, various

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The Observatory is among the largest coalitions of NGOs (nearly 300 local, national, and regional organizations) fighting against arbitrary detention and executions, torture, forced disappearances, and other forms of violence. The Observatory has denounced and stopped attacks against human rights defenders through urgent appeals, fact-finding missions, lobbying, training, and reports. They do take urgent appeals.

Web site: www.omct.org click on "Human Rights Defenders"

Email: omct@omct.org

Switzerland, Tel: (+41) 22 809 4939

Peace Brigades International

Where: Latin America; South & Southeast Asia; Eastern Europe & Central Asia; North America

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Imprisonment, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: Peace Brigades International offers protective accompaniment to human rights organizations to deter potential attacks and provide moral support. While PBI does not work directly for threatened organizations, they build international support networks and pressure governments to protect their citizens. PBI also supports Peace Education Programs.

Web site: www.peacebrigades.org

London, Tel: +44 20 7065 0775

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights and Urgent Action Fund Africa

Where: Global

Type of Threat: Threats of Violence, Physical Assault, Imprisonment, Lawsuit, Infringement on Rights, Discrimination, Attack on Freedom of Expression

Language: Arabic, Albanian, Bahasa, English, French, Nepali, Spanish, Russian,

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes!

Description: UAF and UAF-Africa operate Rapid Response Grantmaking programs to support women activists around: a) peace-building in situations of armed conflict, escalating violence, or politically volatile environments; b) potentially precedent-setting legal and legislative actions; and c) protection of women human rights defenders. Their Research, Publications, and Advocacy program is a resource for activists, funders, and allies of women's human rights activism.

Web site: www.urgentactionfund.org

USA, Tel: (+1) 303 442-2388 (all requests outside Africa)

Kenya, Tel: (+254) 20 2931095 (all requests in Africa)

Email: urgentact@urgentactionfund.org;

proposal@urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke

Witness

Where: Global

Language: English

Accept Urgent Appeals? No

Description: WITNESS uses video and online technologies to open the eyes of the world to human rights violations. We empower people to transform personal stories of abuse into powerful tools for justice, promoting public engagement and policy change. WITNESS regularly conducts on-site trainings with our Core Partners, teaching them how to document human rights abuses safely and effectively with video and how to use video to further their advocacy goals.

Web Site: www.witness.org

New York, Tel: (+1) 718.783.2000

B. LEGAL NETWORKS

Advocates for International Development (A4ID)

Description: Advocates for International Development (A4ID) mobilizes the skills and expertise of the legal profession to combat poverty and inequality of opportunity worldwide. A4ID promotes awareness of social, economic, and legal issues while strengthening the capacity of citizen sector organizations.

Web site: www.a4id.org

Email: info@a4id.org

Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice

Where: Latin America, Africa, Global

Description: The Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice supports lawyers worldwide who promote access to justice, equitable judicial systems, socially-oriented public policies, and confidence in the legal profession. The Vance Center championed the Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas and manages the Global Network for Justice Initiatives (GNJI).

Web site: www.nycbar.org/VanceCenter/index.htm; www.gnji.net

New York, Tel: (+1) 212 382-4718

Human Rights Law Network

Where: India, South Asia

Description: HRLN uses the legal system to advance human rights. HRLN lawyers collaborate with human rights organizations and grass-roots development collectives to defend the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups. HRLN provides pro bono legal services and conducts public interest litigation, engages in advocacy and campaigns, conducts legal awareness programs, investigates violations, and publishes “Know Your Rights” materials.

Web site: www.hrln.org

New Delhi, Tel: +91-11-24374501, 24376922

International Senior Lawyers Project

Where: Global

Description: ISLP provides volunteer legal services from skilled and experienced attorneys to advance democracy and the rule of law, protect human rights and promote equitable economic development worldwide. Through the pro bono work of retired and active practitioners, working independently and in law firms, ISLP helps governments and citizens develop and implement legal reforms, assists programs that advance the social and economic well-being of people in developing countries, and builds the capacity of local organizations and professionals to meet the needs of their communities.

Web site: www.islp.org

New York, Tel: (+1) 212 895-1359

Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation

Description: The Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation engages Lex Mundi’s global network of 160 top-tier business law firms present in over 100 countries to provide pro bono legal assistance to social entrepreneurs.

Web site: www.lexmundiprobono.org

Washington, DC, Tel: (+1) 202 429-8169

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Where: Central & Eastern Europe, Russia

Description: PILI advances human rights around the world by stimulating public interest advocacy and developing the institutions necessary to sustain it. PILI is strengthening the use of law as an instrument for achieving social justice.

Web site: www.pili.org

Budapest, Tel: (+36) 1 461-5700

Moscow, Tel: (+7) 795 628 00 20

New York, Tel: (+1) 212 803-5381

C. INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS

In addition to citizen sector organizations, inter-governmental institutions offer additional support to human rights defenders and individuals who have suffered human rights violations.

U. N. Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders

Where: Global

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders supports and gathers information on behalf of human rights defenders around the world. The Special Representative operates in complete independence of any state, is not a UN staff member, and does not receive a salary.

Web site: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/>

Geneva, Tel: (+41) 22 917 1234

Email a complaint: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Additional Resources:

- Guidelines for submitting complaints <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/complaints.htm>
- UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/declaration.htm>

U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Where: Global

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) promotes and protects the enjoyment and full realization by all people of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Web site: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/defenders/>

Geneva, Tel: (+41) 22 917 0656

Email a complaint: civilsocietyunit@ohchr.org

Additional Resources:

- Universal Decl. of Human Rights <http://www.unhcr.ch/udhr/index.htm>
- International human rights instruments www2.ohchr.org/english/law/

Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (Washington, DC) and Inter-American Court of Human Rights (San Jose)

Where: the Americas

Languages: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The Inter-American Commission a) receives, analyzes, and investigates petitions alleging human rights violations; b) observes the general human rights situation in member states; c) carries out on-site visits to analyze specific situations; and d) submits cases to the Inter-American Court for litigation. The Inter-American Court issues and enforces judgments. Both are comprised of representatives from members of the Organization of American States.

Note: Individuals and citizen sector organizations may directly petition the Inter-American Commission, only after exhausting all options within their State to address the situation.

Web Sites: Inter-American Commission www.cidh.org
Inter-American Court www.corteidh.or.cr

African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Where: Africa

Languages: English, French

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: The African Commission promotes and protects human rights across Africa through investigations of alleged violations, recommendations to the State(s) involved, and ensuring appropriate measures are taken. Recommendations are submitted to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to monitor compliance.

Note: Individuals, citizen sector organizations, and States party to the African Charter may directly petition the Inter-American Commission, only after exhausting all options within their State to address the situation.

Web Sites: African Commission www.achpr.org **Banjul, Tel 220 39 29 62**
Africa Union (Addis Ababa) www.africa-union.org

European Court of Human Rights

Where: Europe

Languages: English, French

Accept Urgent Appeals? Yes

Description: the European Court of Human Rights ensures that States respect the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Court examines complaints (known as “applications”) lodged by individuals, and issues binding judgments where the State is found in violation of these rights.

Note: Individuals may file complaints directly to the Court, only after exhausting all options within their State to address the situation.

Web Site: www.echr.coe.int/ECHR

International Criminal Court

Description: Founded in part by the United Nations and based in The Hague, the International Criminal Court tries individuals accused of international crimes including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. Only States and the international community can bring cases to the ICC. The ICC is an independent body and is based on a treaty, joined by 105 countries.

Web Site: www.icc-cpi.int

D. ONLINE RESOURCES

Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders (Front Line) - www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals/protection

Additional Human Rights Manuals (Front Line) - www.frontlinedefenders.org/manuals

Digital Security and Privacy for Human Rights Defenders (Front Line) - www.frontlinedefenders.org/digital-security

NGO in a Box, Security Edition - www.security.ngoinabox.org/

Tactical Technology Collective -- www.tacticaltech.org

Notes





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In honor of all
**social entrepreneurs &
changemakers**
who tirelessly and fearlessly
pursue social change

In memory of
Faraz Ahmed Naveed
and all those who have died
struggling for justice

the social entrepreneur's

Security Toolkit

guide to anticipating, preventing
and responding to threats



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