

# Study Guide

**Legal Committee**

Protection of Human Right Defenders

**Legal**

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Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the fifth edition of Carmelitas Model United Nations. Our names are Enrique Rodríguez and Marcelo Dávila and we have the honor to be your directors in the Legal Committee in CarMUN 2019. Cristóbal Gálvez and Luis Cuba, students from our school, will be the assistant directors and are just as excited as we are for this conference to start. We have very high expectations of you in committee and hope that you come with innovative solutions and a lot of desire to debate.

We are both former students from Carmelitas. We enjoy fast-paced conferences; therefore, we value a lot the dynamism and those little details that make you stand out in the conference. Above all, our favorite part of Model United Nations is choosing which strategy to use in order to adapt to the constant change of the conference, always maintaining diplomacy and teamwork, something we hope to see reflected on your participation on these three days of intense debate.

We expect to see you in committee full of energy and willingness to work together, respecting important issues regarding your policy and diplomacy. Both of us appreciate leadership and teamwork, so we hope to see that during the negotiations and drafting process.

The four of us are excited to meet all of you and engage in a fruitful debate. Hopefully, the committee will be able to pass a resolution that solves the problem given. If you have any doubts regarding the committee, study guide or anything regarding CarMUN 2019, please do not hesitate to send us a mail. We will gladly answer all your questions.

Good luck delegates! We will see you on October 25th!

Enrique Rodríguez & Marcelo Dávila  
Co-Directors of the Legal Committee

## LEGAL COMMITTEE

### Protection of Human Rights Defenders

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was promulgated on December the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, meant to be a common standard of achievement for all nations. However, this document was also the starting basis for further binding documents: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These documents are considered as part of the International Bill of Rights.

The International Bill of Rights has been the motor of major development of human rights, for instance, protection of specific vulnerable groups (women, migrant workers, children and disabled people), protection of people from major human rights violations (genocide, discrimination, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, enforced disappearance), and the establishment of international responsibility of States to protect people in their jurisdiction from human rights violations committed by their agents or even private actors. Nonetheless, human rights are still challenged every single day in different parts of the world.

It is within this context that Human Rights Defenders appear. These are individuals who advocate for the protection of human rights, and for reparations, where violations have already been committed. However, Human Rights

Defenders constantly face harassment, threats and even death because of the ideas they stand for and the causes they defend. These ones as well, are human rights violations, and it is for this reason that the Legal Committee must address the situation that Human Rights Defenders are dealing with.



Figure 1: Human rights defenders  
Retrieved from: Commons Dreams, 2018

### I. HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Legal Committee is the sixth committee of the UN General Assembly. It serves as the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly. All the United Nations Member States are entitled to representation on the Legal Committee, as well as on the main committees of the General Assembly. On the other hand, Non-Member States with observer status in the General Assembly may attend and participate in the discussions being carried out.

Established in 1945, the General Assembly provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion between Member and Non-Member States by creating a space where the vote of all delegations weights the same in contrast with other UN organs, such as the Security Council. As the last committee registered in the structure of the General Assembly, the Legal Committee follows the articles of the UN Charter and has addressed a broad array of topics dealing with issues of international law, such as Criminal Accountability of UN officials on mission, Effects of armed conflicts on treaties, Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, Diplomatic protection, among other issues relevant to the UN agenda. Additionally, The Legal Committee reviews and discusses the Annual Reports of the International Law Commission (ILC), Reports of the UN Commission on International Trade Law, Ad-Hoc committees and main issues related to the compliance of UN past conventions and treaties.

## **II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:**

### **A. What is a Human Rights Defender (HRD)?**

On March 8, 1999, the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/53/144 adopted 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 (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders). This declaration recognized everyone's right "individually and in association with

others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels."

In this sense, it is possible to affirm that a Human Rights Defender (HRD) is someone who, individually or with others, act to promote or protect human rights. Moreover, anyone, regardless of their occupation, can be a human rights defender; they are identified primarily by what they do rather than by their profession. Some human rights defenders are professional human rights workers, lawyers working on human rights cases, journalists or media workers, trade unionists or development workers. It is important to note that human rights defenders are not only found within NGOs and intergovernmental organizations but might also, in some instances, be government officials, civil servants or members of the private sector.

#### 1. What are the objectives of HRDs?

To be a Human Rights Defender, a person can act to address any human rights on behalf of individuals or groups. Human Rights Defenders seek the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. In many cases, they sometimes address the rights of categories of persons, for example, women's rights, children's rights, the rights of indigenous persons, the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the rights of national, linguistic or sexual minorities.

## 2. Where do HRDs work?

Human rights defenders are active in every part of the world: in States that are divided by internal armed conflict, as well as States that are stable; in States that are non-democratic, as well as those that have a strong democratic practice; in States that are developing economically, as well as those that are classified as developed. They seek to promote and protect human rights in the context of a variety of challenges for everyone, by always accessing (or trying to) to most of the places where possible.

## 3. What does HRDs do?

Normally, HRDs work in their local community or in their country of residence. Some HRDs operate at regional and/or international levels, in which they monitor and supervise human rights. Additionally, some of them work within the United Nations, regional bodies, such as the European Union or Council of Europe, and in State Capitals.

On the other hand, HRDs investigate, gather information and report human rights violations. They may, for example, use lobbying strategies to bring their reports to the attention of the public and of key political and judicial officials with a view to ensuring that their investigative work is given consideration and that human rights violations are addressed. Most commonly, such work is conducted through human rights organizations, which periodically publish reports on their findings. However, information may also be gathered and

reported by an individual focusing on one specific instance of human rights abuse.

## **B. Common Roles of HRDs:**

A very large proportion of the activities of HRDs can be characterized as acting in support of victims of human rights violations. Investigating and reporting on violations can help end ongoing violations, prevent their repetition and assist victims in taking their cases to courts. Some defenders provide professional legal advice and represent victims in the judicial process. Others provide victims with counselling and rehabilitation support.

On the other hand, some HRDs focus on encouraging a Government as a whole to fulfill its human rights obligations, for example by publicizing information on the Government's record of implementation of human rights standards and monitoring progress made. Some defenders focus on good governance, advocating in support of democratization and an end to corruption and the abuse of power, and providing training to a population on how to vote and why their participation in elections is important.

Furthermore, HRDs make a major contribution, particularly through their organizations, to the implementation of international human rights treaties. Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations help to establish housing, health care and sustainable income-generation projects for poor and marginalized communities. They offer training in essential skills and

provide equipment such as computers to give communities improved access to information.

Finally, HRDs also focus on providing Human Rights Education. In some instances, education activities take the form of training for the application of human rights standards in the context of a professional activity, for example, by judges, lawyers, police officers, soldiers or human rights monitors. In other instances, education may be broader and involve teaching about human rights in schools and universities or disseminating information on human rights standards to the general public or to vulnerable populations.

### **III. CURRENT SITUATION:**

The United Nations main objective, among others, is to “encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”. To do so, the participation of non-state actors is crucial, especially that of HRDs. Hence, HRDs should become a tool for those who don’t have a voice and the knowledge to defend their own rights. But is regrettable that HDRs suffer a broad array of human rights violations, ranging from violent attacks to murders, violating their rights and leaving those who cannot defend themselves defenseless.

In 2018, Front Line Defenders, an organization specialized in the protection of “people who work, non-violently, for any or all rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reported that 321 HDRs were killed in at least 27

countries. This last report stresses that these attacks are not isolated events, but are preceded by judicial harassment, threats and physical attacks. Specifically, 49% of the people killed had previously received death threats and, as highlighted by Ecologists, “in most cases, the activists received neither the necessary protection nor the support from the state authorities.

Furthermore, according to the World Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, the objective of this was to identify the main areas of progress and the remaining challenges that needs to be addressed in relation to the implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Unfortunately, the Declaration continues to be incompletely implemented in almost all States.

#### **A. Conceptualization of the Term “Human Rights Defender”:**

The discussion of the situation of Human Rights Defenders and the rise in the usage of the term has increased dramatically over the past 20 years. Each country’s experiences reveal that there is a much wider set of individuals and groups identifying themselves as HRDs, using the term “Defenders” and engaged in the challenges of defending human rights.

On the other hand, despite the enactment of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, many HRDs remain unaware of or are unwilling to use the term and the Declaration until a situation of risk requires them to interact with the emerging human rights defender protective regime. Furthermore, the rights are expressed

individualistically, with little explicit attention to social or community rights. Difficulties in applying the term to communities, collectives and networks are more than troubling.

We must recall that the Declaration not only obligates States to protect the rights of HRDs and prevent violations of them, but also to promote these ones. In addition, the Declaration imposes independent obligations on States to adopt appropriate administrative and legal frameworks to support the defence of human rights and to educate State officials and the public at large about their rights. However, these measures apply individually, and not to groups or collectives. Thus, there is a void regarding the protection of communities who act as HRDs.

### **B. State Intervention on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders:**

In many countries, such as Venezuela or Syria, State officials are becoming increasingly critical of HRDs and their work. While they sustain that they respect the right to freedom of speech, State Officials question the legitimacy of HRDs and their work, while creating a hostile and dangerous environment for their work.

In some other countries, for instance, Colombia or China, even where State officials do not condemn HRDs, they are often silent when HRDs face criticism by powerful social, political and economic actors. This silence can contribute to an environment of impunity for those who

violate the rights of HRDs. It is crucial that States take a stance in support for the work of HRDs.

Provisions in national legislation regarding HRDs, such as Mexico's Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, which requires States officials to publicly support HRDs, are paramount to protect HRDs and protect their work.

### **C. Cases of Human Rights Defenders Around the World:**

#### **1. Marielle Franco:**

¡ *Valiente!*

“Mais um homicídio de um jovem que pode estar entrando para a conta da PM. Matheus Melo estava saindo da igreja. Quantos mais vão precisar morrer para que essa guerra acabe?”



Figure 2: Marielle Franco  
Retrieved from: Las Rojas. 2018

Marielle Francisco da Silva, known as Marielle Franco, was a Human Rights Activist, considered a symbol of the fight against social inequality, racism and homophobia in Brazil.

She began her advocacy work in defense of human rights of people from the favelas after the death of a friend who was killed because of a stray bullet during a shooting that involved police and drug traffickers in the Complex of the Tide,

neighborhood where Marielle was born and lived.

On March 14, 2018, Franco was back home after public gathering called “Young Black Women Are Moving the Structures,” when a group of assailants intercepted her car and opened fire. She received four bullet impacts on her head and died instantly.

Until this day, the causes of the murder are still unclear and, although two people have been captured, justice is still being sought.



Figure 3: Who killed Marielle Franco?  
Retrieved from: OnCuba News. 2018

## 2. Rigoberta Menchú:

*“La Paz no es solamente la ausencia de la guerra; mientras haya pobreza, racismo, discriminación y exclusión, difícilmente podremos alcanzar un mundo de paz”*



Figure 4: Rigoberta Menchú  
Retrieved from: Noticias ONU. 2018

Rigoberta Menchú is a Guatemalan human rights activist, whose fight for indigenous rights was recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize (1992).

Her childhood and youth were marked by the situation of Guatemala, in which poverty, racial discrimination and violent repression were the common currency. Under the military government of Fernando Romeo Lucas García (1978-1982), several members of her family were tortured and killed by the military or by the parallel police of the "death squads".

When her brother was only sixteen, he was victim of landowners who employed paid squads to take away the lands from the natives. In 1980, her father, Vicente Menchú, died with a group of 38 peasants who locked themselves in the embassy of Spain in an act of protest. The police set fire to the premises burning those inside them alive, including Rigoberta’s father. A short time later, her mother was kidnapped, tortured and killed by paramilitary groups.

While two of her sisters chose to join the guerrillas, Rigoberta Menchú initiated a peaceful campaign to denounce the Guatemalan regime and the systematic violation of human rights that the indigenous peasants were subject to, with no other ideology than the Christianity of revolutionary nuances of the "theology of liberation"; She also denounced the situation of indigenous women in Latin America.

To escape the repression, she went into exile in Mexico from where, through her autobiography, she made known to the world the injustices committed with her people and her process of awareness.

### 3. Malala Yousafzai:

*“I do not speak for myself, but for those whose voices cannot be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their right to live in peace. Their right to be treated with dignity. Their right to equal opportunities. Their right to education ”*



Figure 5: Malala, the girl who took a bullet for education  
Retrieved from: Infobae

Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan. She was born in an education-loving family, which showed her love for studies.

In 2007, when Malala was ten years old, the situation in her city changed radically. The Taliban began to control the zone and became the dominant force of northwestern Pakistan. Girls were banned from attending school, and cultural activities like dancing and watching television were prohibited. Suicide attacks were widespread, and the group made its opposition to a proper education for girls a cornerstone of its terror campaign. By the end of 2008, the Taliban had destroyed some 400 schools.

She was firmly decided to go to school and, with a firm belief in her right to an education, Malala faced up to the Taliban. With the help of her father, she started to criticize their tactics. “How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?” she once said on Pakistani TV.

Malala was 11 years old when she wrote her first BBC diary entry. Under the blog heading “I am afraid,” she described her fear of a war in her beautiful city, and her nightmares about being afraid to go to school because of the Taliban.

Pakistan’s war with the Taliban was fast approaching, and in 2009, Malala became an internally displaced person (IDP), after having been forced to leave her home and seek safety hundreds of miles away.

Seated on a bus heading home from school, Malala was talking with her friends about schoolwork. Two members of the Taliban stopped the bus and fired three shots at her. That same day, she was airlifted to England.

In October 2014, Malala, along with Indian children’s rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner. At age 17, she became the youngest person to receive this prize. Accepting the award, Malala reaffirmed that “This award is not just for me. It is for those forgotten children who want education. It is for those frightened children who want peace. It is for those voiceless children who want change.”

#### 4. Huseynov Brothers:

*“I live in Azerbaijan where I never saw democracy. The fundamental freedoms of democracy are freedom of expression, freedom of media, freedom of assembly, property rights, etc...”*



Figure 6: Emin Huseynov: Mehman under Strong Pressure

Retrieved from: Turan - 2019

Emin Huseynov is an Azerbaijani journalist and human rights activist. After studying economics in the Azerbaijan State University of Economics, he moved to work as journalist in Turan Information Agency. In this platform, in 2008, he reported about the breaking of peaceful rallies by the Azerbaijani police. Because of this, he was arrested and beaten, sustaining injuries to the brain. Furthermore, his life was jeopardized in 2015, as authorities aimed to repress him. He sought asylum in Switzerland, for which Azerbaijan stripped him of his nationality.

His brother Mehman Huseynov is also a Human Rights Activist, specially focused on corruption. He works for SANCAQ, a socio-political magazine, through which he launched “Hunt for Corrupt Officials”, a campaign directed at providing evidence of corruption amongst Azerbaijan's ruling establishment. On

Monday, January 9, 2017, following a publication of photographs of luxury properties allegedly owned by government officials, he was imprisoned and tortured. The day following his arrest, he was tried in a closed session, where he was imposed a fine. However, on March 3, 2017, a higher court condemned him to 2 years imprisonment for “slander”, as the government considered there were no signs of torture and that Mehman’s accusation was false.



Figure 7: Emin Huseynov: Freedom

Retrieved from: Human Rights House Foundation - 2019

#### IV. PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS:

##### A. Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms:

In 1984, the UN General Assembly began the preparation of a draft declaration to protect HRDs. Nonetheless, it wasn’t until 1998 when it concluded 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” (Declaration of Human Rights Defenders). This

document aimed to provide an impulse to the global human rights movement while protecting the role and guaranteeing the rights of HRDs.

The Declaration of Human Rights Defenders, as a resolution by the UNGA, is not a legally binding source of international law. Despite this, it includes several principles and rights that are based on human rights standards already in place in other legally binding instruments. Among these, there is the right to freedom of speech, which is paramount in the work that HRDs perform. Additionally, as the Declaration was adopted by consensus, it is possible to suggest that there is a strong commitment towards its implementation (a strong *opinion juris*). However, not all countries have incorporated provisions of the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders into their legislations.

## **B. International Measures:**

Over the past 20 years, there has been an interesting development range of innovative practices to protect HRDs and their work: the creation of international, regional and national mechanisms to protect HRDs and promote their work.

### **1. UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders:**

“Between 2000 and 2008, Hina Jilani was the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders.” However, in 2008, the UN Human Rights Council decided to institutionalize this position and appointed a Special

Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. “The protection of human rights defenders is the main concern of the Special Rapporteur. Protection is understood to include the protection of human rights defenders themselves and the protection of their right to defend and promote human rights.”

The first Special Rapporteur, appointed in 2008, was Margaret Sekaggya, who served until 2014. “During her mandate, she tried to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties faced by defenders due to their activities and especially about vulnerable groups such as the women human rights defenders.” Since June 2014, the UN Human Rights Council appointed the French lawyer Michel Forst.

### **2. Inter-American System to Protect Human Rights Defenders:**

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has appointed one of its commissioners, Mr. Francisco Eguiguren Praeli, from Peru, as Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. His office “provides support in the specialized analysis of petitions presented to the Inter-American Commission regarding alleged violations of the human rights of human rights defenders and of those who have a role in the justice system (justice operators).”

The Office of the Rapporteur is in charge of advocating for the implementation of precautionary measures before the Commission (these can also be requested by the Inter-American Court). Furthermore, the Rapporteur can also issue

Specialized Studies on the situation of HRDs (the last one was issued in 2018). Finally, the Rapporteur can also make visits to States.

On the other hand, since 2005, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has ruled on several cases regarding protection of HRDs. In 2005, the Court ruled on the case of *Huilca-Tecse v. Peru*, stating that Peru “failed to undertake a complete, impartial and effective investigation into the facts”, and this was a direct violation of the American Convention on Human Rights. However, perhaps the most prominent case regarding the protection of HRDs is *Kawas-Fernández v. Honduras*, in which the Court “[f]ound that the State was directly responsible for Ms. Kawas Fernández's death and the subsequent lack of investigation that took place, violating the American Convention on Human Rights”, prompting a major legislative reform so that Honduras could approve mechanisms to protect HRDs.

### 3. European Mechanisms:

The Council of Europe considers that protection of HRDs is an integral part of all Member States’ policies. This is why, in 2004, the Council adopted the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, which contain detailed recommendations on how to protect HRDs and promote their work.

Furthermore, the EU considers that political support to HRDs should go hand in hand with financial assistance, provided

through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

On the other hand, the Council of Europe has appointed a Commissioner for Human Rights, who “support for the work of human rights defenders, their protection and the development of an enabling environment for their activities”. In this sense, the Commissioner has constantly intervened as a third party in several HRD cases before the European Court of Human Rights, involving countries such as Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russia.

## V. BLOC POSITIONS:

### A. Europe:

Support for Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) is an integral part of the European Union's external policy on human rights. HRDs represent natural and indispensable allies in the promotion of human rights and democratization in their respective countries, in particular given the current worrying trend of the shrinking space for civil society.

### B. Asia:

While HRDs continue frontline work to promote and protect human rights, they themselves suffer repression by state and non-state actors. HRDs continue to become victims of serious human rights violations such as extrajudicial killing, enforced and involuntary disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, etc. The appointment in 2000 of Ms. Hina Jilani as the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General tasked to look into

the situation of HRDs was a ray of hope. She has the mandate to seek, receive, examine and respond to information on the situation of HRDs; dialogue and cooperate with governments and other actors to implement the Declaration; and recommend and follow up strategies to protect HRDs.

### **C. South and Central America:**

The American continent, in recent years, has had the highest figures of Human Rights Defenders' murders. For instance, the UN has recognized that Colombia presents the hardest landscape for HRDs, as, since the signature of the peace agreements in 2016, at least 777 social leaders and HRDs have been killed. Colombia is not only the country with more HRDs murders in the region, but it is also in the world, surpassing countries such as the Philippines. On the other hand, Venezuela, a country facing an acute political-economic crisis, officially reported that the activist Efrain Sierra Quintero died on Tuesday after he was injured during protests, Tachira Governor Jose Vielma Mora reported, raising Monday's death toll to five people. In a major panorama, at least 212 Human Rights Defenders were killed in Latin America in 2017, according to figures from the non-governmental organization Front Line Defenders.

### **D. North America:**

Since 2018, the US government has conducted an unlawful and discriminatory campaign of intimidation, threats, harassment, and criminal

investigations against people who defend the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on the US–Mexico border, Amnesty International said in a new report released 2 of July of 2019. The US authorities have subjected human rights defenders to warrantless surveillance, interrogations, invasive searches, travel restrictions, and, in isolated cases, a false arrest and unlawful detention. In so doing, they have violated the Constitution, US and international law, and DHS policies – all of which prohibit discriminatory restrictions of freedom of speech and expression. In some cases, US and Mexican authorities have reportedly collaborated in the unlawful restrictions against human rights defenders on their shared border.

### **E. Africa:**

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) delivered its statement on the situation of human rights in Africa, with a particular focus on Human Rights Defenders on October the 25th, 2018. In this statement, ISHR's Africa advocacy consultant Adélaïde Etong Kame commended the adoption of national Human Rights Defenders laws by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali. Subsequently, she invited the African Commission to closely monitor the implementation process of these protection laws, especially during the review of the periodic reports of these countries and during the promotion and protection visits in these countries. However, the statement noted that the situation of defenders in Africa remains of concern. Indeed, restrictions are imposed on the work of

Human Rights Defenders through the enactment of laws to control the funds they received, the adoption of anti-terrorism laws which limit the ability of the media and human rights activists to monitor and report on violence committed in the name of the fight against terrorism.

#### **F. Oceania:**

There is a robust civil society community in Australia and the country has held an annual civil society “Forum on Human Rights” for 20 years, which provides a consultation mechanism for human rights issues. In general, civil society organizations can be formed, resources raised, opinions voiced, and the government criticized. However, defenders of (and particularly those from) marginalized groups face barriers to participation in civil society. Defenders of indigenous rights, people on the move, and people of color face harmful public rhetoric and, occasionally, targeting by the state for repression. Many of the new and emerging restrictions on Human Rights Defenders arise from the State’s pursuit of its national security, including border control and anti-terrorism agendas.

#### **VI. QARMAs:**

For a Resolution to be accepted, it has, at its minimum, to address the following issues:

1. What standards should be applied to consider a person as a Human Right Defender? Can organized communities and/or groups be

considered as Human Rights Defenders?

2. What measures should be taken to ensure that authorities and third parties do not use the punitive powers of the State and its justice agencies to harass Human Rights Defenders?
3. What measures should be taken to ensure that private actors do not harass Human Rights Defenders?
4. Should countries implement legislations protecting Human Rights Defenders and/or their families? If so, what kind of legislation?
5. In what ways can domestic courts protect Human Rights Defenders?
6. Can the rights of Human Rights Defenders be justiciable in international courts? If so, how?
7. What reparations should Human Rights Defenders and/or their families receive when their rights have been violated?

#### **VII. CONFERENCE PREPARATION:**

As a suggestion from the board of directors, we highly encourage the delegates to keep on looking for information in order to ensure a better flow of debate during the committee. Likewise, try to deepen the details obtained from this study guide as a source of research, such as the Current Situation, The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, each country’s involvement on the issue, etc. Remember that every nation has a specific stance regarding this topic or situations alike, all what needs to be done is to find it.

**A. Position Papers:**

Each delegate must turn in a position paper before the start of conference. The purpose of a position paper is to give each delegate the chance to summarize their understanding of the issue at hand, to delineate a nation's stance on the issue, and to propose possible solutions that could be debated in committee.

When writing your position papers, there is a simple format that you should follow; it will make it easier for you to write and for me to read. The first paragraph of your position paper should describe what you feel are the most pressing and pertinent aspects of the issue, as well as some facts that you could use in debate or to support a point. The second paragraph should be used to describe what your nation will be arguing in committee, why the aspects you described in the previous paragraph are so important to your country, and what unique aspects of your nation relate to the issue at hand. Finally, your third and last paragraphs should contain your ideas for possible solutions as well as courses of action that you believe should be included in a resolution. When writing, make sure you use the third person; instead of saying "I believe" or "we believe", instead say, "the delegation of Nation X believes" or something similar.

Each delegate is required to submit one position paper. This should be written in Times New Roman 12-point font,

single-spaced, and approximately one page in length. Once it is ready, it must be emailed to [ea.rodriquezt@alum.up.edu.pe](mailto:ea.rodriquezt@alum.up.edu.pe) before the deadline established in order for the delegate to be eligible for an award.

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