

Open Letter to the Member States and Observers of the UN Human Rights Council

Re: Civil Society Appeal to the UN Human Rights Council to Investigate the 1988 Massacre

25 January 2022

Excellencies,

We, civil society organisations, many in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and human rights and legal experts welcome the recent calls by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) for an international investigation into the 1988 mass extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances of political prisoners in Iran.

The 1988 massacre took place following a fatwa by Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which stated: *“As the [People’s Mojahedin (PMOI)] do not believe in Islam ... and as they are waging war on God ... It is decreed that those who are in prison throughout the country and remain steadfast in their support for the [PMOI] are waging war on God and are condemned to execution.”*

‘Death Commissions’ were quickly established across Iran for the purpose, and thousands of political prisoners who refused to abandon their beliefs were executed. The victims were buried in mass graves scattered throughout the country.

The perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity. They include the current Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei.

We are concerned that lack of accountability for the perpetrators by the international community could embolden the Iranian authorities to commit further atrocities against dissident protesters and political prisoners, as was witnessed during the deadly crackdown on the nationwide protests of 2019.

Time for the UN to demonstrate that it means what it says through an international inquiry

Seven UN Special Rapporteurs wrote to the Iranian authorities on 3 September 2020,¹ stating that the 1988 extrajudicial executions may amount to “crimes against humanity.”

Their letter stated that the failure of UN bodies to act over the 1988 massacre has “had a devastating impact on the survivors and families” and “emboldened” the Iranian authorities to “conceal the fate of the victims and to maintain a strategy of deflection and denial.”

The UN experts suggested that the international community should “investigate the cases including through the establishment of an international investigation.”

On 3 May 2021, some 152 former UN officials and renowned international human rights and legal experts wrote² to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, calling for a Commission of Inquiry into the 1988 massacre.

Signatories included a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a former UN Deputy Secretary-General, 28 former UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights, and the chairs of previous UN Commissions of Inquiry into human rights abuses in Eritrea and North Korea. Distinguished legal professionals who signed the appeal included the former Chief Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunals for the former

¹ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=25503>

² <https://iran1988.org/open-letter-to-un-seeking-commission-of-inquiry-into-irans-1988-massacre/>

Yugoslavia and Rwanda, a former Special Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and the first President of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Amnesty International in a statement³ on 19 June 2021 reiterated that Ebrahim Raisi had a key role in the 1988 massacre and should be “investigated for his involvement in past and ongoing crimes under international law, including by states that exercise universal jurisdiction.”

In its 2018 report *Blood-soaked secrets: Why Iran’s 1988 prison massacres are ongoing crimes against humanity*⁴, Amnesty International concluded that, in addition to committing the crime against humanity of murder in 1988, by extrajudicially executing thousands of political dissidents in secret, the Iranian authorities are committing the ongoing crimes against humanity of enforced disappearance, persecution, torture and other inhumane acts, including by systematically concealing the fate of the victims and the whereabouts of their remains.

On 29 June 2021, the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, Javaid Rehman, called⁵ for an independent inquiry into the 1988 state-ordered executions and the role played by Ebrahim Raisi as Tehran deputy prosecutor. Prof. Rehman said that his office was ready to share gathered testimonies and evidence if the Human Rights Council or another body sets up an impartial investigation. He added that he was concerned at reports that some "mass graves" were being destroyed as part of a continuing cover-up.

On 4 August 2021, the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances in a report⁶ to the Human Rights Council called for an “international investigation” into the 1988 massacre. The report stated:

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

84. The Working Group reiterates the concerns expressed about the ongoing concealment of burial sites of those forcibly disappeared and allegedly executed between July and September 1988 across the country. The Working Group recalls that an enforced disappearance continues until the fate and whereabouts of the individuals concerned are established and joins the call for an international investigation into the matter.

Human rights experts believe that the extrajudicial executions in 1988 in Iran amount to crimes against humanity and genocide. Former UN judge Geoffrey Robertson has described the killings as genocide, arguing that according to Khomeini’s decree, the principal reason for the call to annihilate PMOI supporters was that they were “waging war on God.” According to renowned international humanitarian law expert Prof. Eric David, what happened in 1988 “amounts to genocide.”⁷

We believe it’s long overdue for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet to investigate the 1988 massacre.

Therefore, we urge the UN Human Rights Council to urgently challenge the impunity enjoyed by Iranian officials by mandating an international investigation into the 1988 mass executions and enforced disappearances of thousands of political prisoners which constitute ongoing crimes against humanity.

SIGNED:

³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/iran-ebrahim-raisi-must-be-investigated-for-crimes-against-humanity/>

⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/9421/2018/en/>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/exclusive-un-expert-backs-probe-into-irans-1988-killings-raisis-role-2021-06-29/>

⁶ <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/48/57>

⁷ <https://www.lalibre.be/debats/opinions/2021/10/13/le-president-iranien-ebrahim-raissi-regne-grace-a-limpunite-internationale-Q42QAYC74BDHXDUVS5U2OCRDUU/>

Individual signatories:

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President of Chile (2000-2006)
UN Special Envoy on Climate Change (2007-2010)
President of Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo (FDD)

Jacques Santer - (Luxembourg)

Prime Minister of Luxembourg (1984-1995)
President of the European Commission (1995-1999)

Judge Sang-Hyun Song - (South Korea)

President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2009-2015)

Dr. Joachim R cker - (Germany)

President of the UN Human Rights Council (2015)
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN in Geneva (2014-2016)
Inspector General of the Federal Foreign Office (2011-2014)
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (2006-2008)

Amb. Claude Heller – (Mexico)

President of the UN Security Council (2009 & 2010)
Former Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN

Sir Howard Morrison QC - (United Kingdom)

President of the Appeals Division of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2012-2018 & 2020-2021)
Former Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Prof. Jos  Lu s da Cruz Vila a - (Portugal)

President of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities (1989-1995)
Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union (2012-2018)
Member of the Portuguese Government (1980-1983)
Professor of EU Law, attorney at law, founder and managing partner of Cruz Vila a Advogados

Jose Ramos-Horta - (Timor-Leste)

Winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize
Former President of Timor-Leste (East Timor)
Chair of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS (2013-2014)

Dr. Rowan Williams - (United Kingdom)

Former Archbishop of Canterbury
Former Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge

Guy Verhofstadt MEP - (Belgium)

Prime Minister of Belgium (1999-2008)
President of the Council of the European Union (2001-2001)
Member of the European Parliament

Prof. Leila Nadya Sadat - (United States)

Special Adviser on Crimes Against Humanity to the ICC Prosecutor (2012-present)
Director, Crimes Against Humanity Initiative
James Carr Professor of International Criminal Law and Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute at Washington University Law School

Prof. Tim McCormack - (Australia)

Special Adviser on War Crimes to the ICC Prosecutor (2010-present)
Professor of International Law, The University of Tasmania

Judge Baroness Christine Van den Wyngaert - (Belgium)

Special Adviser to the ICC Prosecutor (2021-present)
Judge, Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) (2017-present)
Judge, International Criminal Court (2009-2018)
Ad hoc Judge, International Court of Justice (ICJ) (2000-2002)
Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (2003–2009)

Prof. Kevin Jon Heller - (United States)

Professor of International Law and Security, University of Copenhagen (Centre for Military Studies)
Professor of Law, Australian National University

Prof. Juan E. Méndez - (Argentina)

Former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2010-2016)
Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (2004-2007)
Former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States

Prof. Pablo de Greiff - (Colombia)

Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence (2012-2018)
Rapporteur, UN Human Rights Council Experts' Group on Prevention (2019-2020)
Member, UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) (2015-2016)
Director, Prevention Project & Transitional Justice Program, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, School of Law, New York University
Member, UN Secretary General's Civil Society Advisory Board (2019-)

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Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (2019-2021)

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Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (2013-2016)
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Professor, Kyung Hee University

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Member, UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
Professor of fundamental rights, University of Antwerp

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Member, UN International Law Commission (ILC) (2016-present)
Chair, ILC's Drafting Committee (2019)
President, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) (2014-present)
President, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) (1996, 2001)
Chair, UN Committee against Torture (CAT) (4 terms, from 2008-2015)
Chair, UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies (2013)
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President of the European Commission of Human Rights (1995–1999)
Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2006-2013)

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Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan
Former Commissioner, South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Former Commissioner, Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Honorary Fellow, University of Cape Town

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Judge, UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
Professor of Law and Co-Director, Institute for International Law and Public Policy, Temple University Beasley School of Law

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Ad hoc Judge, European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)
Board Member, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Chair, Board of Uppsala University
Former Secretary General, Swedish Bar Association

Hon. Richard J. Goldstone - (South Africa)

Former Judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa
Former Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda
Honorary President of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

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Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (2006-2012)
Secretary General of the Stockholm-based Olof Palme International Center (2002–2005)
Ambassador of the Swedish Government on Humanitarian Affairs (1994–2002)
Secretary General of the NGO "Save the Children Sweden" (1986–1992)
Secretary General of Amnesty International (1980–1986)
Representative of the UN Secretary General for human rights in Cambodia (1996-2000)
Member of Parliament (2018-present)

Gen. Wesley K. Clark - (United States)

Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO (1997-2000)

Amb. Stephen J. Rapp - (United States)

Former US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (2009-2015)
Former Prosecutor of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) (2007-2009)
Senior Fellow at Center for the Prevention of Genocide of US Holocaust Memorial Museum and at Center for Ethics, Law & Armed Conflict (ELAC) of Oxford University

Prof. Gay McDougall - (United States)

UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues (2005-2011)
Member-Elect, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (Vice Chair 2018-2019)
Senior Fellow and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Leitner Center for International Law and Justice / Center for Race, Law and Justice, Fordham University School of Law

Prof. Christian Tomuschat - (Germany)

Professor em. Humboldt University Berlin

President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (2013-2019)

Member of the UN Human Rights Committee (1977-1986)

Member and Chairman of the UN International Law Commission (1985-1996)

Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission on the human rights situation in Guatemala (1990-1993)

Coordinator, Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH), Guatemala (1997-1999)

Prof. Marc Bossuyt - (Belgium)

Vice Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

President of the Constitutional Court of Belgium (2007-2014)

Em. Professor, Antwerp University

Prof. the Hon. Gareth Evans AC QC - (Australia)

Former Foreign Minister of Australia

President Emeritus, International Crisis Group

Chancellor of Australian National University (2010-2019)

Former member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on Genocide

John Baird - (Canada)

Former Foreign Minister of Canada

Giulio Terzi - (Italy)

Former Foreign Minister of Italy

Former Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN

Former Ambassador of Italy to the US

Petrit Selimi - (Kosovo)

Former Foreign Minister of Republic of Kosovo

Radosław Sikorski MEP - (Poland)

Former Foreign Minister of Poland

Member of the European Parliament

Amb. Hans Corell - (Sweden)

Former Judge of Appeal

Former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations (1994-2004)

Former Co-Chair of the Council of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

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Former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN in New York and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (2007-2013)

Frej Fenniche - (Switzerland)

Former Chief of Asia, Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch (APMENAB) at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, based in Geneva (2015-2017)

MENA Regional Representative of No Peace Without Justice

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Chair of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict (2014-2015)

Member of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2002-2004)

Chair of the Board of Trustees at the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (2009-2011)

President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (2009-2011)

President of the Institute for International Criminal Investigation (2021-present)

Professor of international law at Middlesex University in London

Geoffrey Robertson AO QC - (Australia)

First President, UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)

'Distinguished jurist' on the UN Internal Justice Council (2008-2012)

Founder and Head, Doughty Street Chambers

Author 'Crimes Against Humanity,' 'Mullahs without Mercy' and 'The Massacre of Political Prisoners in Iran, 1988'

Prof. Sir Geoffrey Nice QC - (United Kingdom)

Lead prosecutor at the trial of Slobodan Milošević in The Hague

Prosecuted the case of Bosnian Croat Dario Kordić at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), successfully prosecuted Goran Jelisić at the ICTY

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Former UN Independent Expert on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

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Former President and member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

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Former member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)

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Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children (2014-2020)

Former Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

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Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2000-2008)

Former Vice-President of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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Former UN Independent Expert on Haiti (2008-2013)

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Chair of the UN Working Group in charge of drafting an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2004-2008)

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Former Ad hoc Judge of the European Court of Human Rights
Former Legal Adviser to the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
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Former Chair of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council

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Former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)

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Former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries

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Former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries
Former International Legal Director of Human Rights First
Professor of Practice at Cardozo Law School

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Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017-2021)

Prof. Santiago A. Cantón - (Argentina)

Former Chair of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Former Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

Former Director of RFK Partners for Human Rights at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Director of the Peter D. Bell Rule of Law Program at the Inter-American Dialogue

Prof. Uldis Ķiniš - (Latvia)

Ad Litem Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2008-2011)

Justice and Vice-President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia (2007-2017)

Ad Melkert - (The Netherlands)

Former Special Representative for Iraq of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Former UN Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Prof. Wolfgang Schomburg - (Germany)

Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2001-2008)

Former Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

Marek Antoni Nowicki - (Poland)

Former President of the UN Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo

Former UN-appointed International Ombudsperson in Kosovo (2000-2005)

Former Member of the European Commission of Human Rights (1993-1999)

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Former Member of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in North Korea (DPRK)

Founder and President of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

Prof. Giovanni Grasso - (Italy)

Former International Judge of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Former Judge of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prof. Ken Scott - (United States)

Former member of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

Former Special Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Former Senior Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1998-2011)

Former Assistant US Attorney and Chief of the Complex Prosecutions Section in the prosecution office (1985-1997)

Prof. Eric David - (Belgium)

Former member of the UN-affiliated International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (2006-2016)

International Public Law Professor. Em., Université Libre de Bruxelles

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Member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (1994-2004)

Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2004-2008)

President of the Constitutional Tribunal in Poland (2010-2016)
Member of the Advisory Board of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (2013-present)

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Former Magistrate
Deputy Chief Prosecutor, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1994-2004)

Prof. David M. Crane - (United States)

Founding Chief Prosecutor, UN Special Court for Sierra Leone
Founder, Global Accountability Network

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Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (2015-2016)

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Former UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq

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Head of the Gaza Office for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2009-2010)
Executive Director, Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) (2012-2021)
Former Chief Operating Officer, Amnesty International USA
Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University

Ms. Apuk Hiljmnijeta - (Kosovo)

Winner, United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for 2013
Director, Little People of Kosova
Member, Ad Hoc Committee of the UN General Assembly on drafting of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Sir Nicholas Forwood QC - (United Kingdom)

Former Judge, General Court of the European Union (1999-2015)

Rt Hon. Sir David Edward - (United Kingdom)

Former Judge, European Court of Justice (1992-2004)
Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh

Prof. Valeriu M. Ciucă - (Romania)

Former Judge, General Court of the European Union (2007-2010)

Prof. Josef Azizi - (Austria)

Former Judge, General Court of the European Union (1995-2013)

Prof. Rui Manuel Gens Moura Ramos - (Portugal)

Former Judge of the General Court of the European Union (1995-2003)
Former President of the Constitutional Court of Portugal (2007-2012)

Prof. Vilenas Vadapalas - (Lithuania)

Former Judge, General Court of the European Union (2004-2013)

Prof. Sir Francis Jacobs QC - (United Kingdom)

Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Communities (1988-2006)
President of the European Law Institute (ELI) (2011-2013)
President of the Centre of European Law at King's College London
President of the United Kingdom Association for European Law (to 2014)

President of the UNIDROIT Administrative Tribunal
Governor of the British Institute of Human Rights

Prof. Miguel Poiares Maduro - (Portugal)

Advocate General, European Court of Justice (2003-2009)

Professor, Director of the Global Governance Programme, European University Institute (2009-present)

Eleanor Sharpston QC - (United Kingdom)

Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union (2006-2020)

Prof. Laurence Burgorgue-Larsen - (France)

Former President of the Constitutional Court of Andorra (2014-2016)

Professor of Law at the Sorbonne Law School (Universite de Paris 1)

Dr. Maude Barlow - (Canada)

Former Senior Advisor on Water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly

Former Chairperson of the Council of Canadians

Reed Brody - (United States)

Member, International Commission of Jurists

Former Deputy Chief of the UN Secretary-General's Investigative Team in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Former Director of the Human Rights Division of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)

Prof. Fannie Lafontaine - (Canada)

Professor, Faculty of Law, Université Laval

Canada Research Chair in International Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Université Laval

Special Adviser and Human Rights Officer, Executive Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2005-2006)

Human Rights Officer and Special Assistant to the President of the UN International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur (2004-2005)

Project Director, Canadian Partnership for International Justice

Co-Director, International Criminal and Humanitarian Law Clinic (ICHLC), Université Laval

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Professor of Criminal Law, Faculty of law and Administration, Warsaw University

Member of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice (2010-2017)

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Executive Director, Promise Institute for Human Rights, UCLA School of Law

Deputy Registrar, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2012-2017)

Prof. Stephen P. Marks - (United States)

Chair, High-Level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development, UN Human Rights Council (2005-2010)

Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights, Harvard University

Director, Program on Human Rights in Development (PHRD), Harvard University

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Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Lodz

Former Judge Ad hoc, European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

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President, Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

former Director of Human Rights, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) Peacekeeping missions to

Timor Leste
Former Senior Member, Australian Refugee Tribunal

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Former member, UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
Former Member, UN Group of Independent Experts on Accountability in DPRK
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Tahar Boumedra - (United Kingdom)

Justice for the Victims of the 1988 Massacre in Iran (JVMI)
Former Chief of UNAMI Human Rights Office and Representative of the HCHR in Iraq

Dr. Susan L. Bissell - (Canada)

Former Associate Director and Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF (2009-2015)
Founding Director of Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
Visiting Scholar and FXB Fellow at Harvard University

Charles A. Adeogun-Phillips - (United Kingdom & Nigeria)

Former lead prosecutor in 12 precedent-setting genocide trials before the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda between 1998 and 2010
Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)
Contributor, International Criminal Investigations: Law and Practice, 2017

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Former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
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Prof. Irwin Cotler - (Canada)

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Founder and Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights
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Baroness Boothroyd - (United Kingdom)

Former Speaker of the House of Commons

Lord Neil Kinnock - (United Kingdom)

Vice President of the European Commission (1999-2004)
Member of the House of Lords

Prof. Timothy J. Christian QC - (Canada)

Chief Federal Negotiator of the Government of Canada (1996–2010) and Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta (1985-1995)

Amb. Ken Blackwell - (United States)

Former US Ambassador to the UN Commission on Human Rights

Prof. Brice Dickson - (United Kingdom)

Professor of International and Comparative Law, Queen's University Belfast (QUB)
Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (1999-2005)

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Deputy Prosecutor General of Switzerland (2001-2009)
Former President of the Government of the State of Neuchâtel (Switzerland)
Former investigating judge, Neuchâtel
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Prof. Brig. Gen. Richard M. O'Meara - (United States)

Lecturer, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University
Director, Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University (2016-2018)
Advisor, The Peace Boat (Academic Committee, UN affiliated international educational institution) (2018-)
Faculty Associate, Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University
Brigadier General, US Army (ret.)
Assistant to the Judge Advocate General for Operations, Washington DC (1996-2000)

Baroness Verma - (United Kingdom)

Member of the House of Lords
Former UK Energy & Climate Change Minister and former International Development Minister

Ellen Samyn - (Belgium)

Member of Parliament, Vice President of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee

Senator Leo Housakos - (Canada)

Senator from Canada, former Speaker of the Senate of Canada (2015)

Lord Alton of Liverpool - (United Kingdom)

Member of the House of Lords

Rt. Hon. David Jones MP - (United Kingdom)

Member of Parliament
Former UK Secretary of State for Wales

Bob Blackman MP - (United Kingdom)

Member of Parliament

Steve McCabe MP - (United Kingdom)

Member of Parliament

Milan Zver MEP - (Slovenia)

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Member of Parliament
Head, Seimas Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Rep. Patrick Kennedy - (United States)

Former Member of the US House of Representatives

Hon. David Kilgour - (Canada)

Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada (1994-1997)
Former Canadian Secretary of State for Latin America & Africa (1997-2002)
Former Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific (2002-2003)

The Hon. Tony Clement PC - (Canada)

Former Member of Parliament from Canada
Former Canadian Minister of Industry, Minister of Health and President of the Treasury Board

Prof. Paul R. Milgrom - (United States)
2020 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

Prof. Barry C. Barish - (United States)
2017 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Prof. Joachim Frank - (United States)
2017 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Sir Fraser Stoddart - (United States)
2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Jean-Pierre Sauvage - (France)
2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Oliver Hart - (United States)
2016 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

Prof. David Wineland - (United States)
2012 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Dr. John C. Mather - (United States)
2006 Nobel Laureate in Physics
Senior Project Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

Prof. Roger Kornberg - (United States)
2006 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. John L. Hall - (United States)
2005 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Elfriede Jelinek - (Austria)
2004 Nobel Laureate in Literature

Prof. Finn E. Kydland - (Norway)
2004 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

Sir Richard J. Roberts Ph.D. F.R.S. - (United Kingdom)
1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine

Prof. Elias J. Corey - (United States)
1990 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. John Polanyi - (Canada)
1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Dudley R. Herschbach - (United States)
1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Roald Hoffmann - (United States)
1981 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Prof. Sheldon Glashow - (United States)
1979 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Dr. Juan E. Garcés - (Spain)

Spanish lawyer and former advisor to Chilean President Salvador Allende
Winner of the 1999 Right Livelihood Award (Sweden)
Director of “Garcés y Prada Abogados”, Madrid
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Former Executive Director, Amnesty International USA (1994-2006)
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Senior Adviser to the Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues in the US State Department (1999-2002)
US representative on the UN Planning Mission for the Sierra Leone Special Court (2002)
Expert Adviser to the UN Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) (2013-2014)

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Founding Director of the Genocide Studies Program (1998-2015) at Yale University
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Head of EU Task Force for Conflict Prevention/Emerging Horizontal Security Issues (2004-2010)

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Former High Criminal Court Rapporteur of Buenos Aires, Argentina (2016-2020)

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Member of the Resolutions Committee of the IAGS (2017-Present)

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President, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Canadian Section
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Latest Book: Peace and Justice at the International Criminal Court, 2020

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Director, Human Rights Centre, Queen's University Belfast (QUB)
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Adjunct Professor and Research Affiliate at the Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut
War Crimes expert at the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1998-2017)

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Founder and Managing Director, Human Security Centre (HSC)

Prof. Hope R. Metcalf - (United States)

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Executive Director, World Without Genocide

Dr. Kamal Sido - (Germany)

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Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)

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Former Legal and SGBV Advisor to the OHCHR Fact Finding Mission for Sri Lanka, the UN Secretary General's CAR Independent Review Panel, and the UN Commission of Inquiry for Guinea

Former Trial Attorney ICTY and Investigator SCSL

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Law and Policy Director of the Technology and Human Rights Program, Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

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Board of Governors Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Rutgers University

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CEO, Peloria

Former United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Transitional Justice Global Focal Point

Former Senior Political Economy Specialist, World Bank

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Executive Director and Founder, Project Expedite Justice (PEJ)
Former Senior Investigator and Senior Trial Lawyer at the ICC
Pro tem Judge in the State of Hawaii

Prof. Benjamin E. Goldsmith - (Australia)

Professor at the Australian National University (ANU)
Scholar in genocide and mass atrocities

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Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University
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Board Member, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)

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Executive Director, Jewish World Watch

Samuel Munderere - (United Kingdom)

Chief Executive, Survivors Fund (SURF)

Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram - (India)

Founder-Director, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network/CAFI
Convenor, Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace
Founder, Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice and Peace
Fellow, CARR Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Tali Nates - (South Africa)

Founder and Executive Director, Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Center

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Executive Director, Tallawah Justice for Women
consultant on international law and human rights
Former Prosecutor and Resident Magistrate

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Co-Director, Franklin Humanities Institute Manuscript Migration Lab

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Faculty Board Co-Chair, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago
Professor of International Law, University of Chicago

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Associate Professor of Public International Law, Maastricht University
Executive Director, Maastricht Blog on Transitional Justice (www.transitionaljustice.net)
Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Richard C. Dieter, J.D. - (United States)

Former Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center
Adjunct Professor of Law at the Catholic University of America

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President, Institute for Democratic Strategies
Former Executive Director, Freedom House

Rabbi Abraham Cooper - (United States)

Associate Dean, Simon Wiesenthal Center

Sergio D'Elia - (Italy)

Secretary General, Hands Off Cain

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Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Global Health Equity, Associate Professor and Interim Director of PhD Program at the Social and Behavioural Health Sciences Division of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health of the University of Toronto

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Associate Director, Rutgers English Language Institute (RELI)

Alastair Logan OBE, LL.B - (United Kingdom)

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Chair, Solicitors International Human Rights Group

Prof. Ben Saul - (Australia)

Challis Chair of International Law, University of Sydney

Prof. Susan Benesch - (United States)

Faculty Associate, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University
Founding Director, Dangerous Speech Project

Hans Noot - (The Netherlands)

Director, Gerard Noodt Foundation for Freedom of Religion or Belief

Prof. Angana Chatterji - (United States)

Co-chair, Initiative on Political Conflict, Gender and People's Rights, Center for Race and Gender, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Surabhi Ranganathan - (United Kingdom)

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Prof. Stephen Gardbaum - (United States)

Stephen Yeazell Endowed Chair in Law
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Prof. Damien Short - (United Kingdom)

Co-Director, Human Rights Consortium (HRC)
Professor of Human Rights and Environmental Justice, School of Advanced Study, University of London
Academic contributor, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2011)

Habib Nassar - (The Netherlands)

Director of Policy and Research, Impunity Watch
Former Senior Transitional Justice Advisor/Human Rights Officer, OHCHR

Prof. Alexander Alvarez - (United States)

Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Northern Arizona University
Founding Director of the Martin-Springer Institute for Teaching the Holocaust, Tolerance, and Humanitarian Values

Prof. James Scott - (United States)

Sterling Professor of Political Science
Director, Agrarian Studies Program
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Professor of international criminal law, Faculty of Law, Queen's University
Legal Officer at Foreign Affairs Canada (1997-2004)
Adviser to the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2004-2006)
Former Director of the International Human Rights Clinic at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law

Prof. Roger S. Clark - (New Zealand)

Board of Governors Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School
Member, UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (1987-1990)

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Former Consultant, UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

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International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) - (United States)

World Organisation Against Torture - Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT) - (Switzerland)

The Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA) - (United States)

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Avocats Sans Frontières France (ASF France) - (France)

Renew Democracy Initiative (RDI) - (United States)

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention - (United States & Argentina)

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Partners in Justice International (PJI) - (United States)

Budapest Centre for Mass Atrocities Prevention (BCMAP) - (Hungary)

Project Expedite Justice (PEJ) - (United States)

French Association for the Promotion of Universal Jurisdiction - Association Française pour la Promotion de la Compétence Universelle (AFPCU) - (France)

Global Justice Center - (United States)

African Network against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED) - (Gambia)

Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) - (Belgium)

Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (KIBHR) - (Kazakhstan)

Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH) - (France)

Italian Federation for Human Rights - Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani (FIDU) - (Italy)

Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) - (Ukraine)

Association of World Citizens - (United States)

Venezuelan Program for Education and Action on Human Rights (Provea) - Programa Venezolano de Educación- Acción en Derechos Humanos - (Venezuela)

Hands Off Cain - (Italy)

Edmund Rice Centre - (Australia)

France Libertés - Fondation Danielle Mitterrand - (France)

World Without Genocide - (United States)

West African Human Rights Defenders Network / Réseau Ouest Africain des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (WAHRDN/ROADDH) - (Togo)

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The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) - (United States)

Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP) - (Serbia)

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German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (GCADP) - (Germany)

Pax Christi Australia - (Australia)

Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD) - (United Kingdom)

Witness to Innocence - (United States)

“Vereinigung 17. Juni 1953” - (Germany)

Jewish World Watch - (United States)

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Espace Afrique International (EAI) - (Switzerland)

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