

JUNE

2016



# DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE HOLDERS

*Working Group of experts on people of African descent*



**Ricardo Sunga III**  
English  
[africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org)

*Working Group of experts on people of African descent*



**Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France**  
English, French  
[africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org)

*Working Group of experts on people of African descent*



**Michal Balcerzak**  
English  
[africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org)

*Working Group of experts on people of African descent*



**Sabelo Gumede**  
English  
[africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org)

*Working Group of experts on people of African descent*



**Ahmed Reid**  
English  
[africandescent@ohchr.org](mailto:africandescent@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on arbitrary detention*



**Leigh Toomey**  
English  
[wgad@ohchr.org](mailto:wgad@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on arbitrary detention*



**Sètondji Roland Jean-Baptiste Adjovi**  
French, English  
[wgad@ohchr.org](mailto:wgad@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on arbitrary detention*



**José Guevara**  
Spanish, English  
[wgad@ohchr.org](mailto:wgad@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on arbitrary detention*



**Seong-Phil Hong**  
English  
[wgad@ohchr.org](mailto:wgad@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on arbitrary detention*



**Vladimir Tochilovsky**  
Russian, English  
[wgad@ohchr.org](mailto:wgad@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*



**Michael K. Addo**  
English  
[wg-business@ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*



**Dante Pesce**  
English, Spanish  
[wg-business@ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*



**to be appointed**  
[wg-business@ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*



**Surya Deva**  
English  
[wg-business@ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*



**Pavel Sulyandziga**  
Russian  
[wg-business@ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances*



**Bernard Duhaime**  
French, English, Spanish  
[wgaid@ohchr.org](mailto:wgaid@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances*



**Ariel Dulitzky**  
Spanish, English  
[wgaid@ohchr.org](mailto:wgaid@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances*



**Henrikas Mickevičius**  
English, Russian  
[wgaid@ohchr.org](mailto:wgaid@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances*



**Tae-Ung Baik**  
English, Chinese  
[wgaid@ohchr.org](mailto:wgaid@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances*



**Houria Es Slami**  
French, Arabic, English  
[wgaid@ohchr.org](mailto:wgaid@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*



**Patricia Arias**  
English, Spanish, French  
[mercenaries@ohchr.org](mailto:mercenaries@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*



**Elzbieta Karska**  
English  
[mercenaries@ohchr.org](mailto:mercenaries@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*



**Anton Katz**  
English  
[mercenaries@ohchr.org](mailto:mercenaries@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*



**Saeed Mokbil**  
English, French  
[mercenaries@ohchr.org](mailto:mercenaries@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination*



**Gabor Rona**  
English  
[mercenaries@ohchr.org](mailto:mercenaries@ohchr.org)

*Working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice*



**Emna Aouij**  
French  
[wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org](mailto:wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org)

*Working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice*



**Kamala Chandrakirana**  
English  
[wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org](mailto:wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org)

*Working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice*



**Frances Raday**  
English  
[wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org](mailto:wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org)

*Working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice*



**Eleonora Zielinska**  
English  
[wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org](mailto:wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org)

*Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice*



**Alda Facio**  
Spanish, English, French  
[wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org](mailto:wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism*



**Ikponwosa Ero**  
English  
[albinism@ohchr.org](mailto:albinism@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights*



**Karima Bennouna**  
English, French  
[srculturalrights@ohchr.org](mailto:srculturalrights@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities*



**Catalina Devandas Aguilar**

English, Spanish  
[sr.disability@ohchr.org](mailto:sr.disability@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the right to education*



**Kishore Singh**

English, French  
[sreducation@ohchr.org](mailto:sreducation@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment*



**John Knox**

English  
[ieenvironment@ohchr.org](mailto:ieenvironment@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions*



**Christof Heyns**

English  
[eje@ohchr.org](mailto:eje@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the right to food*



**Hilal Elver**

English  
[srfood@ohchr.org](mailto:srfood@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights*



**Juan Bohoslavsky**

English, Spanish  
[ieforeigndebt@ohchr.org](mailto:ieforeigndebt@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*



**David Kaye**

English  
[freedex@ohchr.org](mailto:freedex@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association*



**Maina Kiai**

English  
[freeassembly@ohchr.org](mailto:freeassembly@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living*



**Leilani Farha**

English, French  
[srhousing@ohchr.org](mailto:srhousing@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health*



**Dainius Puras**

English  
[srhealth@ohchr.org](mailto:srhealth@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*



**Michel Forst**

French, English  
[defenders@ohchr.org](mailto:defenders@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers*



**Mónica Pinto**

Spanish, English, French  
[srindependencejl@ohchr.org](mailto:srindependencejl@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples*



**Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz**

English  
[indigenous@ohchr.org](mailto:indigenous@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons*



**Chaloka Beyani**

English  
[idp@ohchr.org](mailto:idp@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order*



**Alfred de Zayas**

English, Spanish, French, Russian  
[ie-internationalorder@ohchr.org](mailto:ie-internationalorder@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity*



**Virginia Dandan**

English  
[iesolidarity@ohchr.org](mailto:iesolidarity@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants*



**François Crépeau**

French, English  
[migrant@ohchr.org](mailto:migrant@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on minority issues*



**Rita Izsák-Ndiaye**

English  
[minorityissues@ohchr.org](mailto:minorityissues@ohchr.org)

*Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons*



**Rosa Kornfeld-Matte**

French, Spanish, English  
[olderpersons@ohchr.org](mailto:olderpersons@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights*



**Philip Alston**

English, French  
[srextremepoverty@ohchr.org](mailto:srextremepoverty@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy*



**Joseph Cannataci**

English, French  
[srprivacy@ohchr.org](mailto:srprivacy@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*



**Mutuma Ruteere**

English  
[racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief*



**Heiner Bielefeldt**

English  
[freedomofreligion@ohchr.org](mailto:freedomofreligion@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*



**Maud De Boer-Buquicchio**

English, French  
[srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org](mailto:srsaleofchildren@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences*



**Urmila Bhoola**

English  
[srslavery@ohchr.org](mailto:srslavery@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*



**Ben Emmerson**

English  
[srct@ohchr.org](mailto:srct@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*



**Juan Ernesto Méndez**

Spanish, English,  
[sr-torture@ohchr.org](mailto:sr-torture@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children*



**Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**

English, French  
[srtrafficking@ohchr.org](mailto:srtrafficking@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence*



**Pablo de Greiff**

English, Spanish  
[srtruth@ohchr.org](mailto:srtruth@ohchr.org)

*Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights*



**Idriss Jazairy**  
English, French, Arabic  
ucm@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic*



**Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum**  
French, English  
ie-car@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali*



**Suliman Baldo**  
Arabic, French, English  
ie-mali@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*



**Dubravka Šimonović**  
English,  
vaw@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the enhancement of capacity building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights*



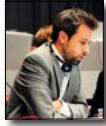
**Mohammed Ayat**  
Arabic, French, English  
eicotedivoire@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar*



**Yanghee Lee**  
English, French, Spanish  
sr-myanmar@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes*



**Baskut Tuncak**  
English  
srtoxicwaste@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*



**Marzuki Darusman**  
English  
hr-dprk@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*



**Michael Lynk**  
English  
sropt@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*



**Léo Heller**  
English, Spanish  
srwatsan@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea*



**Sheila B. Keetharuth**  
English, French,  
sr-eritrea@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia*



**Bahame Tom Mukirya Nyanduga**  
English  
ie-somalia@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus*



**Miklós Haraszti**  
English  
sr-belarus@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti*



**Gustavo Gallón**  
English, French, Spanish  
ie-haiti@ohchr.org

*Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan*



**Aristidi Nononisi**  
French, English  
iesudan@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia*



**Rhona Smith**  
English  
srcambodia@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran*



**Ahmed Shaheed**  
English  
sr-iran@ohchr.org

*Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic*



**Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro**  
English, French, Spanish  
srsyria@ohchr.org

*The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of 1 December 2015, there are 55 Special Procedures (41 thematic mandates and 14 mandates relating to countries or territories) with currently 79 mandate-holders.*

*With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Procedures undertake country visits; act on individual cases and concerns of a broader, structural nature by sending communications to States in which they bring alleged violations to their attention; conduct thematic studies and convene expert consultations, develop international human rights standards, engage in advocacy, raise public awareness; and provide advice and support for technical cooperation. Special Procedures report annually to the Human Rights Council; the majority of the mandates also report to the General Assembly.*

*The Special Rapporteurs (SR), Independent Experts (IE) and members of the Working Groups (WG) serve in their personal capacities and undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith. They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive financial remunerations.*

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The OHCHR website (<http://www.ohchr.org>) provides information on the system of Special Procedures, including details on each mandate (also accessible by clicking on the photos in this Directory). The website also contains details of the Coordination Committee as well as country visits, links to reports and press statements.

## OHCHR SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH

c/o OHCHR-UNOG  
8-14 Avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 917 90 06

To send information on alleged human rights violations to special procedures

E-mail: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)

For media enquiries

E-mail: [pressinfo@ohchr.org](mailto:pressinfo@ohchr.org)