

# REPORT OF THE FIFTH DUBLIN PLATFORM PROTECT ONE – EMPOWER A THOUSAND DUBLIN CASTLE, 10-12 FEBRUARY, 2010



## WHAT DOES FRONT LINE DO?

Front Line was founded in Dublin in 2001 with the specific aim of protecting human rights defenders at risk, people who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Front Line aims to address the protection needs identified by defenders themselves.

Front Line seeks to provide rapid and practical support to at-risk human rights defenders, including through:

- international advocacy on behalf of human rights defenders at immediate risk;
- grants to pay for the practical security needs of human rights defenders;
- training and resource materials on security and protection, including digital security;
- rest and respite, including the Front Line Fellowship;
- opportunities for networking and exchange between human rights defenders, including at the biennial Dublin Platform;
- the annual Front Line Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk;
- an emergency 24 hour phone line for human rights defenders operating in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

In emergency situations, Front Line can facilitate temporary relocation of human rights defenders.

Front Line promotes strengthened international and regional measures to protect human rights defenders including through support for the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Front Line seeks to promote respect for the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Front Line has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Front Line has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Front Line received the 2007 King Baudouin Prize for International Development.

## FRONTLINE TRUSTEES



**Denis O'Brien** (Chairman)  
Denis O'Brien is Chairman of the Digicel Group. Mr O'Brien is one of Ireland's leading

entrepreneurs with extensive investments across several sectors. He founded the Communicorp Group which has a portfolio of media and broadcasting-related companies in Ireland and seven other European countries. In 2000 he established The *Iris O'Brien Foundation* to assist disadvantaged communities in Ireland and internationally.



**Mary Lawlor** (Director)  
Mary Lawlor has been constantly inspired by the work of human rights defenders who put their vision of a civil and just

world for all ahead of their own safety. In 2001 she set up Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders to provide round the clock practical support and deliver fast and effective action on behalf of human rights defenders at risk.



**Hina Jilani** is an internationally known human rights lawyer and advocate for human rights defenders. She was the Special Representative of the

Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders from 2000 to 2008. She and her sister Asma Jahangir co-founded the first all female legal practice in Pakistan and she is also one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.



**Jim Conway** is the founder and Chairman of the Print & Display Group, one of Ireland's largest print companies. He also has a number of other media interests in

Ireland and Eastern Europe.



**Kieran Mulvey** is Chief Executive of the Irish Labour Relations Commission and Consultant with the International Labour Organisation and the

European Union.



**Michel Forst** is Secretary General of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. He was Secretary General of the Paris Summit and

Director of the French section of Amnesty International.



**Noeline Blackwell** is Director of FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres), an independent human rights organisation dedicated to the

realisation of equal access to justice for all.



**David Sykes** is Investment Director of Island Capital Ltd and worked in various banks and stockbrokers including Trinity Bank and Dolmen stockbrokers.



**Maria Mulcahy** was involved with "People in Need" from 1988 – 2000. She was responsible for organising the RTE telethons, which raised

€28 million. She was Director of Fundraising for the 2003 Special Olympics World Games.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Hanan Ashrawi** Founder and Secretary General of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy.

**Robert Badinter** President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and a member of the French Senate. He was previously French Minister for Justice.

**Bono** Founder member of the Irish rock group U2, and a prominent human rights advocate.

**Desmond Tutu** Anglican archbishop who rose to worldwide fame during the 1980s as an opponent of apartheid. Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1984.

**Adolfo Pérez Equivel** Leader of Servicio Paz y Justicia and the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize recipient.

**Wangari Muta Maathai** Kenyan environmentalist, human rights defender and Nobel Laureate.

**Indai Lourdes Sajor** Founder and former Executive Director of the Asian Centre for Women's Human Rights.

**His Holiness The Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso** Temporal and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and Nobel Laureate.

# FOREWORD

In her opening remarks to the 5th Dublin Platform Mary Lawlor addressed some of the key issues facing human rights defenders.

Welcome to Dublin.

We in Front Line delight in this day and the chance to be able to bring you all together. Dear human rights defenders, this is your Platform, your space, your chance to be normal for a few days free from fear and as article 1 of the UDHR states “equal in dignity and rights”. You are all united in solidarity by the invisible chords of justice, human rights, spirit and courage.

We are here to support you on your terms. We want to listen to you – none of us here can pretend to know what might help you.

We do not just remember those who were prevented from coming to the Platform but those who were killed last year, simply because of their non-violent legitimate human rights work on behalf of others. Outright violent targeting and killing of human rights defenders was on the increase. Many of you have lost friends or colleagues.

Front Line reported on at least 24 cases of HRDs murdered in 2009. Killings and attempted killings have been documented in Afghanistan, Burundi, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, and Sri Lanka. In many cases the authorities were directly implicated and the murders remained unpunished. In the Russian Federation, 2009 witnessed an unprecedented series of killings of 6 HRDs.

Many of these human rights defenders were killed in the most innocent of situations: on the street in broad daylight, or while cooking dinner, or while coming from a wedding, or on their way to their farm, or while washing clothes.

As the poet WH Auden said “evil is unspectacular and always human and shares our bed and eats at our own table”. These tragedies have a huge impact on their families, their organisations and the communities they defend. Each life is unique and a heartbreaking loss.

Human rights defenders believe in hope, and they bring it to those they work for. They know that their actions will lead to changes over time but this outcome requires at times unbearable self-sacrifice. They hope that they will be safe. But mostly there is usually the suspended state of hope.



“THIS IS YOUR PLATFORM,  
YOUR SPACE, FREE FROM  
FEAR...”

MARY LAWLOR, FRONT LINE

Dear friends – the inspiration of Front Line – thank you.

You work to change human hearts. You work to make people accountable.

You work to heal pain and injustice with passion and compassion despite the overwhelming pain that, at times, you feel.

As Pericles said “What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” The risks you take and the price you are willing to pay is beyond normal comprehension.

You have been – and are continuously – wounded by your experiences, yet your hearts are still hungry for justice. Listen to your heartbeat because in the beating of your heart lies the hope for humanity.

**Mary Lawlor**  
**Executive Director**  
**Front Line**

NEVERTHELESS, WE PATIENTLY AND DILIGENTLY CONTINUE ON BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY CHOICE TO DEMOCRATISE AND BUILD OUR COUNTRY. YET, OUR EFFORTS WILL BE UNDERMINED AS LONG AS WE HAVE TO FIGHT IN ISOLATION AND OPERATE IN DARKNESS; AND THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY FOR US WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LENGTHY ONE.  
HRD, VIETNAM

## INTRODUCTION

Each Dublin Platform is special. It could not be otherwise given the quality and diversity of the one hundred or so human rights defenders who come together from over eighty countries to discuss and exchange, to work and relax together.

The Fifth Dublin Platform was no exception. As always the participants, none of whom had attended previous Dublin Platforms, brought great energy and wisdom to the discussions on how to strengthen security and protection.

The formal sessions were facilitated by simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish with whispered interpretation provided in more than five other languages. But the informal discussions were also extremely rich with participants building lasting bonds across linguistic and cultural divides.

In this report we try to draw out some of the key lessons and messages.

All the HRDs who came together in Dublin Castle between the 10th and 12th February 2010 are at risk because of their work. They face death threats and physical violence, denigration and loss of employment, arrest and harassment, and sometimes torture.

Examples of these threats and attacks were shared in often harrowing testimony. But the focus was also on strengthening mechanisms for protection, engaging the international community, holding perpetrators accountable and providing support to those under attack.

The HRDs were joined by many representatives from international human rights organisations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay and Mr Micheál Martin TD, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave keynote speeches on the first morning. The meeting was also addressed by Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

A panel discussion on the specific risks facing women human rights defenders drew on expert presentations from: Lucha Castro, Centro de Derechos Humanos de Las Mujeres (Mexico); Parvin Ardalan, One Million Signatures Campaign (Iran); Bernadette Ntumba, AMCAV (DRC); and Mary Jane Real, Coordinator of the Women Human Rights Defenders' International Coalition.

Front Line and Tactical Technology presented the updated version of 'Security in a Box', a package of guidance materials and software resources relating to digital security for human rights defenders. Throughout the conference there were digital security help desks operating



and there was also follow-up training on the topic in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There was also feedback on Front Line's research project looking at best practice in terms of security and protection which draws on field studies with human rights defenders in Colombia, Indonesia and Zimbabwe.

The participants enjoyed a rich cultural programme with music from an array of musical talents, including the Moran family, the O'Ceannabháin family, Vincent McGrath (HRD Ireland) and Dom-an Manegdeg (HRD the Philippines), and the vibrant spirit emerging from the coming together of so many exceptional human rights defenders was vividly captured in the collective Irish dancing and wonderfully chaotic conga line at the finale event in the Old Jameson Distillery.

This report highlights what HRDs said about their work, and the dangers and problems they have to confront. It is not a verbatim record. It aims rather to provide a feel of the meeting – some sense of what the HRDs who participated shared with one another and with others who were present.

**Andrew Anderson**  
Deputy Director  
Front Line



# REPORT OF THE FIFTH DUBLIN PLATFORM PROTECT ONE – EMPOWER A THOUSAND DUBLIN CASTLE, 10-12 FEBRUARY, 2010



**Denis O'Brien, Front Line Chairman**

The Fifth Dublin Platform focused on security – the risks that human rights defenders face as they do their work, and the precautions they can take to protect themselves. The meeting gave particular attention to the additional risks that women human rights defenders must cope with. The meeting was addressed by Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Micheál Martin, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and officials from the European Commission and the Norwegian Government, who described what their institutions do to assist and support human rights defenders and answered participants' questions.

As always, the Platform offered human rights defenders an opportunity to meet, to share experiences, and relax together. The event was attended by more than 100

human rights defenders from 80 countries, many of whom gave moving testimonies about their struggle to improve the human rights situation in their society, and the persecution they have experienced.<sup>1</sup>

.....  
"IT IS VITAL THAT YOU ARE SUPPORTED IN YOUR EFFORTS TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF OTHERWISE VOICELESS VICTIMS. YOU AND THOSE AROUND YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION ON THE PART OF INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE."  
NAVANETHEM PILLAY, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
.....

.....  
IN MY HEART THERE'S NO ROOM FOR RESENTMENT OR HATRED. ON THE CONTRARY: I OFFER AND GIVE FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT OR PLANNED THIS ATTACK. ALL THE SAME, I GO THROUGH LIFE ONE STEP AT A TIME. I KNOW THAT I HAVE REALISED AND DONE THE RIGHT THINGS, I LEARNT THIS IN MY HOME AND I CARRY IT OUT ON THE STREET: I SERVE. I DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN PARTICULAR; I LIVE FOR THIS, I FIGHT FOR THIS.  
YURI MELINI, CALAS, GUATEMALA  
.....

## 1. PRESENTATIONS

The meeting was opened by Denis O'Brien, Chairman of Front Line, who welcomed the participants to Dublin and highlighted Front Line's call for the creation of a special EU visa for human rights defenders that would enable them to travel more easily for their work and for protection.

### Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denis O'Brien introduced Micheál Martin, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who praised human rights defenders. Paraphrasing the Irish poet Seamus Heaney, he said, "you are dual citizens of the republic of conscience".<sup>2</sup> Affirming the Government's support for Front Line's work on security and internet security, the Minister stressed Ireland's commitment to human rights protection. He underlined the potential of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders and the work of the EU Human Rights Working Group Task Force. He indicated the importance of the role of the Human Rights Council, and the need to work across regional divides to address human rights issues. He affirmed that Ireland raises the issue of human rights defenders at every Periodic Review, will defend the Special Procedures, and continues to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. He drew attention to the Dublin Statement, recently published following a conference of experts, which outlines how the valuable work of the Treaty Bodies could become more efficient.<sup>3</sup>



**Micheál Martin, Minister for Foreign Affairs**

.....  
"FRONT LINE REPORTED AT LEAST 24 CASES OF HRDS MURDERED IN 2009. KILLINGS AND ATTEMPTED KILLINGS HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED IN AFGHANISTAN, BURUNDI, CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC), EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, KENYA, MEXICO, THE PHILIPPINES, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND SRI LANKA. IN MANY CASES THE AUTHORITIES WERE DIRECTLY IMPLICATED"  
MARY LAWLOR, FRONT LINE  
.....

## Mary Lawlor

Mary Lawlor, Front Line's Executive Director, mentioned the names of all those who had been invited to the Platform but had been prevented from attending: Oleg Orlov from Russia, Emadeddin Baghi from Iran, Teng Bao from China, Chee Siok Chin from Singapore, the HRDs invited from Cuba... She spoke movingly of the human rights defenders known to Front Line who had been murdered or disappeared since the last Platform – killed in the street, cut down while returning from a wedding, or cooking in their kitchen, or washing clothes. In the words of the poet WH Auden, "Evil is unspectacular and always human and shares our bed and eats at our own table".



**Bertha Oliva from Honduras**

Globally the situation of human rights defenders has worsened because they are becoming more effective. In this context, government officials must recognise that it is not sufficient to give support as a matter of personal commitment: protecting HRDs ought to be professionally integrated in job descriptions.

"SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T EVEN COME TO FEELING WHETHER MY LIFE IS IN DANGER, BECAUSE I HAVE SUCH STRONG OTHER FEELINGS. I TRY TO BE VERY EXACT ABOUT HOW I GO ABOUT THINGS AND I DO HAVE WORRIES ABOUT MY FAMILY AND PEOPLE CLOSE TO ME BUT I STILL HAVE MY WORK. OF COURSE THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I FEEL SCARED."

**NATASHA ESTEMIROVA, HRD, INTERVIEWED IN DUBLIN**

Mary said that she had been thinking about the courage of HRDs. She spoke particularly about Natalya Estemirova – Natasha – who had visited Ireland for several months at Front Line's invitation with her daughter, Lana, and who was brutally abducted and murdered in Chechnya on July 15 2009.

The meeting stood for a minute of silence in memory of human rights defenders who have died or been murdered because of their work. Dora "Alicia" Recinos Sorto from El Salvador... Walter Orlando Trochez, from Honduras... Manuel Ponce Rosas and Raúl Lucas Lucía from Mexico... Cynthia Mindanao Oquendo and Concepción 'Connie' Brizuela, the Philippines... Oscar Kamau King'ara and John Paul Oulu, Kenya...

"AFTER NATASHA'S DEATH, MEMORIAL STOPPED WORKING IN CHECHNYA FOR SIX MONTHS. BUT THEN WE REALISED THAT THIS PLAYED INTO THE HANDS OF NATASHA'S KILLERS, AND WE RETURNED – BECAUSE FOR PEOPLE THERE WE ARE THE LAST RESORT."

**HRD, RUSSIA**

## UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ms Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, underscored the centrality of human rights advocates to the human rights cause, and listed the obstacles and threats that impede their work: legislation that puts human rights defenders, the organisation or their funding at risk; the monitoring of their work; the criminalisation of human rights activity – notably on LGBTI issues; threats prevalent in areas of conflict.

"NEW DISTURBING TRENDS HAVE EMERGED TO MORE SUBTLY CONSTRAIN AND UNDERMINE THE ACTIVITIES OF DEFENDERS. IN PARTICULAR, I REFER TO INTRUSIVE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION RESTRICTING THE SPACE, FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE SCOPE OF ACTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES AND ORGANISATIONS. MUCH OF THIS LEGISLATION IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS."

**NAVANETHEM PILLAY, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

The High Commissioner underscored the vital importance of action to increase the security of human rights defenders, and steps in this area that the OHCHR is taking: training in security, protection of witnesses, safe houses for those at risk, involvement in the Protective Cluster Group (a UN initiative that provides protection in complex emergencies). She indicated that the Office has recently created a Civil Society Unit which should strengthen the contribution that the OHCHR can make, and that all the OHCHR's field offices or presences should stand ready to be of assistance.



**Michel Forst, Front Line; Fr John Jonga, Papua; Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mary Lawlor, Executive Director Front Line; Sam Mohochi, Kenya**

Expressing her respect and admiration for the courage and dedication of human rights defenders, the High Commissioner took a range of questions from participants – on the Office’s influence on human rights in Saudi Arabia, on an independent investigation into recent human rights violations in Sri Lanka, on the harassment of HRDs who have cooperated with UN Special Procedures, on violence in Ciudad Juarez (Mexico), on political prisoners in Iran, on violence and military cooperation policies in Colombia, on the violence and succession crisis in Togo, on the risk of pre-electoral violence in Malaysia, on impunity and the dangers HRDs face in the Central African Republic, on the quality of education in Venezuela, on amnesty legislation for human rights crimes that were committed in Algeria, and on the military coup d’état in Honduras.

## UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders



**Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs**

“WE MUST TURN KNOWLEDGE TO OUR BENEFIT AND REMIND STATES OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS. IGNORANCE IS THE TYRANT’S GREATEST TOOL. WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER, NETWORK TOGETHER, TO CREATE A CHORUS OF CONCERTED VOICES THAT CANNOT SO EASILY BE IGNORED.”

**MARGARET SEKAGGYA, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HRDS**

Margaret Sekaggya emphasised that progress has been made. The Special Rapporteurs continue to do vital work. The International Criminal Court is up and running, providing a global justice framework which means that the worst violators are no longer immune to prosecution. Judicial officials in more countries are willing to apply international norms to curb crimes by the powerful. Truth commissions and transitional justice mechanisms also increase accountability. A

Convention on the Disappeared is now close to adoption. And the Universal Periodic Review offers new opportunities to raise the situation of human rights defenders in a systematic manner.

The situation is therefore not entirely bleak – yet the challenges are undeniable and the work of human rights defenders continues to be resisted and contested. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged that she herself finds it increasingly difficult to gain access to countries and she asked HRDs to lobby for access on her behalf.<sup>4</sup> She emphasised the importance of promotion as well as protection of rights. She reported on her recent visits to DRC, where HRDs face numerous problems – arrest, surveillance, travel bans, forced exile, torture, sexual violence...

and to Colombia, where HRDs are subject to continued harassment, surveillance, torture, assassination, and the destruction of their offices, creating a climate of fear. She noted that her next reports will focus on freedom of association and assembly, and on the security of HRDs, especially women HRDs, and she asked those present to help her in her work by sending information.

In questions, participants asked the Special Rapporteur: to organise a forum in Mexico at which HRDs could be present; to assist the EU to implement its guidelines on human rights defenders; to take action against Uganda’s planned legislation on homosexuality; to inquire into abuses against HRDs by large corporations in Brazil, and also Kyrgyzstan; to trace a missing journalist; to explain why Saudi Arabia has not accepted the Special Rapporteur’s request to visit; to give attention to Bahrain and human rights concerns in the Gulf States; to undertake a follow-up visit to DRC and explain what actions have occurred as a result of her first visit; to inquire into the rape of women HRDs; to prevent the repression of HRDs in Honduras; to follow-up complaints of detention and torture in Yemen; and to visit Georgia.

IN ONE WORD, THERE IS NO LAW AND ORDER AT ALL IN BURMA. SO, HUMAN RIGHTS CANNOT DEVELOP IN SUCH A COUNTRY. BUT THE NEW GENERATION HAS A BURNING DESIRE TO RESTORE AND DEFEND THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

**ANON HRD, BURMA**



**Top: Naji Ali Hassan Faleel, Bahrain; left to right: HRD, Saudi Arabia; Dr Suraya Pakzad, Afghanistan; Khanim Rahim Latif, Iraq**

## 2. RESEARCH AND ADVICE

### STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTION Forthcoming Front Line publication

In the first of several sessions on improving security, chaired by Michel Forst, Matt Easton presented the findings of new research commissioned by Front Line in Colombia, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe. The report, which is in draft and will be published in June 2010, seeks to bring together some best practices regarding security and protection arising from the practical experience of human rights defenders in those countries. Some of the approaches highlighted include:



Carolina Aldana and Magany Belalcázar from Colombia

- Work together (“unity, unity, unity”) through temporary alliances and more permanent formal arrangements with national or international organisations;
- Use the democratic space that is available: national human rights commissions, parliamentary inquiries and procedures, government protection programmes or protection programmes provided by other institutions, legal mechanisms. Make sure to understand the limits of these programmes;
- Create protection mechanisms at non-government level;
  - organise safe houses or relocation assistance programmes
  - start a stand-alone protection organisation or build one with a coalition
  - set up communications arrangements
- Build public support for the work of HRDs and victims, either at community level, or at national level (through media work, campaigning etc.);
- Within your organisation, create and implement a security plan – and follow it. This is obviously an essential defensive strategy but one that organisations often fail to apply.

In addition:

- Use a mix of the above: do not rely on only one strategy or defence;
- Focus on the particular and additional risks that women HRDs face.

Carolina Aldana of Somos Defensores went on to expand on the experience of Colombian HRDs. First of all, they campaigned with NGOs, trade unions and other organisations to end

impunity and secure the commitment of political leaders to improve investigation of human rights abuses. Then they asked the Government to set up a protection scheme that would be available to HRDs who were in danger. Though this programme was later infiltrated and the information used to attack HRDs, it saved many people who were placed in safe houses or moved abroad.

In parallel, NGOs developed their own programmes, which also provided sanctuary or assisted HRDs to study or train abroad. Colombian organisations formed “security platforms” to lobby government to provide protection. Afro-Caribbean groups developed some additional techniques, including spiritual support and advice programmes.

Father John Jonga a human rights defender from West Papua, Indonesia, then described the history and political environment in West Papua. Emphasising the dangers West Papuans face – political repression of their desire for more autonomy or independence, repression of their resistance to the economic exploitation of their forest and mineral resources – he emphasised the value of being united, of the strength inside individuals and in communities, and the importance of international support. He called on Indonesia to replace its security policies with human security policies that take account of the full range of people’s needs, for shelter and food and safety.

Participants made a variety of points in discussion: the importance of mobilising international opinion; the way in which, if given protection, victims transform themselves into HRDs; the sig-



Michel Forst, Front Line, centre, with some of the delegates and HRDs



nificance of education; the need to give attention to sexual violence and the particular problems faced by women, such as: sexually discriminatory laws; and the fact that victims of human rights violations are often less protected than HRDs.

## DIGITAL SECURITY

In the afternoon of the first day, Wojtek Bogusz from Front Line, and Ali G from Tactical Technology<sup>5</sup> presented advice on digital security and the use of mobile phones. They emphasised that use of new technology can hugely improve the efficiency of HRDs and their capacity to communicate, but the same digital technology creates risks. Emails can be stored, altered, copied and stolen; computers can be infected by spying software that can mail all you write to a third party. People steal information and eavesdrop for personal and commercial reasons, but it is most dangerous when states and security forces do these things.

Wojtek demonstrated Security-in-a-Box [[www.securityngoinbox.org](http://www.securityngoinbox.org)], a software tool that enables HRDs to resist hackers and malware, keep their equipment safe, destroy sensitive information on their files, communicate safely without distortion or interception, and sidestep censorship. At the same time, both Wojtek and Ali cautioned against the idea that technology can be a magic bullet that provides security. However clever defensive software becomes, HRDs will always need to think intelligently in order to sidestep and reduce the risks and threats they face.

During the question session, participants asked for advice about: phone tapping, software that conceals location, whether phones can be used as microphones, how to know when



Wojtek Bogusz, right, presenting digital security advice to the conference

telephone and communications companies are collaborating with security services, whether skype is safe, whether governments can trace threatening or abusive emails, how easy it is to interfere with equipment externally (without access to passwords etc.), and how HRDs can find out whether the rooms or equipment they use are bugged.

## SECURITY STRATEGIES for WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS Publication by Front Line

"PLURALITY AND DEFENDING PLURALITY OF OPINION IS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO."

AMINA BOUYASCH, MOROCCO

This panel discussion was chaired by Noeline Blackwell from the Front Line Board with contributions from Lucha Castro, Centro de Derechos Humanos de Las Mujeres (Mexico); Parvin Ardalan, One Million Signatures Campaign (Iran); Bernadette Ntumba, AMCAV (DRC); and Mary Jane Real, Coordinator of the Women Human Rights Defenders' International Coalition. Noeline briefly presented the report 'Insiste Persiste Resiste Existe', copies of which were distributed at the Platform.<sup>6</sup> Based on research and interviews with women HRDs from ten countries, the report discusses security strategies that help women human rights defenders to protect themselves.<sup>7</sup>

Introducing the work of the WHRD Coalition, Mary Jane emphasised that some violence, notably sexualised violence, is gendered, and that when women advocate rights that touch on family, culture, or sexuality, they are subject to particularly sharp criticisms and attacks because



Parvin Ardalan, Iran; Lucha Castro, Mexico; Bernadette Ntumba, DRC; Mary Jane Real, Women Human Rights Defenders' International Coalition; Noeline Blackwell, Front Line



Gerald Kankya from Uganda

they are women. Work in support of women human rights defenders is essential, not because women enjoy a special category of rights, but because as a result of their work they face risks and consequences that are gendered and particular to women.

**"IN MY REGION CULTURAL VALUES ARE STRONG AND GENERALLY THEY UNDERMINE OR VIOLATE WOMEN'S RIGHTS. WOMEN ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC FOR EXAMPLE. WE USED A MYTHICAL FEMALE FIGURE TO HARNESS THESE TRADITIONAL VALUES IN FAVOUR OF A STRONGER ROLE FOR WOMEN. AS A RESULT ONE WOMAN WAS ELECTED TO A LEADERSHIP ROLE AND COULD BUILD A TEAM TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS."**  
**GERALD KANKYA, UGANDA**

The presenters identified different strategies that their organisations had developed to tackle such threats. In Mexico, Lucha worked with women who have been sexually abused. Her organisation documents cases, analyses weaknesses of the legal system and applies legal procedures to secure justice or reparation. It mobilises the public, and issues press releases and urgent actions. It trains judges and legal officials. Lucha observed that the Centro has learned to choose its language very carefully, as it seeks to change the male dominated bias of Mexican society.

In DRC, women HRDs who travel around the countryside are likely to face sexual aggression from soldiers or militia. To reduce this risk, HRDs wear sanitary towels stained with (animal) blood; or wear agricultural working clothes or throw manioc flour over themselves to disguise their appearance. Going from

village to village, they run weekly reviews of the situation of women, using quotations from the bible to make their assessments; and they organise small plays and sketches, sometimes using puppets, to explain and communicate the issues. It is a basic rule that a HRD never leaves home without telling all members of the family where she is going to be.

In Iran, the One Million Signatures Campaign has developed awareness raising techniques that begin with individuals and move on to small and then larger groups. The campaign is currently learning how to scale up further, with the aim of developing networks between cities,

and across the whole country. Men are encouraged to join the movement. Starting with a website, the women learned to go out into the streets to build support, thereby widening the range as well as number of women who sympathise. Parvin observed that the campaign tries not to confront tradition but seeks change within it: it is important to work within families as well as to include more men.

In the question session, participants asked about: the sustainability of the different techniques that had been described; the difficulty of changing male attitudes, especially in male dominated societies like Afghanistan; the need for women to occupy decision making posts in government, parliament and the administration; the role of the media to lobby government and make public issues visible; the role of tradition in Islamic societies and the difficulties of reforming it; the need to protect women migrants from exploitation and sexual abuse; trafficking; the challenge of transforming macho cultures, not least for men, who are its victims too. Responding to some of these questions, the speakers emphasised that women are not responsible for machismo values. The core issue is impunity: bad government. Where sexual violence is tolerated, it spreads. Collective action is crucial and the development of an enabling environment that can transform law and culture.

**"WE BELIEVE THE TIME OF THE SUBMISSIVE WOMAN IS NOW OVER."**  
**BETY CARIÑO, MEXICO**



Bety Cariño from Mexico



**Pelagia Semakwali Razemba, Zimbabwe; Anjuman Ara Begum, India; Cherifa Kheddar, Algeria; Cerila Anding, the Philippines; Anne Rimmer, Front Line**

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

On Friday 12th, in the session on international protection chaired by James McIntyre of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, Alessio Cappellani from the European Commission, and two Norwegian diplomats, Idun Tvedt and Claire Hubert, discussed what the EU and Norway do to assist and support human rights defenders. Alessio Cappellani spoke first about the EU's Human Rights Defenders' Guidelines, which offer a very specific and additional protection instrument.<sup>8</sup> All missions are asked to collect information on the situation of HRDs, to share that information with other EU countries, to make and maintain contact with HRDs, and to intervene on their behalf when required. EU missions are called on to raise human rights issues with host governments.

He emphasised that the Guidelines are a work in progress. They have just been revised, and the new version emphasises coordination, cooperation with local HRDs and feedback. He acknowledged that implementation has been uneven, partly because of the EU's unanimity rule (which sets the pace of diplomatic activity at the lowest level agreed to by all). Nevertheless, EU missions have now been asked in the next three months to agree a local strategy, to convene a first meeting with HRDs, and appoint a liaison officer for HRDs in each country. The EU is also preparing to increase its funding envelope for HRDs. Finally, he pointed out that the recent adoption of a common foreign policy structure will have an impact on all the EU's foreign policy operations that cannot yet be evaluated. This is a space to watch.

Idun Tvedt, from Norway's Foreign Ministry, emphasised that HRDs are a top priority for the Norwegian Government which sponsors the annual resolution on human rights defenders at the UN Human Rights Council. She asked the participants to inform EU countries about the implementation of the Guidelines, and to make contact with Norwegian diplomats in their countries, who implement Norway's own HRD policies. She noted that Norway raises HRDs

at each Universal Periodic Review hearing at the UN Human Rights Council, and appealed to the participants to make use of the UPR to communicate information. Finally, she observed that Norway will increase the funding it provides to support HRDs, and also supports the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, including her country visits.

**"THANK YOU FOR ALL THE NOISE YOU MADE FROM ABROAD. I WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED. BUT I AM HERE."**

**BRODRECK TAKAWIRA, ZIMBABWE**

Claire Hubert described Norway's diplomatic work in Geneva, which Norway regards as complementary to its work at national level. Norway is currently preparing the text of this year's HRD resolution at the Human

Rights Council, and she invited the participants to comment on and help improve the draft.

In the question session, participants suggested that European governments should: insist on the inclusion of civil society representatives in human rights dialogues with the Saudi Government; do more in Jordan to address violence against women, and honour killings in particular; provide more help to HRDs who work far from capitals – in Ciudad Juarez, in Mexico, for example, where only Ireland and Spain have given explicit help; make sure that HRDs are able to obtain visas; provide advice to HRDs on how to complete burdensome funding applications; address the issue of registration, which is very difficult to secure in Azerbaijan; provide more assistance to HRDs at risk in Bahrain; refuse recognition to the military regime in Honduras; make public the country strategies that EU missions are currently formulating; and put measures in place that will ensure that EU country strategies are robust and that liaison officials are active and committed.

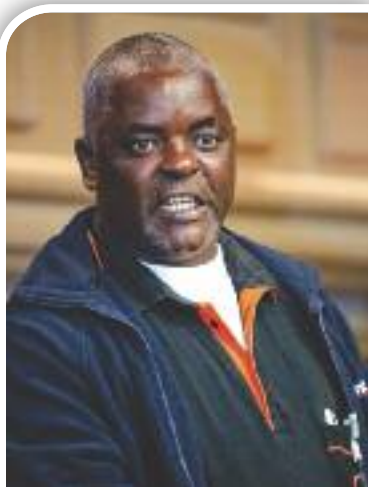
Diplomats from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland were present at the Fifth Platform. A number of the participants thanked Norway and Ireland particularly for the active and helpful assistance that their diplomats had provided.



**Florence Manegdeg from the Philippines**



**Idun Tvedt and Claire Hubert, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Alessio Cappellani, European Commission; James McIntyre, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs**



**Brodreck Takawira from Zimbabwe**

### 3. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' RESPONSES



Gaëlle Martine Célestin from Haiti

During two full sessions, the participants separated into four language groups to discuss security.<sup>9</sup> On the first day they were asked to diagnose the problems they face; on the second, to identify solutions. We select below from the analyses that emerged, drawing on notes made on both days.

#### DIAGNOSES

"I AM A JUDGE AND PRESIDENT OF TRANSPARENCY JUSTICE, WHICH WORKS FOR A JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT IS CREDIBLE. WE FIGHT CORRUPTION, AND WORK FOR AN IMPARTIAL AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. THE WORK IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE ARE TORN BETWEEN OUR DUTY AS CIVIL OFFICIALS AND OUR DUTY AS HRDS, WHICH REQUIRES US TO ACT ETHICALLY. WE HAVE BEEN HARASSED, OUR OFFICES WERE

BROKEN INTO, ALL OUR COMPUTERS WERE STOLEN, THE NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS INJURED. LAY ASSESSORS IN MY COURT REFUSED TO SIT WITH ME FOR EIGHT MONTHS BECAUSE I TOOK DECISIONS QUICKLY. A LOAD OF REFUSE WAS DUMPED IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE TO INTIMIDATE ME. YET THE WORK IS INSPIRING. WE CAN BLOCK CORRUPTION. WE CAN PROTECT THE WEAK. WE CAN AFFIRM JUSTICE."

LAURENT MANLAN, IVORY COAST

Participants identified a large number of threats to their security:

- HRD activities are criminalised;
- HRD activities are delegitimised;
- HRDs are subject to legal harassment and legal persecution, including refusal of registration, sequestering of funds, forced closure, forced exile;
- HRDs are threatened, attacked and killed; examples were provided from numerous societies;
- HRDs are vilified – exposed to “black propaganda” campaigns and public slander;
- HRDs are arbitrarily arrested and detained: examples were provided from numerous countries;
- HRDs face restrictions on freedom of assembly, and freedom of opinion and expression;
- Surveillance by intelligence services;
- Violations by non-state actors, including militias, armed groups, private security

- companies, private corporations;
- Failure to provide legal protection: poor laws are not repealed, legal gaps are not plugged;
- Impunity of officials and powerful politicians;
- Weak public support for HRDs;
- Particular threats faced by women HRDs, including sexual violence and abuses based on traditional cultural practices;
- Particular threats faced by LGBTI HRDs, including criminalisation, physical violence, and non-recognition as HRDs;
- Particular threats faced by HRDs who defend the environment and natural resources, notably from private companies and political interests that support them;
- Threats faced by HRDs who defend economic and social rights.

"HRDS WHO WORK ON HATE SPEECH AND XENOPHOBIA ARE AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE IN RUSSIA. THEY RECEIVE THREATS FROM THE EXTREME RIGHT, AND THE STATE DOES NOT TAKE THESE THREATS SERIOUSLY. FOR US, IT IS CRUCIAL TO PROTECT PERSONAL DATA, BECAUSE THE STATE REVEALS PERSONAL INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO MIGHT ATTACK US. WHEN I MADE A COMPLAINT, FOR EXAMPLE, A FEW DAYS LATER MY ADDRESS CAME INTO THE HANDS OF THE FAR RIGHT AND I STARTED TO RECEIVE THREATS. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL ARE AT THE TOP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA. DO NOT GIVE UP DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES AND ALL THE THREATS YOU RECEIVE, BECAUSE EVENTUALLY WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE."

ANONYMOUS, RUSSIA



Laurent Munyandikirwa, from Rwanda

"FIRST, WE WORKED WITH REFUGEES FROM UGANDA, AND DEFENDED PEOPLE WHO WERE FALSELY ACCUSED OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARMED OPPOSITION. LATER, WE LOST SOME OF OUR MEMBERS DURING THE GENOCIDE. AND AFTERWARDS WE DEFENDED PEOPLE WHO WERE FALSELY ACCUSED OF GENOCIDE. WE CONTINUE TO MONITOR TRIALS AND PRISON TREATMENT AND FOR THIS REASON THE GOVERNMENT DISLIKES US, BECAUSE THERE IS NO PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE IN OUR COUNTRY. TO CONCLUDE: WE HAVE LOST VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS BECAUSE OF THE ATTACKS ON US AND WE WANT HELP AGAINST THE DEMONISATION OF OUR NAME."

LAURENT MUNYANDIKIRWA, RWANDA



Sher Mohamed Khan from Pakistan

I COME FROM SWAT. PAKISTAN HAS NEVER BEEN WELL GOVERNED: IT HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MILITARY RULE, THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, AND TORTURE. VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT. THE HUGE INFLUX OF ARMS IN THE AFGHAN WAR FURTHER UNDERMINED GOVERNANCE AND PROMOTED INTOLERANT RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS. DURING THE RECENT PERIOD, HRDS HAVE BEEN HARASSED AND EVEN KILLED. ALL NGO ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN STOPPED IN THE TRIBAL AREAS. SWAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND WAS LITERALLY DESTROYED BY RELIGIOUS MILITANTS: JOURNALISTS, LAWYERS, HRDS, NGOS WERE HARASSED OR KILLED. HRDS REMAIN ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE BUT THEY ARE

PERFORMING THEIR DUTY - AGAINST ABUSES BY GOVERNMENT, BY FUNDAMENTALISM, AND BY TRADITIONAL CULTURE. WE CANNOT EXPECT TO HAVE PUBLIC SUPPORT BUT WE WILL PERSIST."

**SHER MOHAMED KHAN, PAKISTAN**

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION



Mirvari Gahramanli from Azerbaijan

"I WAS ARRESTED TWICE. MY DAUGHTER BEATEN UP. MY GRANDDAUGHTER ABDUCTED. BUT I NEVER COMPLAIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT FORCED TO CHOOSE THIS PATH. I AM PROUD TO BE A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER. BECAUSE I KNOW THEY ARE AFRAID OF ME."

**MIRVARI GAHRAMANLI, AZERBAIJAN**

Participants proposed a number of strategies and initiatives to strengthen protection and address risk. They emphasised that the best defence against threats to security is to unite with others – locally, nationally and internationally – and empower victim-survivors to become defenders. For each defender, his or her objective should be to create a continuum of protection from the workplace to the home. Defenders should take personal responsibility for their own security, and



Pelagia Semakwali Razemba from Zimbabwe

install security measures at home; while organisations should adopt security plans and protocols and link up with International NGOs and other sources of human rights protection abroad.

"THE WILL TO WIN IS WORTHLESS IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE WILL TO PREPARE"

**PELAGIA SEMAKWALI - RAZEMBA, ZIMBABWE**

"CHINA IS A LARGE COUNTRY THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE REGION: SO WE SHOULD LOOK BEYOND CHINA'S BOUNDARIES AND CONSIDER THE WORK WE CAN DO AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER AND GET CONNECTED."

**LI XIONGBING, CHINA**

A cluster of proposals focused on cooperation and building alliances – with organisations in the same sector, with organisations working in other sectors (environment, health, the labour movement), with international human rights organisations, with national human rights institu-



**Paikiasothy Saravanamutti from Sri Lanka**

tions, and with supportive elements in parliament and government. Closer cooperation was also recommended between HRDs working on civil and political rights and HRDs working on economic, social and cultural rights.

Some specific international measures were put forward. They included a recommendation that embassies and international human rights organisations should take steps to make sure that HRDs can be relocated to safe houses if they are at risk or can secure visas to travel abroad for a period. The potential of the International Cities of Refuge network was noted, and 'scholars at risk' programmes, like the one in Cape Town. International support for further training for HRDs in prevention and protection was important, in addition to continued support to human rights training programmes for police and judicial officials.



**Madian Aljezirah from Jordan**

"WE ARE AN ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENT. ORIGINALLY WE PROVIDED SECURITY FOR ROCK CONCERTS, THEN LGBTI ACTIVISTS, WOMEN, STUDENTS FROM AFRICA. WE HAVE NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE. IN RUSSIA, MANY MINORITIES ARE ILL-TREATED, XENOPHOBIA IS WIDESPREAD, AND THE THREAT OF FASCISM AND NEO-NAZISM IS HIGH. THEY HOLD LARGE MARCHES AND CONCERTS. WE HAVE NO LEADERS, ONLY PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTAIN AREAS OF OUR WORK. MY ADVICE IS: DON'T TRAIN LEADERS BECAUSE IF THEY ARE KILLED IT COSTS A LOT TO RETRAIN. SIX COLLEAGUES UNDER 30 HAVE BEEN KILLED FROM OUR MOVEMENT. SHOULD YOU HAVE ADVICE WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE IT."  
**ALEKSANDER CHERNYKH, RUSSIA**

Participants recognised in addition the need to:

- Work with the media and public opinion to create public support for their work;
- Develop capacity to undertake public protests and mass actions, nationally and globally;
- Improve and extend the documentation of violations, including violations against HRDs;

- Spread leadership responsibilities, so that continuation of the work no longer depends on a few individuals;
- Increase the capacity of organisations to assess risk and implement strategies to reduce it;
- These strategies should include:
  - the development of internal security protocols
  - formation of Protection and Security Training units managed by NGOs, and
  - establishment of contacts with diplomats and representatives of foreign organisations so that assistance can be provided quickly when HRDs come under threat
- Work for the speedy resolution of legal cases against activists.



**Georges Kanuma from Burundi**

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME WHEN I RETURN. ALL I KNOW IS THAT I AM NOT GOING TO STOP FIGHTING FOR MY RIGHTS AS SOMEONE WHO IS GAY IN BURUNDI."  
**GEORGES KANUMA, BURUNDI**

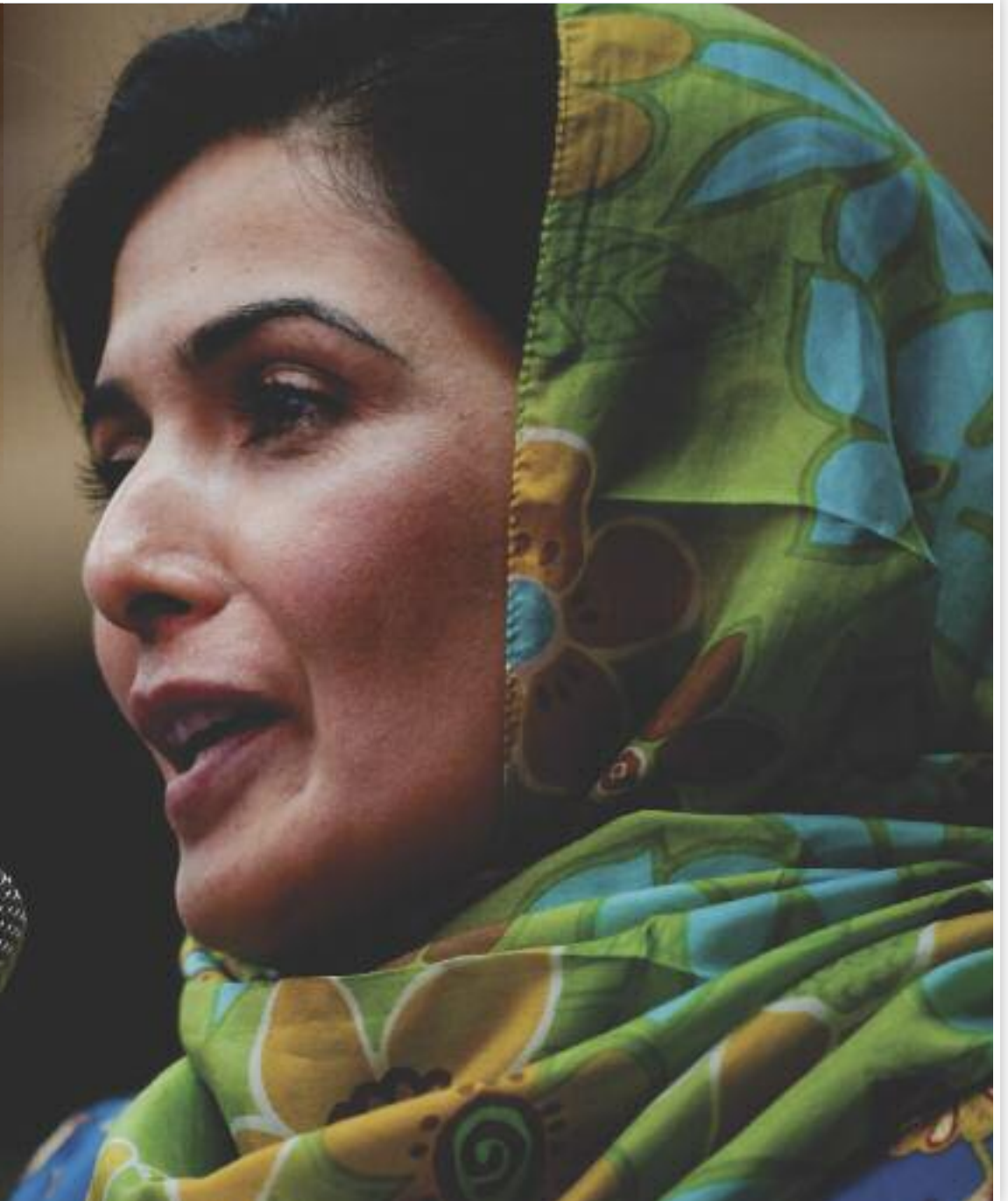
"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."  
**MARGARET MEAD, QUOTED BY MARGARET SEKAGGYA**

### Footnotes

1. Quotations from some of these testimonies are sprinkled through this report. Readers should note that the quotations cited were made at different times during the Platform and follow no chronological order.
2. *From the Republic of Conscience, in Opened Ground: Selected Poems 1966-1996* by Seamus Heaney, 1998. The poem is printed in full on this page.
3. The Dublin Statement on the Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System, 14 January 2010. The Dublin Statement was issued following a meeting that took place in Dublin, Ireland on 18 and 19 November 2009, convened by the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham.
4. The Special Rapporteur currently has 22 outstanding applications to visit.
5. Standing in for Stephanie Hankey, who was indisposed.
6. *Insiste Persiste Resiste Existe, Women Human Rights Defenders' Security Strategies*, by Jane Barry with Vahida Nainar, published in 2009 by the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, Kvinna Till Kvinna and Front Line, 96pp.
7. Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burma, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Montenegro, Nepal, Serbia, and Tunisia.
8. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/16332-re01.en08.pdf>
9. English, French, Spanish and an interpreted group including Arabic, English and Russian.



Main picture: Dr Suraya Pakzad from Afghanistan, and inset, top left: Paul Corbitt Brown from the USA; top right: Jose Luis Urbano from Venezuela; left: Andres Duarte from Chile



I USED TO LIVE QUIETLY, BEHIND MY HIJAB, NOT INVOLVED WITH THE WORLD, BUT NOW I FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AS MUSLIM WOMEN, IN THE WORLD. I ONLY HAVE PRIMARY EDUCATION, THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH, SO NOW I AM STUDYING THE LAW. I REALISE TOO THAT MANY OTHER WOMEN ARE SUFFERING AND MY WORK IS ALSO WITH THEM. I WANT TO SPEND MY TIME WITH THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LOVED ONES AS I LOST MY HUSBAND, WHO WAS SHOT TWO YEARS AGO. BUT, AS I FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, I ALSO WANT THAI OFFICIALS NOT TO THINK THAT ALL MUSLIMS ARE INSURGENTS.”  
**YAENA SALAMAE FROM THAILAND**





## DUBLIN PLATFORM 2010 PARTICIPANTS

### AFRICA

<b>Angola</b> . . . . .	Cecília Gregória Cassapi Augusto The Association Leonardo Sikufinde - Shalom Angola – ALSSA
<b>Burundi</b> . . . . .	Georges Kanuma LGBTI rights
<b>Cameroon</b> . . . . .	Maximilienne Ngo Mbe Reseau des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme de l'Afrique Centrale, (REDHAC)
<b>Cameroon</b> . . . . .	Steave Nemande Alternatives-Cameroon
<b>Congo Brazzaville</b> . . . . .	Sylvie M'Foutou Nadège Banga Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains au Congo, (ODDHC)
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b> . . . . .	Manlan Ehounnou kan Laurent Transparency Justice
<b>DRC</b> . . . . .	Bernadette Ntumba AMCAV
<b>DRC</b> . . . . .	Laurent Okitonembo Campaign for Human Rights in the Congo (CDHC – ASBL)
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b> . . . . .	Santiago Martin Engono Esono Convergencia para la Democracia Social de Guinea Ecuatorial
<b>Ethiopia</b> . . . . .	Debebe Haile Gebriel Wendimgezahu Human rights lawyer – legal consultant for NGOs
<b>Gabon</b> . . . . .	Marc Ona Essangui Brainforest
<b>The Gambia</b> . . . . .	Sarata Jabbie Dibba The Point Newspaper
<b>Guinea</b> . . . . .	Tossa Moncho Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT)
<b>Kenya</b> . . . . .	Sam Mohochi Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU)

<b>Mozambique</b> . . . . .	Maria Salva de Oliveira Revez Liga Moçambicana de Direitos Humanos – LDH
<b>Niger</b> . . . . .	Ousseini Soumani Nigerian Coalition of Defenders
<b>Nigeria</b> . . . . .	Patrick Naagbantou Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD)
<b>Rwanda</b> . . . . .	Laurent Munyandilikirwa LIPRODHOR
<b>Togo</b> . . . . .	André Afanou Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT)
<b>Uganda</b> . . . . .	Gerald Kankya Terwaneho Listeners' Club
<b>Zimbabwe</b> . . . . .	Brodreck Takawira Zimbabwe Peace Project
<b>Zimbabwe</b> . . . . .	Pelagia Semakweli – Razemba Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

### AMERICAS

<b>Bolivia</b> . . . . .	Rosa Lucia Alpines Farm Workers' Federation of Pando
<b>Brazil</b> . . . . .	Ana Hanauer Movement of the Landless Rural Workers – MST
<b>Chile</b> . . . . .	Andrés Rivera Duarte Organización de Transsexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad (OTD)
<b>Colombia</b> . . . . .	Daniilo Rueda Commission for Justice and Peace
<b>Colombia</b> . . . . .	Carolina Aldana Somos Defensores
<b>Colombia</b> . . . . .	Magali Belarcázar Organización de Mujeres Campesinas Sembradoras de Vida Y paz de Nariño
<b>Ecuador</b> . . . . .	Lina Solano Ortiz Frente de Mujeres Defensoras de la Pachamama

<b>El Salvador</b> . . . . .	Miguel Angel Rivera Moreno Asociación Amigos de San Isidro Cabañas “ASIC”
<b>Guatemala</b> . . . . .	Yuri Giovanni Melini CALAS – Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala
<b>Haiti</b> . . . . .	Gaëlle Martine Célestin GFANM – Yeux des Femmes
<b>Honduras</b> . . . . .	Bertha Oliva COFADEH Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras
<b>Jamaica</b> . . . . .	Jason McFarlane J-FLAG
<b>Mexico</b> . . . . .	Bety Cariño CACTUS – Centro de Apoyo Comunitario Trabajando Unidos A.C
<b>Mexico</b> . . . . .	Lucha Castro Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres
<b>Nicaragua</b> . . . . .	Mayra Sirias Red de Mujeres Contra La Violencia, Móvimiento Autónomo De Mujeres
<b>Peru</b> . . . . .	Iskra Chavez Loayza Abogada Association for Life and Human Dignity
<b>USA</b> . . . . .	Paul Corbit Brown Freelance Photographer
<b>Venezuela</b> . . . . .	José Luis Urbano Pro-Defense of the Right to Education

### ASIA

<b>Afghanistan</b> . . . . .	Suraya Pakzad Voice of Women Organisation (VWO)
<b>Afghanistan</b> . . . . .	Dr. Soraya Rahim Sobhrang Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)
<b>Cambodia</b> . . . . .	Vichet Chan Bridge Across Borders, South-east Asia
<b>China</b> . . . . .	Li Xiongbing Beijing Globe Law

**Fiji** ..... Peter Waqavonovono  
..... Young People's Concerned Network

**India** ..... Ajeet Singh  
..... GURIA

**India** ..... Anjuman Ara Begum  
..... South Asia Forum for Human Rights

**Indonesia** ..... Suciwati  
..... KASUM (The Committee for Action Solidarity  
for Munir)

**Malaysia** ..... Chin Huat Wong  
..... Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections  
(BERSIH)

**Mongolia** ..... Bat-Yalalt Khadbaatar  
..... Civil Fair Control

**Pakistan** ..... Sher Mohamad Khan  
..... Human Rights Commission of Pakistan  
(HRCP)

**Papua – Indonesia** ..... Fr Yohanes (John) Jonga  
..... Diocese of Jayapura

**The Philippines** ..... Cerila Anding  
..... Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Osmena

**The Philippines** ..... Florence Manegdeg  
..... Kasiyana Peace and Healing Initiatives

**Sri Lanka** ..... Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu  
..... Centre for Policy Alternatives – CPA

**Thailand** ..... Pornpen Khongkachonkiet  
..... Cross Cultural Foundation: CrCF

**Thailand** ..... Yaena Salamae  
..... Sor 6 (Women Survival Support Group)

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

**Albania** ..... Brikena Puka  
..... Psycho-Social Centre “VATRA”

**Armenia** ..... Edik Baghdasaryan  
..... Armenian Association of Investigative  
Journalists

**Azerbaijan** ..... Mirvari Gahramanova  
..... Oil Workers' Rights & Protection Union

**Belarus** ..... Uladzimir Vialichkin  
..... Viasna – Human Rights Centre – Brest

**Cyprus** ..... Doros Polykarpou  
..... KISA – Action for Equality, Support,  
Antiracism

**France** ..... Lili Boillet

**Georgia** ..... Ali Mamedov  
..... Kvemo Kartli – Institute of Development  
of Civil Society

**Georgia** ..... Ana Natsvlishvili  
..... Human Rights Centre (HRIDC)

**Ireland** ..... Vincent McGrath  
..... Pobal Chill Chomáin

**Italy** ..... Matteo Pegoraro  
..... EveryOne Group

**Kazakhstan** ..... Anara Ibrayeva  
..... Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human  
Rights & Rule of Law – Astana

**Kyrgyzstan** ..... Erkingul Imankodzhoeva  
..... KAREK Public Association

**Latvia** ..... Kaspars Zalitis  
..... LGBTI & their friends association MOZAIKA

**Russian Federation** ..... Aleksander Chernykh  
..... Journalist and Blogger

**Russian Federation** ..... Konstantin Baranov  
..... International Youth Human Rights Movement  
(MPD)

**Russian Federation** ..... Yulia Klimova  
..... Human Rights Center – Memorial – Moscow  
Office

**Serbia** ..... Milan Antonijevic  
..... Human rights lawyer

**Serbia** ..... Dinko Gruhonjic  
..... Beta News Agency

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**Algeria** ..... Cherifa Kheddar  
..... Djazairouna

**Bahrain** ..... Naji Ali Hassan Fateel  
..... Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights – BYSHR

**Egypt** ..... Ramy Raouf  
..... Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

**Iran** ..... Maryam Hosseinkhah  
..... One Million Signatures Campaign

**Iran** ..... Parvin Ardalan  
..... One Million Signatures Campaign

**Iraq** ..... Khanum Raheem Lateef  
..... Asuda: Combating Violence Against Women

**Israel** ..... Sari Bashi  
..... Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of  
Movement

**Jordan** ..... Rana Hussein  
..... Journalist/Blogger

**Jordan** ..... Madian Aljazireh  
..... Independent HRD

**Morocco** ..... Addari El Mustapha  
..... Association Marocaine des Droits Humains  
– L'AMDH

**Morocco** ..... Amina Bouyasch  
..... Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains  
– OMDH

**Saudi Arabia** ..... Ibrahim Almugaiteeb  
..... Human Rights First Society(HRFS)-Saudi  
Arabia

**Front Line wishes to offer sincere thanks to the following donors. Without their generosity, the Dublin Platform would not have occurred:**

The European Commission  
Irish Aid – The Department of Foreign Affairs  
The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Foundation Open Society Institute  
The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany – Dublin  
The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  
The Oak Foundation  
The Ford Foundation  
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Overbrook Foundation  
The American Jewish World Service  
The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy  
Zennström Philanthropies  
KIOS – The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights  
The Belgian Foreign Ministry  
The Body Shop  
Rothco Advertising Integration  
The Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Participants of the 2009 Front Line Golf Classic

The next Dublin Platform will take place in the autumn of 2011. Front Line would welcome any input for the agenda.

Reports from the working groups that took place in this year's Fifth Dublin Platform will be made available on the Front Line web site.

[www.frontlinedefenders.org](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org)



“YOU CANNOT BE TERRIFIED IF YOU ARE LAUGHING”  
CHIN HUAT WONG, MALAYSIA

---

## REPORT OF THE FIFTH DUBLIN PLATFORM PROTECT ONE – EMPOWER A THOUSAND DUBLIN CASTLE, 10-12 FEBRUARY, 2010

COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY ROBERT ARCHER



[WWW.FRONTLINEDEFENDERS.ORG](http://WWW.FRONTLINEDEFENDERS.ORG)

81 Main St, Blackrock  
Co Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: 00 353 1 212 37 50  
Fax 00 353 1 212 10 01  
[info@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:info@frontlinedefenders.org)

Front Line – EU Office  
Square Marie-Louise 72  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: 00 32 2 230 93 83  
Fax: 00 32 2 230 00 28  
[euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org)



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Front Line and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

