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Intersession Report

Presented by

Honourable Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu

Commissioner

**Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on
Reprisals in Africa and Focal Point on Judicial Independence**

**Country Rapporteur: Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of
Cameroon, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Mali and The Togolese
Republic.**

Banjul, 12 May 2026

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is submitted in accordance with Rules 25(3) and 64 of the Rules of Procedure (2020) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) and gives an account of the activities carried out during the intersession period on the promotion and protection of human rights since the 85th Ordinary Session held from 21 to 30 October 2025 in Banjul, The Gambia.
2. This report is divided into five main parts. The first gives an account of the activities carried out in my capacity as member of the Commission, member of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and Minorities in Africa, the Working Group on Communications, and the Committee on Resolutions. It also reports on activities carried out in my capacity as Country Rapporteur responsible for monitoring the human rights situation in the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Mali and The Togolese Republic.
3. The second part deals with activities carried out in my capacity as Focal Point on Judicial Independence, in accordance with Resolution ACHPR/Res.570 (LXXVII) 2023 on the appointment of a Focal Point on Judicial Independence in Africa, adopted by the Commission at its 77th Ordinary Session; and briefly outlines the situation regarding judicial independence on the African continent.
4. In the third part, it sets out the activities carried pursuant to the mandate of Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa (the Special Rapporteur), established by Resolution ACHPR/69(XXXV)04 of the Commission. This mandate was expanded to cover the issue of reprisals by Resolution ACHPR/Res.273 (LV)2014. It was renewed by Resolutions ACHPR/Res.83(XXXVIII)05, ACHPR/Res.125(XXXIX)07, ACHPR/Res.149(XLVI)09, ACHPR/Res.202(L)2011, ACHPR/Res.248(LIV)2013, ACHPR/Res.315(LVII)2015, ACHPR/Res.381(LXI)2017, ACHPR/Res.425 (LXV) 2019, ACHPR/Res.451 (LXVI) 2020, ACHPR/Res.526 (LXXIII) 2022 and ACHPR/Res.603 (LXXXI) 2024.
5. The fourth part presents an analysis of the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Association and Assembly; and gives an account of the activities carried out in my capacity as Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa.
6. The final part contains recommendations for various stakeholders involved in the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

PART I: ACTIVITIES IN MY CAPACITY AS A COMMISSIONER, MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION'S VARIOUS SPECIAL MECHANISMS AND COUNTRY REPORTER

7. This part concerns the activities carried out in my capacity as Commissioner within the Commission and as member of the various Committees, Working Groups and Commissions established by the Commission. These include the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples/Communities and Minorities in Africa, the Working Group on Communications, and the Resolutions Committee. It also covers activities carried out in

my capacity as Rapporteur responsible for monitoring the human rights situation in certain States Parties to the African Charter, namely Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo.

A. Activities as Commissioner

a. Participation in the 86th Ordinary Session of the Commission, 23 February–3 March 2026

8. I participated in the 86th Ordinary Session of the Commission, held virtually from 23 February to 9 March 2026, in accordance with Article 64(2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter) and Rule 28(1) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure (2020). The session was chaired by the Honourable Commissioner Idrissa Sow, Chairperson of the Commission, assisted by the Honourable Commissioner Hatem Essaïem, Vice-Chairperson.
9. During this Session, the Commission considered communications, concluding observations, reports and other documents to which I provided my modest contribution with a view to their substantial improvement.

b. Participation in the human rights promotion mission to the Central African Republic, 19–23 April 2026

10. As part of the Commission's mandate to promote human rights, I took part in a human rights promotion mission to the Central African Republic from 19 to 23 April 2026. The mission was led by the Chairperson Idrissa Sow, in his capacity as Commissioner responsible for the human rights situation in the Central African Republic.
11. During this visit, we met with key stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, including representatives of Ministries, the Judiciary and the Bureau of the National Assembly, national institutions responsible for human rights issues, MINUSMA and representatives of civil society organizations. We also visited detention facilities.
12. During the meeting held on 22 April 2026 with the members of the Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, we encouraged the organisers of this body to draw inspiration from organizations such as FONAREV and CIA-VAR to improve their performance
13. At the end of our mission, preliminary recommendations were drawn up and made public. We held a press conference to inform the general public of these findings. A detailed report on the mission will be presented in due course.

B. Activities as member of the various Committees and Working Groups set up by the Commission

a. Activities as member of the Working Group on Communications

14. During the period under review, I participated in two virtual meetings of the Working Group on Communications, held on the sidelines of the 86th and 87th Ordinary Sessions of the Commission. On these occasions, the Working Group examined complaints submitted to the Commission that required special attention, particularly those containing specific requests, such as the granting of interim measures and referral to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

b. Activities as member of the Resolutions Committee

15. During the period under review, I participated in a meeting of the Resolutions Committee, held virtually alongside the 86th Ordinary Session of the Commission. During the meeting, five (05) resolutions were examined and recommended for adoption by the plenary.

C. Activities as Country Rapporteur for monitoring the human rights situation in the States Parties of Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo

16. In my capacity as Commissioner-Rapporteur responsible for monitoring the human rights situation in the aforementioned States Parties, I have taken a number of actions (Annex 1) concerning the following States (See Annex 1):

17. With regard to **the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**, five (5) letters of concern were sent to the country's senior authorities.

- i. Together with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, I sent a letter of concern on 24 February 2026 regarding the arrest and remand in custody of journalists Abdelali Mezghiche and Omar Ferhat. We took this opportunity to call on the Algerian State to refrain from any form of intimidation and harassment, including judicial harassment, against journalists and other media professionals.
- ii. Together with the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, we sent a letter of concern on 9 April 2026 regarding the arrest, detention and conviction of four (04) Algerian citizens, three (03) of whom are academics. In the letter, we expressed concern about the restriction of intellectuals' freedom of expression and the increasing criminalization of online speech.
- iii. On 9 April 2026, I sent a letter expressing concern about the administrative closure and sealing of the premises of the association SOS Disparus, as well as the restrictive measures taken against its members. I called on the authorities to clarify these matters and refrain from taking any further restrictive measures against the association's members, and more broadly against all human rights defenders in Algeria.
- iv. Together with the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, on 29 April 2026, we sent a letter of concern regarding allegations of judicial

harassment against Mr Abdelkrim Zeghileche, a newspaper publisher and political activist. In particular, we called on the Government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the proceedings brought against this activist.

- v. Furthermore, on 12 May 2026, we wrote to the authorities to express our concern regarding the allegations of enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, and misuse of anti-terrorism legislation against the trade unionist Mr Ali Mammeri and the human rights defender Mr Mohamed Tadjadit. In the letter, we urged the authorities to shed light on the circumstances surrounding these events, and to refrain from intimidation and harassment of any kind, including judicial harassment, against trade unionists and other human rights defenders.

18. With regard to the **Republic of Cameroon**, a press release was issued on the human rights situation and three letters of concern were sent to the country's senior authorities.

- i. The press release was published on 31 October 2025 alongside the Commission's President, the Honourable Dr Idrissa Sow. While welcoming the calm that had prevailed during the 12 October 2025 presidential election, we expressed grave concerns about the post-election violence and the resulting deterioration in the human rights situation. We reminded the Government of its obligations to guarantee the fundamental rights of citizens, particularly the right to life and physical integrity, to liberty, and to freedom of expression, association and assembly for an emerging Cameroon with a brighter future.
- ii. Furthermore, on 4 December 2025, we sent a letter of concern jointly with the Special Rapporteur on prisons, conditions of detention and policing in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Maria Teresa Manuela,. This concerned the death in custody of Mr EKANE Anicet Georges, a leading opposition figure. We took this opportunity to remind the Government of the importance of taking appropriate measures to strengthen the protection and security of all persons deprived of their liberty. His death has had a profound impact on the community of human and peoples' rights defenders, who observed a minute's silence in his memory at the NGO Forum (the Participatory Forum of the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights).
- iii. In conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, we sent a letter of concern on 24 February 2026 regarding the arrest and prolonged detention of at least 148 people in the context of the crisis that followed the 12 October 2025 presidential elections. We called on the Government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the continued detention of those arrested during the post-election crisis, and to ensure their release if the case is dismissed.
- iv. At the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Selma Sassi-Safer, and in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, we sent a letter of concern on 11 March 2026 regarding the detention of African nationals transferred from the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon, as well as allegations of violations of press freedom and freedom of expression in this context. Specifically, we requested that the Government provide details of the measures taken to ensure that these African

nationals have effective access to asylum procedures and legal assistance, and the steps taken to guarantee strict adherence to the principle of non-refoulement.

19. Regarding **the Republic of Mali**, two (02) press releases were published, and two (02) urgent appeal letters as well as two (02) letters of concern were sent to the country's senior authorities.

- i. On 13 November 2025, I sent an urgent appeal letter regarding the abduction and murder of the Malian influencer Ms Mariam Cissé by suspected jihadists. On that occasion, I called on the Malian State to take appropriate measures to protect the civilian population further. A press release was also issued on this case.
- ii. On 9 February 2026, I sent an urgent appeal letter concerning the prolonged detention of Mr Clément Mamadou Dembélé, a civil society activist. In it, I called on the authorities to investigate the circumstances surrounding his continued detention and to ensure his release if no charges were brought against him.
- iii. In conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, we sent a letter of concern on 27 February 2026 regarding the arrest and detention of Mr Youssouf Sissoko, editor-in-chief of the newspaper L'Alternance. We took this opportunity to call on the authorities to refrain from any form of intimidation and harassment, including judicial harassment, against journalists and other media professionals.
- iv. In conjunction with the Honourable Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo, we sent another letter of concern on 2 March 2026 regarding the conviction and detention of Mr Moussa Mara, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali and former president of the opposition party Yéléma. In the letter, we urged the Government to investigate the circumstances surrounding his continued detention and to ensure that he is given a fair trial, with the right to defend himself before an impartial and independent court.
- v. On 29 April 2026, together with the Chairperson of the Commission, the Honourable Idrissa Sow, we issued a press release regarding the coordinated armed attacks that took place on 25 April 2026 in several localities of the Republic of Mali, resulting in loss of life, injury and significant material damage. In it, we conveyed the Commission's condolences to the bereaved families and expressed our full solidarity with the Malian authorities and people. Recalling the scope of Article 4 of the African Charter on the Right to Life, we called on the authorities and the international community to take measures to better protect the people of Mali.

20. With regard to the **Togolese Republic**, we sent an urgent appeal letter, a letter of concern and a letter of appreciation were sent to the country's senior authorities:

- i. In conjunction with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Ms Mary Lawlor; and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Ms Gina Paola Romero Rodriguez, we sent an urgent appeal on 25 November 2025 regarding the arbitrary detention and deteriorating health of Mr Abdoul Aziz Goma, an Irish human rights defender of Togolese origin. In it, we expressed our grave concern regarding allegations of ill-treatment of the defender and called for his release.

- ii. On 2 March 2026, I sent a letter of appreciation following the pardon and release, in January of that year, of several dozen human rights defenders, activists and demonstrators. These include Mr Foly Satchivi, Mr Abdoul Aziz Goma and Mr Sokpor Sitsopé Honoré (also known as Affectio), regarding whom concerns had been brought to the attention of the authorities through urgent appeal letters. In the letter, I commended the Togolese Government for its commitment and for paying attention to the letters sent by the Commission. I also encouraged it to closely monitor the charges and prosecutions still pending against those released and to investigate the circumstances surrounding the continued detention of the other human rights defenders.
- iii. On 8 May 2026, I sent a letter to express my concern about the continued detention of thirteen (13) C14 detainees since the tensions of 2019, despite court rulings in their favour. I called on the Government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the continued detention of all those arrested during this crisis, to ensure their release if no charges are brought against them, and to put in place adequate practical safeguards to ensure respect for all rights relating to a fair trial.

Outcome 1: The senior authorities in the relevant countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Mali and Togo) have been alerted to and made aware of the allegations of human rights violations concerning them.

Recommendation 1: Call on States to:

- Conduct investigations to locate and secure the release of the individuals concerned and ensure their release if no credible charges are brought against them;
- Refrain from all forms of intimidation and harassment, including judicial harassment, against activists, human and peoples' rights defenders, trade unionists, journalists and other media professionals, lawyers, political opponents and researchers, and ensure that they can carry out their activities without hindrance or fear of reprisals;
- Adopt a specific law on the protection of human rights defenders.

PART II: ACTIVITIES AS FOCAL POINT ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

21. In my capacity as Focal Point on Judicial Independence, and in accordance with Resolution ACHPR/Res.570 (LXXVII) 2023 on the appointment of a Focal Point on Judicial Independence in Africa, adopted by the Commission at its 77th Ordinary Session, I have closely monitored the situation regarding judicial independence in Africa. To this end, a number of initiatives and activities have been carried out (see Annex 2), notably issuing a press release.

A. Protection activities

- a. **Press release on the conviction of the President of the Tunisian Magistrates' Association and concerns regarding the independence of the judiciary in the Republic of Tunisia**
22. At the initiative of the Honourable Selma Sassi-Safer, Commissioner responsible for monitoring the human rights situation in the Republic of Tunisia, we published a press

release on 7 April 2026 concerning recent developments relating to the judiciary in the Republic of Tunisia, and particularly the sentencing on 6 April 2026 of Mr Anas Hmedi, the President of the Tunisian Magistrates' Association.

23. In the press release, we expressed our concerns regarding the implications of this case for the independence of the judiciary, as well as the risks posed by measures that could affect the independent exercise of judicial functions and the associative activities of magistrates. We reiterated that all judicial proceedings must comply strictly with the guarantees of a fair trial, and that judicial independence is a fundamental principle of the rule of law.
24. We encouraged the Tunisian authorities to take all appropriate measures to enable judges to carry out their duties and their associative activities with complete independence, in an environment conducive to the exercise of their responsibilities.

THE STATE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN AFRICA

25. The situation regarding judicial independence continues to deteriorate in certain countries on the continent. There has been an increase in arrests and legal proceedings against political figures, including former political leaders, opposition figures, activists and their relatives. This reflects a trend towards the judicial management of political crises and protests.
26. Governments must be reminded that judicial independence is a cornerstone of any democratic society and provides protection for all citizens, regardless of their status. It is crucial that the judiciary is not subject to any kind of interference from political or business circles. A truly independent judiciary requires well-trained, honest and conscientious judges and magistrates. They are the driving force behind societal progress.
27. The Commission notes that this type of judicial management particularly occurs in the context of constitutional reforms or changes of political regime, illustrating a worrying trend towards the use of the courts to legitimize political developments and control protests, with frequent recourse to broad charges relating to conspiracy, State security or the dissemination of false information.
28. In this regard, the Commission expresses its concern that certain States are trying civilians, particularly human rights defenders, before military courts.
29. The Commission is also concerned about acts of intimidation, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of members of the judiciary, particularly lawyers, judges and magistrates. These situations raise concerns about the effective safeguards available to these individuals to help strengthen judicial independence.
30. The Commission is also concerned by cases in which the judicial system is reportedly being exploited to impose heavy sentences on human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and political opposition figures through the intervention of the executive authorities.

Outcome 2: The issue of judicial independence in relation to human and peoples' rights on our continent has been brought to the attention of States and other stakeholders..

Recommendation 2: Call on States to:

- Strictly observe the separation of powers and guarantee judicial independence for the proper administration of justice;
- Adopt all necessary measures to ensure an environment that enables lawyers, judges and magistrates to carry out their professional duties with complete independence and free from intimidation, obstruction, harassment, reprisals or undue interference;
- Take the necessary measures to ensure that civilians are not tried by military courts or any other non-judicial bodies other than those duly established by law.

PART III: ACTIVITIES AS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND FOCAL POINT ON RETALIATION IN AFRICA

A. Promotional activities

a. Participation in a consultation for civil society organizations, State actors and media professionals, 10–12 November 2025, in Dakar (Senegal)

31. I participated in a consultation for civil society organizations, State actors and media representatives in Dakar, Senegal, from 10 to 12 November 2025.
32. Organized by the Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD), the consultation aimed to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders on the continent through an intersectional feminist approach focusing on holistic security, strategic advocacy and network-building. My participation was part of an effort to increase effective collaboration between human rights defenders and regional mechanisms.

b. Participation in a regional training on early warning in Africa, 14–15 November 2025 in Accra (Ghana)

33. I participated in a regional training session on early warning systems in Africa organized by the RFLD in Accra, Ghana on 14 and 15 November 2025.
34. The workshop was attended by around thirty key African stakeholders, including human rights defenders, civil society organizations, academic and regional institutions, with the aim of strengthening collaboration between these actors and improving the use of early warning data to promote human rights in Africa. My participation in this workshop aimed to guide human rights defenders in their strategic positioning, enabling them to effectively utilize early warning data and advocate for improvements to human rights conditions across the continent.

c. Participation in the 12th Inter-Mechanism Meeting on Human Rights Defenders, on the theme “Strengthening collective responses to the arbitrary detention of human rights defenders” and the publication of a joint statement.

35. On 24 and 25 November 2025, I participated in the 12th Inter-Mechanism Meeting on Human Rights Defenders, organized by OMCT and the FIDH Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The meeting focused on “Strengthening collective responses to the arbitrary detention of human rights defenders”. This meeting brought together mandate holders from the United Nations and regional institutions, as well as civil society organizations and highlighted potential avenues for more coordinated action in the face of growing challenges related to the protection of human rights defenders.
36. Following the event, I issued a joint statement on the issue of the prolonged arbitrary detention of human rights defenders with Ms Mary Lawlor (UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders), Ms Gina Romero (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association), Mr Michel Forst (UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention) and Roberta Clarke (Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Judicial Officers of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).
37. In it, we expressed our deep concern at the global trend of using prolonged pre-trial detention and long-term imprisonment to target human rights defenders, and urged all States to take concrete measures to put an end to this practice.

d. Publication of a press release to mark the International Day of Human Rights Defenders, 9 December 2025

38. On 9 December 2025, I issued a press release to mark the International Day of Human Rights Defenders. On this day, I paid tribute to the unwavering courage and commitment of the women and men who work relentlessly to promote and protect human and peoples’ rights on the continent, often at great personal risk.
39. I also expressed my concern regarding the current state of civic space on the African continent. I condemned the numerous violations of the rights to freedom of association and assembly and reminded States Parties of their legal and moral obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights arising from the ratification of or accession to various human rights instruments. To this end, I urged them to take the necessary measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders; put an end to harassment and the criminalization of legitimate human rights activities; strengthen national protection mechanisms and ensure effective access to justice for defenders who are victims of violations. I also urged those who have not yet done so to adopt legislation to protect the role of human rights defenders.

e. Press release issued on the occasion of the International Day of Women Human Rights Defenders, 29 November 2025

40. To mark the International Day of Women Human Rights Defenders, celebrated annually on 29 November, I issued a press release commending the courage, resilience and determination of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in their daily struggle to advance human rights and the rule of law in Africa despite the multiple and multifaceted risks to which they often face.
41. To this end, I called on States Parties to take the necessary measures for the recognition of the essential role of human rights defenders in general, and of FDDHs in particular, in order to ensure their protection and create a legal environment conducive to their work, in accordance with the African Charter and the relevant resolutions of the Commission.

f. Participation in the 15th Biennial Conference of the Network of African Human Rights Institutions (NAHRI), 5–6 February 2026, in Yaoundé, Cameroon

42. I participated in the 15th Biennial Conference of the Network of African Human Rights Institutions (NAHRI), held on 5 and 6 February 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on the theme ‘Original aspects of African human rights instruments and jurisprudence’.
43. During the conference, I discussed the distinctive features of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Commission’s case law with the national human rights institutions present.
44. I also drew attention to the small number of cases concerning human and people's rights on the continent, one of the lowest figures in this area (fewer than 1,000 communications submitted in the 45 years since the Charter came into force). In this regard, I urged the NHRIs to bring cases before the Commission

g. Organizing a first meeting of experts on the draft African Declaration on the Promotion of the Role of Human and Peoples’ Rights Defenders and their Protection in Africa, 9–11 April 2026, in Dakar, Senegal

45. Pursuant to Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Resolution ACHPR/Res.432(LXV) 2019, which mandates the Special Rapporteur to draft an African Declaration on the Promotion of the Role of Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights Defenders and their Protection in Africa (the African Declaration), I organized an initial meeting of experts on the draft African Declaration from 9 to 11 April 2026 in Dakar (Senegal).
46. The meeting was attended by twenty-two experts, including delegates from States Parties, representatives of national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academics who examined and discussed the draft African Declaration with a view to improving its content before its submission to the Commission for consideration and adoption.

47. This initial public consultation, supported by the Open Society Foundation (OSF), will be followed by further consultations at the level of the NGO Forum, the COREP Sub-Committee on Elections, Democracy and Human Rights, and the Pan-African Parliament. Consultations with other stakeholders not included in these categories are also scheduled.
48. The draft of this Declaration (also available on the Commission's website) is annexed to this report for your comments and suggestions before a final decision is made.

h. Participation in the launch of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 30 April 2026, in Kinshasa, DRC

49. At the invitation of AfricanDefenders, the Pan-African Network of Human Rights Defenders, DefendDefenders and the Human Rights Defenders Project for East Africa and the Horn of Africa, I participated in the launch of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Kinshasa on 30 April 2026. The event brought together senior DRC officials, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations and other national and international human rights organizations.
50. The launch of the Coalition is the culmination of multi-stakeholder consultations aimed at bridging certain gaps identified by the founding organizations in the protection of human rights defenders, particularly with regard to networking, rapid response mechanisms and coordination efforts.
51. Following the launch, there was a panel discussion during which I gave a presentation on the role of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in protecting, securing and building the resilience of human rights defenders in the DRC.

Outcome 3: Raising awareness among various stakeholders of the Commission's work, its decisions, and the soft-law instruments it produces to promote and protect human rights defenders.

Recommendation 3: Take ownership of the Commission's objectives, texts and decisions in order to improve the situation of human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

B. Protection activities

a. Urgent appeals, letters of concern, assessment letters and press releases

52. During the period under review, the Mechanism received complaints on alleged violations of the rights of human rights defenders, to which it responded according to the specific requirements of each case. Thus, sometimes in conjunction with other mechanisms or country rapporteurs, eight (08) urgent appeal letters and twenty-seven (27) letters of concern were sent to the States Parties of South Africa (1), Algeria (5), Angola (1), Benin (1), Burkina Faso (3), Burundi (1), Cameroon (2), Egypt (2), Guinea (1), Guinea-Bissau (1), Mali (4), Mauritania (1), Uganda (3), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3), Chad (1), Togo (2) and Tunisia (3). Details of these communications are set out in the table in Annex 1.

53. These complaints concern allegations of human rights violations relating to cases involving:
- Arbitrary arrests and detentions of activists, journalists and human rights defenders;
 - Violations of trade union freedoms;
 - Judicial harassment, reprisals and intimidation against human rights defenders;
 - Assassinations, abductions and enforced disappearances of human rights defenders;
 - Suspensions of civil society organizations and other obstacles to the exercise of their activities.
54. In conjunction with other mechanisms or country rapporteurs, I also sent three (3) letters of assessment to the States Parties of Uganda (1), Tunisia (1) and Burundi (1). These letters followed the release of the following human rights defenders: Dr Sarah Bireete, Mr Ahmed Souab, Ms Sandra Muhoza and Mr Kenny Claude Nduwimana. We had previously sent letters of concern with regard to these individuals. While welcoming the authorities' decisions, we urged them to continue, where necessary, their efforts towards the complete withdrawal of charges against those concerned and the release of human rights defenders still in detention.
55. I also issued six (06) press releases, either individually or jointly with other mechanisms or country rapporteurs, relating to: allegations of arbitrary arrests, the suspension of NGOs and restrictions on freedom of expression in the context of the 2026 general elections in Uganda (3); the arbitrary arrest and detention of Ms Warda Ahmed Souleymane, a human rights defender in Mauritania (1); the dissolution of forty political parties in Guinea (1); and the dissolution of one hundred and eighteen civil society organizations, including several human rights associations in Burkina Faso (1). The content of these press releases is available on the Commission's website.

b. Response from States

56. During the intersession period, the Mechanism received four (04) responses:
- i. From the Angolan authorities in response to the urgent appeal letter dated 15 September 2025, concerning allegations of excessive use of force, killings and arbitrary detentions during the demonstrations in July 2025;
 - ii. From the Egyptian authorities in response to the letter of concern sent on 9 February 2026 regarding allegations of arbitrary arrest and judicial harassment against the human rights defender Mr Ahmed Douma;
 - iii. From the Algerian authorities regarding the letters of concern sent on 9 April 2026 concerning:
 - i. the administrative closure and sealing of the premises of the association SOS Disparus, as well as the restrictive measures taken against its members;
 - ii. the arrest, detention and conviction of four Algerian citizens, including three academics;

- iii. the arrest and remand in custody of journalists Abdelali Mezghiche and Omar Ferhat.

Outcome 4: Draw the attention of the States Parties concerned, in a spirit of support, to the need to adopt appropriate measures to remedy the alleged violations, should they prove to be true.

Recommendation 4: Respond to the urgent appeal letters and letters of concern sent by the Mechanism for those States Parties that have not yet done so and take appropriate measures to prevent and combat violations of the rights of human rights defenders.

PART IV: ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AFRICA

57. A favourable national legal framework is an essential element in guaranteeing a safe and conducive environment for the work of human and peoples' rights defenders, in accordance with the provisions of many international and regional instruments, in particular in situations where laws and practices are non-existent and where their work is inhibited and criminalized. There is need to adopt and effectively implement laws and measures guaranteeing their support and protection.

58. It should be noted that the situation of human and peoples' rights defenders has continued to deteriorate in many States Parties in recent months. The following is an overview of the situation of human rights defenders, freedom of association and assembly, demonstrations and the issue of reprisals in a number of countries.

A. Freedom of association and assembly in Africa

59. Freedom of association and assembly are essential to the exercise and defence of other human rights and represent a hallmark of pluralistic democracy, enabling development and diversity.

60. During the intersession period, the Mechanism noted no major positive developments in favour of the freedom of association and assembly in the States parties.

61. Among the areas of concern, the Mechanism noted the following:

- The decision by the Burkinabe authorities, in April 2026, to dissolve one hundred and eighteen (118) civil society organizations, including numerous human rights associations;
- The consideration and adoption of legislative frameworks that restrict the freedom of association and assembly. These include:
 - o the entry into force of Law No. 2/26 on NGOs, promulgated on 19 February 2026 in Angola;
 - o the adoption by implementing decree, in November 2025, of Law No. 011-2025/ALT of 17 July 2025 on freedom of association in Burkina Faso, which entails increased oversight within the security context;
 - o the difficulties faced by NGOs in maintaining their activities in Zimbabwe following the publication in the Official Gazette on 29 August 2025 of new

registration fees applicable to private voluntary organizations (PVOs), amounting to US\$250 for international organizations and US\$150 for local organizations;

- the ongoing adoption by district councils in Malawi of administrative regulations that impose registration requirements, licence fees and compliance obligations on CSOs;
- The persistence of certain States in requiring prior authorization for any demonstration, despite the existing notification system governing the exercise of this freedom, as well as repeated bans on security or public order grounds, notably:
 - the National Security Council of Côte d'Ivoire's decision, announced in a 2 October 2025 press release, to ban all public meetings or demonstrations challenging the Constitutional Council's decisions during the electoral period to maintain order and security;
 - the prefectural decree banning the '*Black Friday*' demonstration scheduled for 10 April 2026 at the Stand Up For Cameroon movement's headquarters, and any unauthorized gathering, march or public demonstration throughout Cameroon's Wouri department on the same date;
- The repression and excessive use of force, sometimes lethal, to suppress demonstrations in certain countries, resulting in loss of life, injury and the mass arrest of demonstrators;
- Violent crackdowns, arrests and widespread legal proceedings against youth movements, particularly those known as the 'Generation Z' movement, which organize via digital platforms and street demonstrations to demand social justice, economic opportunities and political accountability. Examples include:
 - the arrest of 'Generation Z-DRC' citizens' movement activists during a peaceful demonstration in Beni (DRC) in January 2026;
 - the continued detention of the young Gen Z activists Ms Carine Soa Fy and Mr Rija Zoky, who were arrested following a peaceful march organized on 10 April 2026 in Madagascar;
 - the sentencing, in April 2026, of eight young environmental activists who participated in demonstrations against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Uganda in August 2025;
 - the prosecution of young Hirak supporters in Algeria for social media posts critical of the government, with around one thousand (1,000) people prosecuted in early 2026;
- Restrictions on the organization of meetings and demonstrations in electoral and post-electoral contexts in several countries, notably in Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Cameroon;
- Internet shutdowns and digital restrictions affecting freedom of assembly, particularly in the context of the 2026 general elections in Uganda;
- The arrest and prolonged detention of at least 148 people in Cameroon in the context of the post-election crisis of 12 October 2025;
- The suspension and banning of political party activities in transition and post-transition States, including:
 - in Burkina Faso, where political parties and groups have been dissolved and legislative reforms have been introduced to repeal the legal framework governing the creation, operation and funding of parties;

- in Guinea, where forty opposition political parties have been dissolved by ministerial decree; and
- in Chad, where the main opposition coalition, the Groupe de concertation des acteurs politiques (GCAP), has been dissolved;
- The escalation of violations of civil and political rights, repression and arrests of activists, dissenting voices and opposition figures, notably in Mali, Angola, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the DRC, Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe and Gabon;
- The misuse of security and sovereignty arguments, particularly with regard to terrorist financing, money laundering and cybercrime, to restrict the work of associations and impose excessive control over their activities and sources of funding;
- The decision to suspend the activities of the Tunisian Human Rights League, a leading human rights organization in Tunisia;
- The summons issued on 11 May 2026 to the investigative media outlet Inkyfada in connection with the dissolution of Al Khatt, the association that publishes it, in Tunisia;
- The arbitrary arrests and detentions of trade union rights defenders in certain countries, notably in Algeria and Gabon;
- The administrative red tape involved in the legal registration of human rights associations and NGOs in certain countries;
- The politicization of civil society organizations and the work of human rights defenders;
- The absence of laws and other legal mechanisms that specifically protect human rights defenders in most countries create a significant loophole for violations of defenders' rights and increases their vulnerability;
- The continued use by certain States of health or security emergency measures to unduly restrict the freedom (rights) of association and assembly, particularly for opposition political actors, civil society and human rights defenders.

62. The Commission reiterates and encourages the use of its Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa. These guidelines were adopted to enable States, including policymakers, drafters of legislation and legislators, to ensure that legislation, policies and administrative practices are in line with best practices and international standards, and that measures do not unduly infringe upon the freedom of association and assembly.

63. The Commission further recalls the central role played by national courts in safeguarding the freedom of association and assembly.

B. The issue of reprisals on the continent

64. **During the intersession period, the Mechanism noted some positive developments, including the release**

- i. of several dozen human and peoples' rights defenders, activists and demonstrators, including Messrs. Foly Satchivi, Abdoul Aziz Goma, and Sokpor Sitsopé Honoré (also known as Affectio), in January 2026 in Togo;

- ii. Dr Sarah Bireete, a pro-democracy campaigner, human rights defender and election observer during the 2026 general elections in Uganda on 28 January 2026; and
 - iii. Ahmed Souab, a lawyer, former judge and human rights defender, on 23 February 2026, in Tunisia;
 - iv. Journalist and women's rights defender Sandra Muhoza, and journalist Kenny Claude Nduwimana, on 4 March 2026, in Burundi;
 - v. the dialogue initiated by the Madagascan authorities with the families of the six Gen Z protesters arrested in April 2026 and the release of four of these protesters.
65. Acts of reprisal remain widespread and take various forms, including murder, assassination, systematic harassment, undue restrictions on access to meetings of human rights bodies, threats of various kinds, physical violence, other abuses, unjustified restrictions on the activities of civil society organisations, espionage, burglary of organisation and association headquarters, defamation, suspension of licences, arbitrary arrest and detention, and repetitive legal proceedings.
66. These acts of reprisal are widespread across the continent, with their severity varying according to national contexts. Of particular note are:
- The murder of Mr Zweli 'Khabazela' Mkhize, a local leader of the Abahlali baseMjondolo movement, on 12 February 2026 in South Africa, amid ongoing violence against housing rights activists and a culture of impunity for such crimes.
 - The murder on 30 March 2026 of Martha Mani Rantsofu, a whistleblower preparing to expose a fraud case involving 16 million rand linked to debt manipulation within the Emfuleni municipality in South Africa's Vaal region;
 - The murder on 31 March 2026 of Mr Vigário Luís Balanta, president of the Pó di Terra movement, who had recently been campaigning on issues relating to the ban on demonstrations, the release of political prisoners, and the results of the last presidential election. This occurred within a broader context of the repression and intimidation of human rights defenders in Guinea-Bissau.
 - The violence and torture perpetrated by the AFC/M23 against human and peoples' rights defenders in the DRC, including the incommunicado detention and torture, on 4 January 2026, of Ms Binwa Asani and Ms Ongwa Apilline, who are both human rights defenders and members of the Local Peace and Human Rights Committee in Kalungwe (South Kivu). This occurred while they were protesting against the AFC/M23's decision to expel civilians from certain villages in southern Ulvira.
 - The sentencing on 15 April 2026 of the 84-year-old leader of the Ennahda movement, Mr Rached Ghannouchi, to twenty years' imprisonment in the 'Ramadan rally' case in Tunisia despite his significant health deterioration;
 - The criminal proceedings initiated on 19 April 2026 by the Sudanese authorities against Ms Rehab Mubarak Sayed Ahmed, a lawyer and human rights defender and member of the Emergency Lawyers Group, for undermining the constitutional order and waging war against the state;
 - The arrest on 19 January 2026 and continued detention of Mr Bob Mengome, a convicted activist and critic of the Gabonese authorities' conduct of affairs, on charges of disturbing public order and incitement to hatred;

- The arrest on 5 January 2026 and continued detention of Mr Nathanaël Onokomba, a human rights defender in the DRC, who is being held in Ndolo military prison, in connection with the expression of his opinions in a context of conflict;
- The continued detention of Mr Oqba Hashad by the Egyptian authorities since May 2019, in alleged retaliation for the activism of his brother, Mr Amr Hashad, an exiled human rights defender;
- The procedural irregularities and the continued detention, since January 2024, of Mr Menzi Bongeka Bhembe, a student activist charged under the Counter-Terrorism Act for alleged links to a banned organization associated with PUDEMO in Eswatini;
- The arrest and pre-trial detention in Algeria of journalists Mr Abdelali Mezghiche and Mr Omar Ferhat, as well as other academics, activists, trade unionists and human rights defenders including Mr Ali Al-Omari, Mr Karim Tabbou, Mr Ali Mammeri and Mr Mohamed Tadjadit, amid ongoing judicial harassment of dissenting voices, particularly those associated with the Hirak movement;
- The arrest in Ethiopia of associates of the artist Tewodros Kassahun (known as Teddy Afro), including his spokesperson Mahlet Solomon and his business partner Yusuf Yassin, following the release of his latest album on 16 April 2026, which contains lyrics criticizing the government;
- The arrest on 16 February 2026 of Ms Manal Mustafa, a former Nyala Radio journalist in Sudan, after she organized a discussion session for female journalists at her home two weeks earlier;
- The re-arrest on 6 April 2026 of Ahmed Douma, an Egyptian writer, poet and human rights defender, who has faced seven legal proceedings since his release in August 2023 following over ten years in detention, and the subsequent allegations of judicial harassment;
- The re-arrest on 24 April 2026 of Sokpor Sitsopé Honoré (also known as Affectio), a poet and activist who was released in January 2026 by way of a pardon;
- Allegations of judicial harassment against the human rights defenders Ms Maximilienne Ngo Mbe, the Executive Director of the Central African Human Rights Defenders Network (REDHAC), and Ms Alice Nkom, a lawyer and the Chair of the REDHAC Board of Directors in Cameroon.
- The continued prosecution by the Burundian authorities of Ms Sandra Muhoza, despite her sentence being reduced from two years to six months on appeal;
- The legal proceedings brought against civil society figures working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in Tunisia.
- Reprisals against environmental activists, including threats, intimidation and violence against those involved in monitoring illegal mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);
- The imposition of heavy bail amounts and costs to discourage the work of human rights defenders in certain countries;
- The increasing threats and political smear campaigns against land rights defenders who are labelled as opponents of development in Sierra Leone, notably against Mr Mohamed Turay and Mr Prince Tommy Williams;
- The increasing criminalization of human rights defenders' expression in the digital sphere across the continent.

67. I call on States to investigate the threats and acts of intimidation suffered by human rights defenders and to ensure that the alleged perpetrators are brought to justice, and that rights holders and victims obtain justice and adequate reparations.
68. In accordance with the mandate assigned to the Mechanism on issues of reprisals, we pursue our efforts to prevent and combat reprisals against human rights defenders who collaborate or attempt to collaborate with the Commission.

PART V: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

69. Attention should be drawn to the alarming situation of human rights defenders on the African continent, while the number of cases brought before the Mechanism continues to rise. Certain countries continue to be accused of regular violations, and the Mechanism will endeavour to verify these claims before contacting the State concern. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that following up on our urgent appeal letters and letters of concern — both in terms of their actual receipt by states and the implementation of our recommendations — remains a major challenge
70. With regard to its activities, the Mechanism continues to collaborate with States on various issues, notably:
- The proper application of human rights norms and standards relating to human rights defenders in particular, through recommendations on State reports, country visits, fact-finding missions, urgent appeals or letters of concern, and other means;
 - The adoption of laws on the protection of human rights defenders. In this regard, the Mechanism reiterates its willingness to support States through the various stages of adopting such laws;
 - The implementation of various soft laws relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of human rights defenders.
71. The Mechanism continues to work on improving the freedom of association and assembly tracker in Africa. This transparent and objective tool will be made available to the public by the Special Rapporteur, who is receiving technical support from his Support Group to promote and monitor the effective implementation of the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa.
72. Finally, the Mechanism continues to play a leading role in drafting the Declaration on the Promotion of the Role of Human Rights and Peoples' Rights Defenders and their Protection in Africa.

B. Recommendations

73. The recommendations set out in our previous reports remain relevant. The mandate would like to see the States Parties and the various stakeholders, including civil society, take ownership of these recommendations and work towards their effective implementation.

❖ To States Parties:

- i. Develop, adopt and implement stronger and more adequate national laws, policies and programmes for the protection of human rights defenders, following the example of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in West Africa and the DRC in Central Africa;
- ii. Raise awareness among administrative, judicial and security authorities of the laws on human rights defenders with the aim of removing any restrictions limiting their work;
- iii. Ensure that the Mechanisms put in place for the protection of human rights defenders are inclusive and bring on board the representatives of civil society;
- iv. Ensure that draft legislation on the protection of human rights defenders complies with regional and international standards as well as with the model law on the recognition and protection of human rights defenders. This will help create a legal environment that is conducive to their work;
- v. Ensure that the revision of counter-terrorism laws complies with relevant regional and international standards as well as with the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Fight against Terrorism in Africa, adopted by the Commission in 2015;
- vi. Refrain from adopting repressive laws that seek to restrict the civic space and the legitimate activities of human rights defenders in promoting and defending human rights;
- vii. Adopt special laws to address the issue of protecting human rights defenders in the context of environmental issues or health and security crises, or other continental or global crises;
- viii. Raise awareness and build the capacity of various stakeholders, including human rights defenders, regarding the laws and regulations governing the promotion and protection of human rights;
- ix. Take all appropriate measures to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their activities in safe conditions, free from any threats to their physical and moral integrity;
- x. Pay particular attention to the situation of women human rights defenders, which remains a constant concern for the Special Rapporteur's mechanism;
- xi. Refrain from deregistering NGOs and civil society organizations operating in the field of human rights promotion and protection, and strengthen civic and democratic space by promoting freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all human rights defenders;
- xii. Ensure that measures taken by States to combat terrorism and the flow of illicit financial resources comply with the African Commission's Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa and the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Fight Against Terrorism in Africa;
- xiii. Establish adequate mechanisms for redressing the harm suffered by human rights defenders in the course of their work;
- xiv. Engage in dialogue and consultation with human rights defenders and publicly recognize and support their work through communication and information campaigns;
- xv. Encourage civil society organizations and avoid bureaucratic registration procedures that prevent citizens from exercising the rights guaranteed by the African Charter;
- xvi. Promote and encourage the organization of human rights defenders' work in networks at national, sub-regional and continental levels;

- xvii. Be more proactive in responding to allegations of violations of defenders' rights brought to their attention by my Mechanism and other Mechanisms of the Commission.
- ❖ To the African Union and other regional and sub-regional bodies:
 - i. Recognize the essential role of human rights defenders in the effective implementation of democratic principles, the rule of law, good governance, and sustainable development in Africa.
 - ii. Encourage Member States and African Union bodies to conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the fundamental role played by human rights defenders.
 - iii. Create a space for dialogue between States, human rights defenders, and other key actors on the challenges, best practices and progress regarding the protection of human rights defenders.
 - iv. Encourage and support full collaboration between national, regional and international human rights mechanisms..
 - ❖ To National Human Rights Institutions:
 - i. Fully exercise their mandates to promote and protect human rights in order to hold States accountable for violations committed against human rights defenders and intervene in support of defenders who are victims of human rights violations;
 - ii. Establish internal mechanisms to protect human rights defenders within the institution and ensure that they have sufficient resources and actively collaborate with all human rights defenders;
 - iii. Widespread dissemination of the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa, monitoring their implementation and sharing relevant information with our Mechanism.
 - iv. Sustain initiatives relating to the regular holding of the Forum of National Human Rights Institutions in the run-up to the Commission's sessions.
 - ❖ To Civil Society Organizations:
 - i. Continue to collaborate with national, regional and UN mechanisms to promote and protect human rights, and to prevent and respond to violations committed against communities and human rights defenders.
 - ii. Refrain from focusing solely on the fulfilment of certain human rights (such as the right to freedom of assembly) to the detriment of others (such as the right to life, economic, social and cultural rights, and collective rights). Seek to maintain the necessary balance so that the fulfilment of certain rights does not lead to the destruction of others.
 - iii. Establish and strengthen national and regional networks of human rights defenders to promote collaboration and cross-sectoral approaches to build alliances with diverse groups.
 - iv. Develop innovative approaches to involve the general public, political actors, and other opinion leaders, including the media, in the work of human rights defenders.
 - v. Comply with existing laws and regulations and conduct their activities in accordance with relevant international, regional and national instruments.
 - vi. Avoid the political instrumentalization of their activities and contribute mutually to strengthening each other's capacity building.

- vii. Widespread dissemination of the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa, monitoring their implementation, and sharing relevant information with our Mechanism.
- viii. Pursue activities to promote and defend human rights, engaging in constructive dialogue with various stakeholders..

❖ To the Media

- i. Engage in dialogue with all human rights defenders and support their efforts to advance human rights, the rule of law, social change and development;
- ii. Work in solidarity with human rights defenders to enable them to inform themselves and inform the public effectively.

❖ To Religious and Traditional Leaders

- i. Strive to remove obstacles impeding the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations, in particular access to communities;
- ii. Strive to prevent harmful practices that lead to discrimination against both women and men human rights defenders particularly those working with marginalized groups such as sex workers, people living with HIV, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

❖ To Technical and Financial Partners

- i. While thanking them for their ongoing support, I encourage them to continue to support the Mechanism, States Parties, national institutions and civil society in their efforts to better promote and protect the rights of human rights defenders.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of letters sent to States Parties during the period under review in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa and/or Country Rapporteur for Monitoring the Human Rights Situation in Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo

States	Date of Letter	Reason for sending an urgent appeal letter / letter of concern	Response from the State party
Mauritania	6 November 2025	Urgent appeal regarding the arrest of Ms Warda Ahmed Souleymane	No
Mali	13/11/2025	Urgent appeal letter regarding the abduction and murder of Malian influencer Ms Mariam Cissé by suspected jihadists	No
Togo	25/11/2025	Joint urgent appeal regarding the arbitrary detention and deteriorating health of Mr Abdoul Aziz Goma, an Irish human rights defender of Togolese origin (with UN mechanisms)	No
Cameroon	4 December 2025	Letter of concern regarding the death in detention of Mr EKANE Anicet Georges, a leading figure in the Cameroonian opposition	No
Uganda	8 January 2026	Urgent appeal letter regarding the arbitrary arrest and detention of Dr Darah Bireete, a human rights activist and election observer, in the context of the 2026 general elections.	No

Democratic Republic of the Congo	12/01/2026	Letter of concern regarding threats, intimidation and violence against human rights defenders involved in monitoring illegal mining in the provinces of Maniema and Tshopo.	No
Uganda	16/01/2026	Urgent appeal letter regarding the suspension of internet access and the operating licences of several NGOs, as well as the suspension of certain mobile operators, in the context of the 2026 general elections.	No
Democratic Republic of the Congo	16/01/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest and detention of Mr Nathanaël Onokomba, a human rights defender, following public statements in which he challenged the military management of the armed conflict between the AFC/M23/RDF group and the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), in particular.	No
Democratic Republic of the Congo	09/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest of members of the citizens' movement "Génération Z-RDC" during a peaceful demonstration in Beni	No
Mali	09/02/2026	Urgent appeal letter regarding the prolonged detention of Mr Clément Mamadou Dembélé, a civil society activist.	No
Burundi	09/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the conviction and arbitrary detention of Ms Sandra Muhoza, a journalist for the online media outlet 'La Nova Burundi' and women's rights defender	No
Burkina Faso	09/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the dissolution of political parties and groups, and the legal situation of Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who was extradited from Togo to Ouagadougou, and the wave of arrests that followed this extradition	No
Egypt	10/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding allegations of the arrest and legal harassment of Mr Ahmed Douma, an Egyptian human rights defender	Yes
Tunisia	19/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the continued detention and deteriorating health of Mr Ahmed Souab, lawyer, former judge and Tunisian human rights defender	No
Algeria	24/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest and remand in custody of journalists Mr Abdelali Mezghiche and Mr Omar Ferhat	Yes
Cameroon	24/02/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest and prolonged detention of at least 148 people in the context of the crisis following the presidential elections of 12 October 2025	No

Mali	27/02/2026	Letter of concern to the Malian authorities regarding the arrest and detention of Mr Youssouf Sissoko, editor-in-chief of the newspaper L'Alternance	No
Mali	02/03/2026	Letter of concern regarding the conviction and detention of Mr Moussa Mara, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali and former president of the opposition party Yéléma	No
Cameroon	11 March 2026	Letter of concern regarding the detention of African nationals transferred from the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon and allegations of violations of press freedom and freedom of expression in this context	No
Tunisia	18 March 2026	Letter of concern regarding the prolonged detention of human rights defenders Saadia Mosbah, President of the anti-racist association Mnepty; Abdallah Saïd, doctor, civil servant at the Ministry of Health and President of the Enfants de la Lune association; and Saloua Ghrissa, retired academic and Executive Director of the Association for the Promotion of the Right to Difference	No
Guinea	09/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the dissolution of forty political parties, including several major opposition parties	No
Burkina Faso	09/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the conditions of arrest and detention of several defendants and allegations of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in criminal proceedings involving magistrates, customs officers and lawyers before the Koupéla High Court	No
Algeria	09/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the administrative closure and sealing of the premises of the association SOS Disparus, as well as the restrictive measures taken against its members	Yes
Algeria	09/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest, detention and conviction of four Algerian citizens, including three academics	Yes
Burkina Faso	21/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the dissolution of 118 civil society organizations, including several human rights associations	Awaiting response
Benin	23 April 2026	Letter of concern regarding the continued pre-trial detention of Mr Hugues Comlan Sosoukpe, a journalist, whistleblower and human rights defender	Awaiting response

Angola	23/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding the entry into force of a law on non-governmental organizations, alleged to restrict the freedom of association and assembly	Awaiting response
Algeria	29/04/2026	Letter of concern regarding allegations of judicial harassment against Mr Abdelkrim Zeghileche, newspaper publisher and political activist	Awaiting response
Togo	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the continued detention of thirteen (13) C14 detainees since the 2019 tensions, despite court rulings in their favour	Awaiting response
Tunisia	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the decision to suspend the activities of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH)	Awaiting response
Chad	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the arrest and detention of several opposition party leaders who are members of the Consultative Group of Political Actors (GCAP) and the dissolution of this main coalition	Awaiting response
Egypt	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the charges and bail imposed on Ms Aida Seif el-Dawla, a human rights defender in Egypt	Awaiting response
South Africa	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the murder of Mr Zweli 'Khabazela' Mkhize, local leader and treasurer of the Enkanini branch of Abahlali Basemjondolo, as well as the ongoing reprisals against six members of the Enkanini branch council	Awaiting response

Guinea-Bissau	08/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the murder of Mr Vigário Luís Balanta, President of the Pó di Terra citizens' movement	Awaiting response
Algeria	12/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding allegations of enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and the misuse of anti-terrorism legislation against trade unionist Mr Ali Mammeri and human rights defender Mr Mohamed Tadjadit	Awaiting response
Uganda	12/05/2026	Letter of concern regarding the provisions of the Sovereignty Protection Bill proposed for 2026 in Uganda	Awaiting response

Annex 2: Draft Declaration on the Promotion of the Role of Human and Peoples' Rights Defenders and their Protection in Africa