



**[State Party]**  
**Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

for the [##]th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
[Month–Month Year]

Founded in 1983, **The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. [Include any additional information regarding work done by The Advocates pertaining to the issue addressed in the report]

**[Other Reporting Organizations if applicable]**

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. [Briefly summarize the issue(s) to be addressed in the stakeholder report. Potential issues of discussion may include: extrajudicial killings; arbitrary and unlawful detentions; various issues related to the death penalty; torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; discriminatory laws and practices; violence against women; harassment of human rights defenders; targeting of NGOs; and failure to adequately investigate and effectively prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations. For more examples of full reports see [The Advocates for Human Rights website](#)]
2. [Death penalty issues to consider, listed in the order presented in Part III: ratification of relevant treaties (ICCPR-OP2, CAT); reservations to treaty ratifications; derogations relevant to treaty obligations; cooperation with various UN mechanisms, including treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders; strengthening the rule of law; constitutional and legislative provisions directly pertaining to the death penalty, such as whether the death penalty is limited to the “most serious crimes”; corruption; human rights training for law enforcement, security forces, prison staff; data, statistics, and transparency; cooperation with civil society; discrimination in law and in practice; use of force by law enforcement and prison staff; extrajudicial and arbitrary executions; death penalty (generally); torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment / punishment, including in interrogation, detention, and in the method of execution; conditions of detention; security of lawyers and other human rights defenders working on death penalty cases or advocating against the death penalty; arbitrary arrest and detention; exercise of freedom of expression/opinion/religion/association giving rise to criminal charges that could result in death sentences; administration of justice and fair trial; impunity for torture; rights related to family of people sentenced to death; counter-terrorism and the death penalty; effects of death penalty on family members’ economic and social rights; right to food in detention; drinking water and sanitation in detention; working conditions in detention; right to health in detention; women in detention; gender-based violence in detention; children of people sentenced to death; people sentenced to death for crimes committed as minors; people with disabilities: accommodations in the criminal justice system, accommodations in detention; migrants sentenced to death, including right to consular notification and interpretation; human rights defenders (including lawyers) advocating against the death penalty; follow-up on recommendations from Special Procedures, UPR)]
3. [If relevant, the executive summary should identify how information included in the stakeholder report was gathered (interviews, client intake, etc.).]

## II. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

4. [The purpose of Part II is to introduce the State party and the legal / political landscape that will inform your discussion of human rights within that country in Part III. Previous stakeholder reports may be especially useful for this section, but be sure to describe any major developments since the previous Universal Periodic Review.] [When citing sources, please use endnotes and please use full source citations for every endnote.]<sup>1</sup>

## **A. [Year] Universal Periodic Review of [Country]**

5. [Summarize the relevant parts of the previous UPR, such as relevant recommendations, the government's response, and the status of implementation of these recommendations. Do not engage in substantive analysis of the status of implementation – just provide a “score,” such as “not implemented,” “partially implemented,” “fully implemented.”]
6. If there are relevant recommendations on more than one topic, use subheadings for Part A, organizing the recommendations in the order of the “right or area” topics listed in Part III, if possible.

### *1. Recommendation topic 1*

#### **Status of Implementation: [Not Accepted,] [Not / Partially / Fully] Implemented**

7. [Identify relevant recommendations for topic 1, whether they were accepted or noted, and status of implementation. Do not simply list all the recommendations – convert them into a brief narrative summary.]<sup>2</sup>

### *2. Recommendation topic 2*

#### **Status of Implementation: [Not Accepted,] [Not / Partially / Fully] Implemented**

8. [Identify relevant recommendations for topic 2, whether they were accepted or noted, and status of implementation. Do not simply list all the recommendations – convert them into a brief narrative summary.]

### *3. Recommendation topic 3*

#### **Status of Implementation: [Not Accepted,] [Not / Partially / Fully] Implemented**

9. [Identify relevant recommendations for topic 3, whether they were accepted or noted, and status of implementation. Do not simply list all the recommendations – convert them into a brief narrative summary.]

## **B. Domestic Legal Framework**

10. [Constitutional and legislative framework: identify and briefly describe the relevant constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, and policies related to the topics of focus in the report. Also describe any relevant draft legislation and the status of such legislation. In this section do not discuss whether the legal provisions are actually followed/implemented.]

## **III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS**

11. [Part III contains the substance of the stakeholder report. Focus on (a) implementation of accepted recommendations from the previous UPR and (b) developments since the last UPR. Limit the time-frame to the time since the last UPR.]
12. [Using stories and experiences of interviewees can be a powerful tool. It can help illustrate the magnitude of the problem, as well as buttress a conclusion. These stories can be presented as a narrative or as a block quote. When doing so, however, remember to do

no harm and ensure that parts of the story have been redacted to protect the source. Particularly when interviewees fear for their safety, be sure to avoid using a traditional interview citation, and instead code the interviews for reference purposes.<sup>3]</sup>

13. [The list of “right or area” headings that follows includes all of the headings OHCHR uniformly uses in its UPR matrices organizing recommendations from the second cycle. Use these topic headings (as relevant), in the order provided (if possible), to organize the substantive section of the report. The bullet points under each heading are examples of topics addressed under the “right or area.” If a topic fits in more than one category, select the category that is the “best fit” for the topic. For example, the death penalty could be part of “right to life,” but there is also a separate “death penalty” category, so use that more specific category.]

14. [continue to number paragraphs in this section]

#### **Right or area 1. Right to self-determination**

- In the context of human rights at the UN, the right to self-determination is a collective right of indigenous peoples. Do not discuss individual rights, like the right to personal autonomy or the right to be free from violence, in this section. See also Right or area 33.

#### **Right or area 2.1. Acceptance of international norms**

- Discuss any recommendations accepted or noted related to treaties or optional protocols to be signed or ratified. For the death penalty, the relevant treaty is the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Secondarily relevant are the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

#### **Right or area 2.2. Reservations**

- Recommendations related to withdrawing reservations to international treaties

#### **Right or area 2.3. Derogation**

### **Right or area 3. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms and institutions**

#### **Right or area 3.1. Cooperation with treaty bodies**

#### **Right or area 3.2. Cooperation with special procedures**

- Including the number of invitations extended to Special Rapporteurs and the country’s degree of cooperation during those visits

#### **Right or area 3.3. Cooperation with other international mechanisms and institutions**

- Conforming national policies with international human rights institutions

#### **Right or area 4. Inter-state cooperation & development assistance**

- The degree to which the country has cooperated with other states such as sharing best practices

#### **Right or area 5. Legal, institutional & political framework**

#### **Right or area 5.1. Constitutional & legislative framework**

- Legislation enacted by the state in furtherance of international obligations (such as those relating to combating discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race, etc.)

**Right or area 5.2. Institutions & policies**

- Any programs implemented in furtherance of national legislation (*see* 5.1)

**Right or area 5.3. Political framework & good governance**

- Efforts to combat corruption, social and economic inequalities in governments

**Right or area 6. Human rights education and training**

- Any human rights education or training program typically for security personnel, law enforcement

**Right or area 7.1. Context, statistics, budget, cooperation with civil society**

- Efforts by the state party to collect and publish statistics related to human rights in the country, allocation of financial resources to human rights projects, and generally providing a safe environment for civil society

**Right or area 8. Non-discrimination**

**Right or area 9. Racial discrimination**

**Right or area 10. Discrimination against women**

- NOTE: This category is here, but most countries discuss this issue under Right or area 29.1.

**Right or area 12. Right to physical and moral integrity**

**Right or area 12.1. Right to life**

- Things related to high homicide rates that do not quite fall under 12.4 and subsequent categories

**Right or area 12.3. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**

**Right or area 12.4. Death penalty**

**Right or area 12.5. Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment**

**Right or area 12.6. Conditions of detention**

**Right or area 12.7. Prohibition of slavery, trafficking**

**Right or area 13. Right to liberty and security**

**Right or area 13.1. Liberty & security – general**

- Measures to ensure the physical integrity of persons, in particular that of journalists and human rights defenders

**Right or area 13.2. Enforced disappearances**

**Right or area 13.3. Arbitrary arrest and detention**

**Right or area 14.2. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

**Right or area 14.3. Freedom of opinion and expression**

**Right or area 14.4. Right to peaceful assembly**

**Right or area 14.5. Freedom of association**

**Right or area 14.6. Right to private life, privacy**

**Right or area 15.1. Administration of justice & fair trial**

- Efforts to enhance guarantees of due process, such as availability of public defenders. May also include efforts toward judicial reform, both technically and practically

**Right or area 16. Right to an effective remedy, impunity**

**Right or area 17. Rights related to name, identity, nationality**

- Typically relates to birth registration at national and local levels

**Right or area 18. Right to participate in public affairs & right to vote**

**Right or area 19. Rights related to marriage & family**

- Revisions made to family code often dealing with gender-based discrimination

**Right or area 20.1. Human rights & counter-terrorism**

- Attempts to ensure full adherence to international human rights obligations in overseas counter-terrorism operations and setting up frameworks for the identification, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators of various human rights violations

**Right or area 21. Economic, social & cultural rights – general measures of implementation**

**Right or area 22.1. Right to an adequate standard of living – general**

- Things related to improving basic standard of living for all people, fighting poverty, and combating social exclusion, as well as any other things that do not quite fall under 22.2 or subsequent categories

**Right or area 22.2. Right to food**

**Right or area 22.3. Right to adequate housing**

**Right or area 22.4. Right to social security**

**Right or area 22.5. Human rights & extreme poverty**

**Right or area 22.6. Human rights & drinking water and sanitation**

**Right or area 23.1. Right to work**

- Efforts to combat inequalities in access to employment as well as reforms aimed at job creation

**Right or area 23.2. Right to just and favourable conditions of work**

- Measures taken to enhance working conditions such as equal pay for equal work, reduced working hours, additional paid holidays, etc.

**Right or area 23.3. Trade union rights**

### **Right or area 24. Right to health**

- This topic may include things related to health care, health insurance, reproductive health, and reducing the prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS

### **Right or area 25. Right to education**

### **Right or area 27. Cultural rights**

- Policies aimed at guaranteeing respect of cultural diversity

### **Right or area 28.1. Business & human rights**

- Be sure to distinguish between the categories “business and human rights” and “right to just and favorable conditions of work.” This particular heading relates to problems such as the use of child labor by companies.

### **Right or area 29.1. Discrimination against women**

- Efforts to guarantee full equality, opportunities and treatment for women. Whether states have reviewed or eliminated laws that discriminate against women in line with institutional standards

### **Right or area 29.2. Gender-based violence**

- Include information relating to domestic violence and holding perpetrators of gender-based violence accountable

### **Right or area 30.1. Children: definition, general principles, protection**

- Things related to the protection of children generally and that do not quite fit 30.2 or subsequent categories

### **Right or area 30.2. Children: family environment and alternative care**

### **Right or area 30.3. Children: protection against exploitation**

- Endeavors to combat child labor. May also include rights to education for disadvantaged or vulnerable children.

### **Right or area 30.4. Juvenile justice**

- Pertains to eliminating deprivation of liberty for minors as well as pretrial detention for minors

### **Right or area 30.5. Children in armed conflicts**

### **Right or area 31. Persons with disabilities**

- Any legislation or measures taken to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights for persons with disabilities such as access to health services, education or social security

### **Right or area 31.1. Persons with disabilities: definition, general principles**

### **Right or area 32. Members of minorities**

- Anything not covered by any other section related to discrimination against minority populations

### **Right or area 33. Indigenous peoples**

- Efforts to combat discrimination against indigenous persons, and in particular the rights to traditional lands, territories and resources, and their right to be consulted

### **Right or area 34. Migrants**

### **Right or area 35. Refugees & internally displaced persons (IDPs)**

- Measures taken to increase transparency and oversight of the conditions in which asylum seekers are kept and treated, as well as reducing long delays and uncertainty in the asylum review process.

### **Right or area 36. Human rights defenders**

- Attacks, arrests, prosecutions of human rights defenders and lawyers representing clients in cases involving human rights, such as attorneys representing clients accused of capital crimes. Can also include attacks on non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues.

### **Right or area 37. Right to development – general measures of implementation**

### **Right or area 38.1. Human rights, structural adjustment/economic reform policies & foreign**

- Often relates to rebalancing social hierarchies and raising up individuals that were underprivileged under previous Apartheid or similar systems.

### **Right or area 41. Follow-up to special procedures**

- Any efforts undertaken by the state in response to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur

### **Right or area 42. Follow-up to UPR**

## **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of [State party]:

- [By this point, the report should have addressed the recommendations made during the previous UPR and the response/action taken on the issue, the current status of the issue, and where there is still need for improvement. Conclude the report with potential recommendations to increase the likelihood of further action being taken on said issue.]
- [See UPR-Info's CSO Compendium for guidance on drafting SMART recommendations.]
- [Ensure that every problem or issue identified in Part III could be addressed/resolved by one or more recommendations in Part IV.]

For more information concerning the formatting of stakeholder reports, see the [UPR Technical Guidelines](#) provided by the OHCHR.



Note that written submissions should not exceed 2815 words in the case of individual submissions. Submissions by coalitions of stakeholders should not exceed 5630 words. The cover letter and endnotes will not be included in the word limit.

When beginning research for UPR submissions, consider using the following sources:

- United States Department of State Country Reports<sup>4</sup>
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights News<sup>5</sup>
- United Nations reports by Special Rapporteurs<sup>6</sup> and Independent Investigations<sup>7</sup>
- Human Rights Watch<sup>8</sup>
- Amnesty International<sup>9</sup>
- The Guardian<sup>10</sup>
- The New York Times<sup>11</sup>
- University Law Centers
- UPR Info may have additional reports
- Stopvaw.org for women's rights
- Cornell Death Penalty Project for death penalty reports

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<sup>1</sup> [When citing sources use endnotes rather than footnotes. See the International Justice Program Citations Guide for additional guidance on formatting citations]

<sup>2</sup> [For example, the body of the report may state that Burundi accepted several recommendations related to detention conditions. You would then include a string citation containing the full text of the recommendations accepted by Burundi relating to this topic.

Example string citation: *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.86 Continue ensuring that living conditions in prisons are adequate for the development of the child and try to seek alternative measure to institutional confinement for pregnant women and others with young children (State of Palestine); ¶ 126.88 Take steps to enhance the treatment of children born in prison, as well as pregnant women prisoners (Thailand). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.]

<sup>3</sup> Sample endnote: The case information presented in this submission is compiled from intake and other interviews conducted by The Advocates for Human Rights with asylum seekers from [State party] between (year–year) (hereinafter referred to as “Interviews conducted by The Advocates (year–year)”). Some details have been removed to maintain confidentiality and to protect the identities of clients and their families.

<sup>4</sup> [Example citation: United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.]

<sup>5</sup> [Example citation: U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Burundi: UN Investigation Urges Strong Action in Light of Gross, Widespread, and Systemic Human Rights Violations*, (Sept. 2, 2016). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20534>.]

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<sup>6</sup> [Example citation: Pablo de Greiff (Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence), *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence*, (Aug. 10, 2015), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/30/42/Add.1 ¶ 42. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BIIndex.aspx>.]

<sup>7</sup> [Example citation: *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 53. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.]

<sup>8</sup> [Example citation: Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Events of 2016*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/burundi>.]

<sup>9</sup> [Example citation: Amnesty International, *Burundi 2016/2017*. Also available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/burundi/report-burundi/>.]

<sup>10</sup> [Example citation: Emma Graham-Harrison, *The World Looks Away as Blood Flows in Burundi*, *The Guardian* (Apr. 10, 2016). Also available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/10/burundi-ethnic-violence-refugees>.]

<sup>11</sup> [Example citation: Nick Cumming-Bruce, *Burundi Killings Could Ignite Wider African Crisis, U.N. Report Warns*, *The New York Times* (Sept. 20, 2016). Also available online at [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/africa/burundi-summary-killings-united-nations-report.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/africa/burundi-summary-killings-united-nations-report.html?_r=0).]