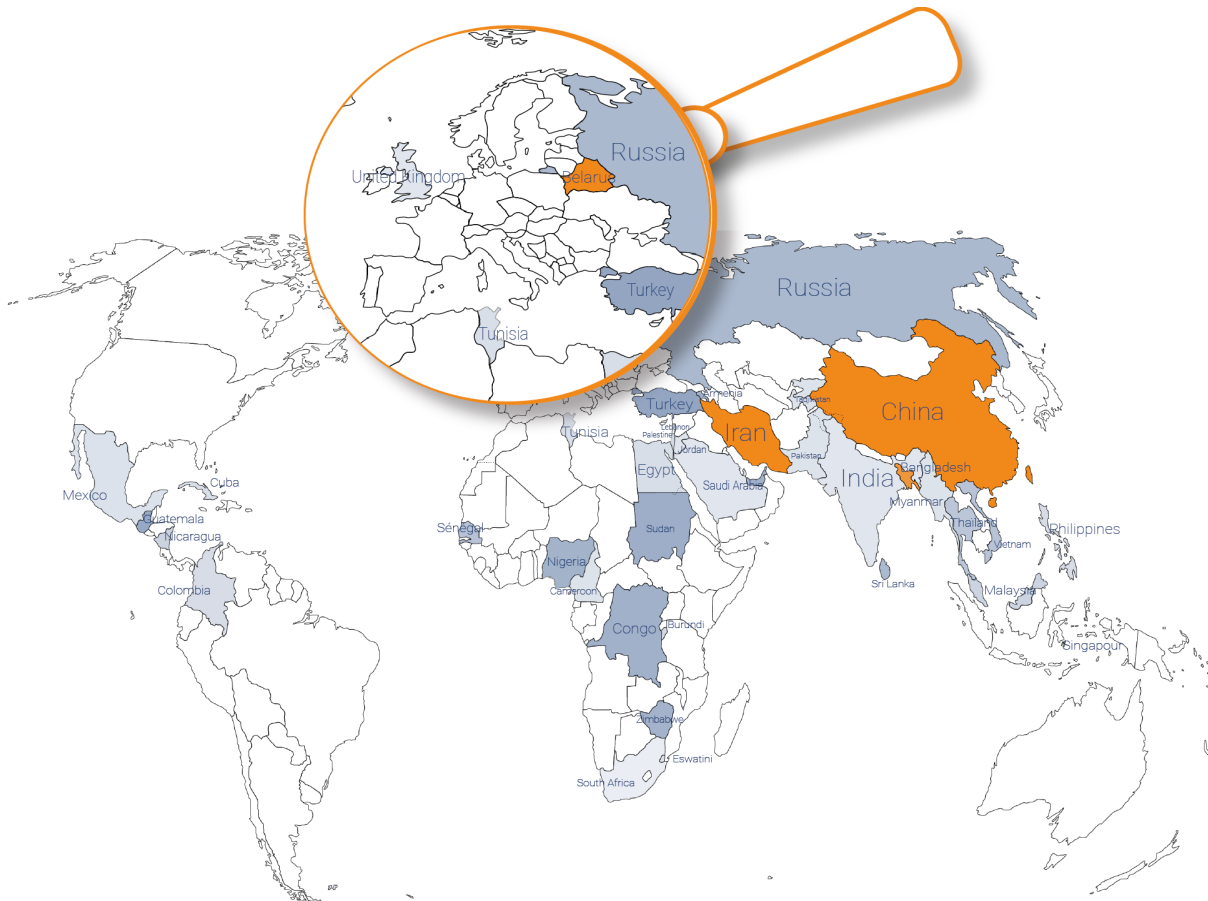


In **2023** the CCBE sent
81 letters in support of more than **360** endangered lawyers
 in **38** countries around the world



5-12 letters sent

- China
- Iran
- Bangladesh
- Belarus

2-4 letters sent

- Turkey
- Guatemala
- Nigeria
- Russia
- Zimbabwe
- Armenia
- Congo
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

1 letter sent

25 other countries

Number of letters sent per country

- Armenia (2)
- Bangladesh (6)
- Belarus (6)
- Burundi (1)
- Cameroon (1)
- China (12)
- Colombia (1)
- Congo (2)
- Cuba (1)
- Egypt (1)
- Eswatini (1)
- Guatemala (3)
- India (1)
- Iran (8)
- Jordan (1)
- Lebanon (1)
- Malaysia (1)
- Mexico (1)
- Myanmar (1)
- Nigeria (3)
- Nicaragua (1)
- Pakistan (1)
- Palestine (1)
- Philippines (1)
- Russia (3)
- Saudi Arabia(1)
- Senegal (1)
- Singapore (1)
- South Africa (1)
- Sri Lanka (2)
- Sudan (2)
- Tajikistan (1)
- Thailand (2)
- Tunesia (1)
- Turkey (4)
- United Kingdom (1)
- Vietnam (2)
- Zimbabwe (3)



13% Murder | Attempt murder | Death



65% Arrest | Detention | Enforced disappearance | Prison sentence



17% Threats | Assault | Harassment | Ill-treatment | Travel Ban | Break-in | Abduction



5% Deprivation of the right to exercise the legal profession and attack against the independence of the legal profession

Overview CCBE letters in support of endangered lawyers 2023

COUNTRY	Lawyers concerned	Letter sent the:	Link to the letter	Types of HR violation and summary of the case
ARMENIA	Marzpet Avagyan and Emanuel Ananyan	03/03/2023	Click here	Assault against lawyers On 9 February 2023, A group of police officers used brutal force and violence against lawyers Marzpet Avagyan and Emanuel Ananyan who were carrying out their professional activities in the Erebuni department of the Yerevan Police Department.
ARMENIA	Karen Alaverdyan Marzpet Avagyan Emanuel Ananyan	16/06/2023	Click here	Violences against lawyers On 7 June 2023, a group of police officers beat, searched and detained lawyer Karen Alaverdyan in connection with the performance of his legitimate activities as lawyer at the Police Central Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (RA). There was a similar incident of violence towards lawyers Marzpet Avagyan and Emanuel Ananyan by police officers also took place at another Yerevan police station in February.
BANGLADESH	Syeda Rizwana Hasan and her Team	22/02/2023	Click here	Attack and harassment of lawyer On 26 January 2023, Syeda Rizwana Hasan with several journalists, was attacked by the local leader of the national ruling party and his men during the visit of the Lake City residential area of Chattogram, a site where the hills have been razed for a housing project, impacting the local environment.
BANGLADESH	Kazi Rubayet Hasan Sayem	05/06/2023	Click here	Arrest of lawyer On the 24 th March 2023, Lawyer Kazi Rubayet Hasan Sayem was apprehended by the Narayanganj District Detective Police (DB) on charges of using offensive language to abuse the mother of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh. He was sent to jail by the court on 26 March. Lawyer Kazi Rubayet Hasan Sayem's bail plea had been repeatedly rejected. On 26 April, it is reported that the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court denied his bail application. Lawyer Kazi Rubayet Hasan Sayem has now been in jail custody for the past two months.
BANGLADESH	Shahanur Islam and his family	07/07/2023	Click here	Continuous threats and harassment against lawyer Shahanur Islam and his family Lawyer Shahanur has been the victim of serious threats on social media due to his advocacy work for LGBTIQ+ rights in Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH	Runa Laila	20/07/2023	Click here	<p>Acts of torture against trainee lawyer</p> <p>Trainee lawyer Runa Laila was taken to Kashimpur women's prison on 16 June for allegedly stealing documents relating to a court case. Runa was allegedly subjected to physical violence and torture by Papia, the expelled leader of the Juba Mahila League, as well as the chief of prison police, Shamima, and matron (deputy warden), Fatema.</p>
BANGLADESH	Adilur Rahman Khan	09/10/2023	Click here	<p>Imprisonment of lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan</p> <p>Lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan, together with ASM Nasiruddin Elan, were remanded to Dhaka Central Jail for two years and ordered to pay a fine of BDT 10,000 each. It is reported that during trial proceedings, fair trial due process violations had been noted in contravention of Article 14 of the ICCPR. It is notably reported that, at the May 2023 hearings, the judge did not permit international observers in the courtroom and failed to provide clarity about the basis of this decision.</p>
BANGLADESH	Several lawyers	10/11/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest of several lawyers</p> <p>In the week following 23 October 2023, a total of 18 lawyers were arrested on grounds that, as we understand, are connected to their legitimate activities as lawyers and their exercise of fundamental rights, such as protesting and taking effective measures against all forms of police brutality. It is further reported that across the cities of Dhaka and Faridpur, lawyers faced house raids, were subjected to baton-charging, and were sent to jail custody where some remain in detention.</p>
BELARUS	Vitaly Brahinets	22/02/2023	Click here	<p>Conviction of lawyer to 8 years of prison</p> <p>The Minsk Municipal Court pronounced, in a closed court, the verdict to lawyer Vitaly Brahinets, who received eight years of imprisonment in a medium-security penal colony. Lawyer Vitaly Brahinets was convicted of four criminal offences: "inciting social hatred" (part 3 of Article 130 of the Criminal Code), "calling for sanctions" (part 3 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code), "creating an extremist formation or participating in it" (part 1 of Article 361-1 of the Criminal Code), and "actively participating in actions that grossly violate public order" (part 1 of Article 342 of the Criminal Code). Lawyer Vitaly Brahinets has notably defended some political prisoners, including Human Rights Center Viasna chairman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatsk.</p>
BELARUS	Anastasia Lazarenka	17/05/2023	Click here	<p>Sentencing of lawyer</p> <p>Lawyer Anastasia Lazarenka, who had been arrested on 2 June 2022, was sentenced to six years in prison for organising an unsanctioned mass gathering, organising and preparing actions that "blatantly" aimed to disrupt social order, and misusing the personal data of Belarusian police officers and judges.</p> <p>The charges brought against her are related to free legal assistance she provided to victims and their relatives near the walls of the Akrestsin Street detention centre and to the fact that she allegedly published information on police officers on the social media platform Telegram.</p>

BELARUS	Maksim Znak	24/05/2023	Click here	<p>Continued detention and torture of lawyer</p> <p>On 9 September 2020, Due to his legitimate activities as a lawyer, Maksim Znak was detained, allegedly suspected of “aiming at destabilising the socio-political, economic situation and public awareness in the country, causing harm to the national security of the Republic of Belarus”. He remained in preventive detention until 6 September 2021, after which he was sentenced by the Minsk Regional Court to 10 years in prison on charges of “calls for action against national security”, “conspiracy to seize power” and “creation and administration of an extremist formation” (Art. 361, 357 and 361-1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus).</p> <p>His trial, which took place behind closed doors, was considered “arbitrary as it lacked a legal basis, was due to the peaceful exercise of his rights, was the result of violations of his fair trial rights and was based on discrimination based on his political opinion and his status as a lawyer of the political opposition movement”.</p>
BELARUS	Aliaksandr Danilevich	05/06/2023	Click here	<p>Sentencing of lawyer</p> <p>On 10 April 2023, lawyer Aliaksandr Danilevich was sentenced to 10 years in prison after he was convicted for criminal offences relating to his criticism of Russian’s war against Ukraine and for calling for sanctions against Belarus and ‘assisting extremism’.</p>
BELARUS	Yulia Yurhilevich	20/07/2023	Click here	<p>Detention of lawyer</p> <p>Yulia Yurhilevich was accused of giving journalist Pavel Mazheika information widely available to the public. Both have been accused of “repeatedly aiding extremist activity” for sharing information about Yurhilevich’s disbarment and a court case.</p> <p>Lawyer Yulia Yurhilevich was stripped of her licence in February 2022 by the regional bar association of Hrodna, for “systematic violation of the law.” Her disbarment was triggered by a complaint from the Hrodna region deputy prosecutor questioning her “professionalism”.</p>
BELARUS	Leanid Sudalenka	17/11/2023	Click here	<p>New charges against lawyer Leanid Sudalenka</p> <p>On 1st November 2023, the Investigative Committee of Homiel region opened a criminal case against lawyer Leanid Sudalenka, charging him with "facilitating extremist activity", an offence envisaged by Article 361-4 of the Belarusian Criminal Code. We understand that the punishment for this offense ranges from two to six years of imprisonment. It is reported that Mr. Sudalenka remains unsure which of his actions the authorities deemed as constituting "other facilitation of extremist activity”.</p>
BURUNDI	Sonia Ndikumasabo together with four other human rights defenders	20/03/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest of lawyer together with four other human rights defenders</p> <p>On 14 february 2023, Intelligence agents arrested lawyer Sonia Ndikumasabo, with four other human rights defenders. This arrest appears to be linked to their human rights work and for collaborating with an international organisation and is believed to be aimed at obstructing their organisations’ activities, and intimidating other human rights defenders. On 2 March, the high court of Ntahangwa in Bujumbura confirmed their pre-trial detention on charges of rebellion and of undermining internal state security and the functioning of public finances.</p>

CAMEROON	Louis Jules Anyuzoa	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Death threats against lawyer</p> <p>Lawyer Louis Jules Anyuzoa recently received death threats in connection to his work as the lawyer for the murdered Cameroonian journalist, Martinez Zogo. It is believed that the same perpetrators who tortured and murdered Martinez Zogo in order to silence him, are now after the lawyer of the deceased journalist</p>
CHINA	Lawyers in Hong Kong	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Intimidation of lawyers in Hong Kong</p> <p>Many Hong Kong lawyers are fleeing abroad following a series of intimidations against lawyers working on human rights cases. These acts of intimidation take several forms, including anonymous threats sent by text message and email, GPS tracking devices placed under a car, Chinese “funeral money” sent to an office, or accusations of disloyalty in the press.</p>
CHINA	Qin Yongpei	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>The conviction of human rights lawyer</p> <p>On 31 March 2023, the Nanning Municipal Intermediate Court in Guangxi province convicted human rights lawyer Qin Yongpei of “inciting subversion to State power” and sentenced him to five years in prison, to be followed by three years of “deprivation of political rights”.</p>
CHINA	Ding Jiaxi and Xu Zhiyong	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>Concerns over the conviction of lawyers</p> <p>On 10 April 2023, a court in Shandong province sentenced lawyer Xu Zhiyong to 14 years' imprisonment and lawyer Ding Jiaxi to 12 years' imprisonment after finding them guilty of "subversion of state power". their trials were conducted behind closed doors and riddled with procedural problems and allegations of mistreatment. They had advocated for government transparency and equal access to education.</p>
CHINA	Yu Wensheng, Wang Quanzhang and Wang Yu	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest of lawyer Yu Wensheng and the house arrest of lawyers Wang Quanzhang and Wang Yu.</p> <p>On 13 April 2023, lawyer Yu Wensheng and his wife, Xu Yan, were arrested by the police as they were on their way to the EU delegation in China. Additionally, lawyers Wang Quanzhang and Wang Yu are still being deprived of their freedom as they remain under house arrest.</p>
CHINA	Zhou Shifeng	05/06/2023	Click here	<p>Surveillance and harassment of lawyer</p> <p>According to information we have received, lawyer Zhou Shifeng has left Beijing amid ongoing surveillance following his release from prison that was likely linked to his whistleblowing over now-jailed former security chief Sun Lijun.</p> <p>It is reported that lawyer Zhou Shifeng, who was the head of the now-shuttered Fengrui Law Firm, was released at the end of a seven-year jail term for subversion last September but has never fully regained his personal freedom as his level of surveillance was even tightened further.</p>

CHINA	Guo Feixiong	05/06/2023	Click here	<p>Sentencing of lawyer</p> <p>On 11 May 2023, lawyer Guo Feixiong was sentenced to a prison term of eight years, with diplomats from several countries saying they were barred from the trial in the southern city of Guangzhou. After a three-hour trial, lawyer Guo Feixiong was found guilty of defaming China's political system and inciting subversion of state power. These charges were brought against him in retaliation of his peaceful advocacy work defending Chinese citizens.</p>
CHINA	Chang Weiping	16/06/2023	Click here	<p>Sentencing and ill-treatment of lawyer Chang Weiping</p> <p>On 8 June 2023, Chang Weiping was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for “subversion of state power” at Feng County Detention Centre, Shaanxi province, after he publicly detailed incidents of torture he says he experienced during his detention in January 2020. Chang Weiping was convicted in a closed-door trial that even his wife was prevented from attending, and that he has been denied access to his lawyer. Chang’s parents and other family members have faced ongoing surveillance and intimidation. Chang remains at risk of torture and other ill-treatment in jail and there are grave concerns for his physical and mental well-being.</p>
CHINA (LAOS)	Lu Siwei	03/08/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest of Chinese lawyer and repatriation’s risk</p> <p>Chinese human rights lawyer Lu Siwei has been detained since 27 July 2023 and risks to be repatriated to China. It is believed in this regard that handing Lu Siwei over to the Chinese authorities would put him at serious risk of likely torture and inhuman treatment</p>
CHINA	Gao Zhisheng	06/09/2023	Click here	<p>Continued enforced disappearance of lawyer Gao Zhisheng</p> <p>Over the past six years, lawyer Gao Zhisheng remained in a state of enforced disappearance. on several occasions, the United Nations and human rights experts have sought information about Gao Zhisheng’s status. Today, the whereabouts of the lawyer still remains unknown and that the lawyer is still forcibly disappeared.</p>
CHINA	Zhou Shifeng	09/10/2023	Click here	<p>Concerns about the injustice suffered by lawyer Zhou Shifeng</p> <p>Lawyer Zhou Shifeng was the director of the Fengrui law firm who received the CCBE Human Rights Award in 20151. Lawyer Zhou Shifeng was convicted and sentenced to prison based on false evidence while he was, in fact, defending the rule of law and human rights. After serving his term in prison, lawyer Zhou Shifeng has tried to appeal his sentence on multiple occasions with the relevant central agencies, but has never received any reply.</p>
CHINA	Li Yuhan	09/10/2023	Click here	<p>Continued arbitrary detention of human rights lawyer Li Yuhan</p> <p>Lawyer Li Yuhan’s trial, initially scheduled for 9 April 2019, was cancelled, and delayed on several occasions, before finally being held two and a half years later, in October 2021. It is reported that human rights defenders and lawyers seeking to observe the trial were blocked from entering the courthouse by police. Despite over twenty months having passed since the conclusion of the trial, no verdict has been issued in lawyer Li Yuhan’s case, frustrating her right to appeal and seek remedy for her arbitrary detention. Lawyer Li Yuhan is currently detained at Shenyang City Detention Centre. Despite her advanced age and serious health issues, numerous applications by her lawyers seeking her</p>

				bail on medical grounds have been denied.
CHINA	Lu Siwei	10/11/2023	Click here	Continued detention of lawyer Lu Siwei Since his return to China, Lu Siwei has been denied regular access to his family and a lawyer of his choice. We understand that there continues to be no information about the charges against him. We also understand that lawyer Lu Siwei suffers from psoriasis and is in need of access to medical care.
COLOMBIA	Hipólito Mendoza	06/02/2023	Click here	Detention and judicial harassment of lawyer On 2 September 2021, Hipólito Mendoza was then put in pretrial detention until a hearing that confirmed his arrest on charges of “advice to organized criminal groups, money laundering, criminal conspiracy, and illicit enrichment”. During his detention, he was not able to prepare his defence properly, and he was detained in extremely poor conditions and that he was interrogated on several occasions by the police without being allowed to consult with his lawyer. The lawyer of Hipólito Mendoza has been the victim of a smear campaign in the media from the police and the Attorney General which had for consequence to destroy his reputation as a lawyer. The charges brought against him are linked to his legitimate activities as the defence lawyer of John Fredy Zapata and John Henry González Herrera, who are accused of drug trafficking as part of an illegal armed organization in Colombia, called “El Clan del Golfo”.
CONGO	Joseph Sanane Chiko	20/03/2023	Click here	Interpellation du bâtonnier honoraire Joseph Sanane Chiko Le vendredi 3 mars 2023, le bâtonnier honoraire du barreau du Nord-Kivu, Maître Joseph Sanane Chiko, a été mis aux arrêts par le Bureau de Renseignements Militaires (T2) à Goma. Il semblerait les griefs probables mis à la charge de son bâtonnier sont d’avoir diffusé un communiqué engageant sa cliente, la Société Minière de Bisunzu, dont le répondant statutaire est le parlementaire Édouard Mwangachuchu Hizi, qui lui-même sous le coup de poursuites judiciaires, n’impliquant nullement l’avocat-conseil de la susdite société en la personne du bâtonnier Joseph Sanane Chiko.
CONGO	Banzu Misongo Effrem	28/03/2023	Click here	Détention de l’avocat Maître Banzu Misongo Effrem a été interpellé le 23 février 2023 par le Service de Renseignement militaire de la ville de Goma. Il a été transféré le 24 février à Kinshasa où il serait actuellement détenu dans la prison militaire de Ndolo, privé de toute visite et assistance. Il semblerait que les griefs probables mis à la charge de Maître Banzu Misongo Effrem soit lié à ses activités en tant qu’avocat conseil de clients récemment condamnés en raison de leur appartenance au groupe terroriste ADF/NALU.
CUBA	lawyers in Cuba	12/07/2023	Click here	The situation of lawyers in Cuba Since 2018, the situation of lawyers in Cuba is a cause for concern. Numerous international organisations have denounced the lack of a guarantee of procedural independence for lawyers and the controls exercised by the state over bars and lawyers in Cuba. The ONBC is under the control of the Ministry of Justice and its director gives instructions on how to proceed, how to stay within the limits, and how to express oneself in the technical defence, which means that the case has been decided before going to trial. Lawyers who express independent opinions or act in a way that is incompatible

				with the ideals of the State run the risk of being struck off by the ONBC. Lawyers at the Cubalex Legal Information Centre and the Consejería Jurídica e Instrucción Cívica have been subjected to harassment and intimidation.
EGYPT	Mohamed el-Baqer and arrest of his wife	20/04/2023	Click here	Continued detention of lawyer Mohamed el-Baqer and the recent arrest of his wife. Lawyer Mohamed el-Baqer continued to be detained since his arrest in 2019. He was awarded the CCBE Human Rights Award in 2020. His wife was arrested on 17 April, a few hours after that she had denounced beatings, ill-treatment and punishment against her husband in prison. It is reported that her whereabouts remains unknown.
ESWATINI	Maxwell Nkambule and Thulani Maseko	06/02/2023	Click here	Threats against lawyer and murder of lawyer On 21 January 2023, the death of lawyer Thulani Maseko was confirmed. He was shot dead. It is believed that his death is linked to his legitimate activities as a human rights lawyer. Human rights Lawyer Maxwell Nkambule has recently reported threats on his life to the police. It is believed that the threat is also linked to his work as a legal representative of a number of suspects facing charges under the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2018.
GUATEMALA	Mario Castañeda	06/02/2023	Click here	Arrest of lawyer On 19 January 2023, Lawyer Mario Castañeda was arrested for alleged obstruction of justice. He is representing the jailed director of the investigative newspaper El Periódico, José Rubén Zamora, who was ordered to stand trial on alleged charges of money laundering in December. And it is reported in this regard that El Periódico was notably covering stories of wrongdoing and corruption from the authorities in Guatemala. Arrest of lawyer Mario Castañeda is connected to and serves to unlawfully curb his legitimate activities as a lawyer defending the freedom of the press. Moreover, the prosecutor in charge of the case is seeking to arrest a second lawyer, Romeo Montoya, who is representing the same client.
GUATEMALA	Juan Francisco Solórzano Foppa, José Rubén Zamora, Mario Castañeda	08/05/2023	Click here	Arrest of three lawyers Three lawyers, including Juan Francisco Solórzano Foppa, were arrested and accused of money laundering. These lawyers are representing the jailed director of the investigative newspaper El Periódico, José Rubén Zamora, who was arrested 9 months ago on charges of blackmail and money laundering. Moreover, it is reported in this regard that El Periódico was notably covering stories of wrongdoing and corruption from the authorities in Guatemala against press freedom. The prosecution of these lawyers is politically motivated due to their work representing José Rubén Zamora.
GUATEMALA	Several Lawyers	10/11/2023	Click here	Arrests, prosecution, and judicial harassment of Guatemalan lawyers Guatemalan lawyers have been facing serious threats when practising their legitimate activities as lawyers, in addition to the risk of criminalisation of their work. It is believed that these acts are taken in reprisal of their work fighting impunity in cases of serious human rights violations and corruption in Guatemala. To our understanding, several other Guatemalan justice operators are also being prosecuted, including former anti-corruption Prosecutor Virginia Laparra, highlighting the increased

				crackdown on justice operators involved in the fight against corruption and impunity.
INDIA	Babloo Loitongbam	19/10/2023	Click here	<p>Vandalisation of lawyer Babloo Loitongbam’s residence</p> <p>On 5 October 2023, Babloo Loitongbam’s residence in Imphal West, Manipur, was vandalised by a mob believed to be affiliated with the Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tengol groups, who damaged his property and belongings. It is also reported that hours prior to the attack, Babloo Loitongbam was threatened by the militant group Meitei Leepun who had previously called for the lawyer and human rights defender to be boycotted.</p>
IRAN	Mohammad Najafi	28/03/2023	Click here	<p>Continued detention of lawyer</p> <p>As from 30 January 2023 lawyer Mohammad Najafi has been on a hunger strike which he began to protest the unfair trial of his case. Mohammad Najafi has faced repeated arrests and harsh sentences, including physical harm, while defending human rights and democracy in Iran.</p>
IRAN	Farzaneh Zilabi Mohammad Seifzadeh and Marzieh Nikara	05/06/2023	Click here	<p>Sentencing of lawyers</p> <p>On 17 April 2023, lawyer Farzaneh Zilabi was sentenced by the Ahvaz Revolutionary Court to one year in prison for the charge of “propaganda against the regime”, and six months for “insulting the Supreme Leader of Iran”. Her sentencing is linked to her activism defending human rights and for representing several recently arrested individuals, including media activist Mehrnoosh Tafian, journalist Mandanda Sadeghi, and student activist Ronak Rezaie</p> <p>Additionally, in May 2023, lawyers Mohammad Seifzadeh and Marzieh Nikara, have been sentenced to one year of imprisonment by Branch 29 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran on charges of “anti-regime propaganda activities” and “dissemination of falsehoods”. The case initiated against them originated from a letter drafted by a group of human rights defenders and legal, including the two lawyers to the UN Secretary-General, addressing the suppression and intimidation of citizens during the nationwide protests in 2022-2023.</p>
IRAN	Iranian Bar Association threatened	07/07/2023	Click here	<p>Independence of the Iranian Bar Association threatened</p> <p>on 27 June 2023, a motion titled “the Request to Investigate the Operations of Bar Associations and their Union” was passed in the Iranian Parliament. This motion will enable the judiciary chief and state security agencies, including the Intelligence Ministry and the intelligence organisation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, to scrutinise bar associations throughout the country as well as their central union in Tehran. The state security apparatus will also be reportedly empowered with “reviewing the legal qualification” of lawyers who are members of the bar, which will enable it to pick and choose which lawyers are allowed to officially work as lawyers in the country.</p>

<p>IRAN</p>	<p>54 Iranian lawyers Khosrow Alikurdi</p>	<p>09/08/2023</p>	<p>Click here</p>	<p>Arrest and judicial harassment against lawyers 54 Iranian lawyers who expressed in a joint statement their support for the family of Mahsa Amini after she died in police custody were summoned in Bukan by judicial authorities to explain social media posts. In the statement in question, the lawyers said they were ready to provide Amini's family with legal representation while condemning pressure made by some authorities on the family to accept official explanation for her death. Also, lawyer Khosrow Alikurdi was arrested and incarcerated on 01 August 2023 on charges of “spreading falsehood and breach of confidentiality. The charges brought against him are related to his work as a lawyer in the case of Abolfazl Adinehzadeh, a minor who was killed during the 2022 nationwide protests.</p>
<p>IRAN</p>	<p>Infringement on the Bar Association's autonomy</p>	<p>21/09/2023</p>	<p>Click here</p>	<p>Preoccupying situation of lawyers and their independence Many Iranian lawyers and bar associations have criticised a parliamentary resolution obliging them to adhere to the directives of the Economic Ministry's Regulatory Board without being able to challenge the changes via the Administrative Justice Court, saying that this was "inconsistent with the nation's fundamental rights and an infringement on the Bar Association's autonomy." This was not the first attack against the independence of the legal profession as the Iranian Bar Association has faced persistent pressure from both governmental agencies and the judiciary over the past four decades and that its autonomy and powers have been steadily eroded by a series of legislative measures.</p>
<p>IRAN</p>	<p>Arash Keikhosravi</p>	<p>09/10/2023</p>	<p>Click here</p>	<p>Arrest of lawyer Arash Keikhosravi Lawyer Arash Keikhosravi was incarcerated at Tehran’s Evin prison on 25 September to serve a one-year prison term for endorsing a statement titled "The majority of Iranians no longer want the Islamic Republic". This statement, endorsed by 40 lawyers, was published last November during the nationwide protests sparked by the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini. It is reported that lawyer Arash Keikhosravi had previously been imprisoned for his political and human rights activities.</p>
<p>IRAN</p>	<p>Nasser Sargaran</p>	<p>02/11/2023</p>	<p>Click here</p>	<p>Arrest and Detention of lawyer Nasser Sargaran Nasser Sargaran was arrested at his family home in Saqqez, Kurdistan Province, without a warrant and taken to a detention facility in Sanandaj. It is reported that since being taken into custody, Nasser Sargaran has had one brief phone call with his family, informing them of his detention. We understand that there is no further information regarding the charges against Nasser Sargaran, and that he has been denied access to legal counsel and family visits.</p>

IRAN	Saleh Nikbakht	02/11/2023	Click here	<p>Imprisonment of lawyer Saleh Nikbakht</p> <p>Lawyer Saleh Nikbakht was sentenced to one year in prison at the Branch 28 of Tehran Revolutionary Court. It is reported that Saleh Nikbakht was charged with "propaganda against the system" after he conducted interviews with several foreign media outlets that included discussions on issues concerning inter alia the plight of protesters in Iran, the airing of political confessions on state media, and the reasons behind prohibiting motorcycle licenses for Iranian women. It is however believed that his conviction is linked to his work as a lawyer and his public disagreement with the forensic medical conclusion surrounding the death of his client, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.</p>
JORDAN	Hala Ahed	17/07/2023	Click here	<p>Death threats, defamation and smear campaign against lawyer</p> <p>Lawyer Hala Ahed has been the victim of a fierce campaign targeting her on social media due to her peaceful and legitimate human rights work. This campaign followed the publication of an announcement on 13 June 2023 about the organisation of a training course that she is facilitating on the concept of feminism, and includes sessions in which she talks among other things about domination, authoritarianism and justice. In addition, the online campaign translated in offline harm and verbal harassment in public. It is feared that harassment will only escalate and lead to physical harm if left untackled.</p>
LEBANON	Lawyers	09/06/2023	Click here	<p>Restriction on lawyers' freedom of expression in Lebanon</p> <p>On 3 March 2023 amendments were made to the Beirut Bar Association's Code of Ethics following their approval by the Beirut Bar Association Council. These amendments prohibit Lebanese lawyers from discussing cases pending before the courts, including any pertinent legal questions, in any media, including on social media, and from participating in a forum or interview of a general legal nature held by a media or social media outlet, website, or group, without first obtaining permission from the head of the Beirut Bar Association.</p> <p>On 12 May 2023, the Beirut Court of Appeal already dismissed a petition filed by 13 lawyers seeking to reverse these amendments. The Court found that these restrictions on the right of lawyers to freedom of expression in the media were necessary in light of "the danger represented by the great influence of the media on the course of ongoing trials and public opinion."</p>
MALAYSIA	Siti Zabedah Kasim	09/06/2023	Click here	<p>Attempted killing of lawyer</p> <p>On 21 July 2023, an attempt to kill the human rights lawyer Siti Zabedah Kasim (Siti Kasim) took place, which she survived. Previously, lawyer Siti Zabedah Kasim received death threats for advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and speaking out against the rise of religious extremism in Malaysia.</p>
MEXICO	Óscar Zamudio Campos	06/09/2023	Click here	<p>Harassment and criminal proceedings against lawyer</p> <p>In 2021, lawyer Óscar Zamudio Campos represented Carlos Treviño, former director of "Petróleos Mexicanos", and uncovered acts of corruption committed by the Attorney General's office and the federal judge before whom his client's trial was to take place. Óscar Zamudio Campos is now being investigated for the offence of abandoning his defence due to the lack of fair trial guarantees.</p> <p>To sanction this, the judge considered that he had abandoned the defence, with the intention of</p>

				leaving his client without legal representation. He also ordered the Public Prosecutor's Office to open an investigation against lawyer Óscar Zamudio Campos for the offence known in criminal law as "abandonment of the defence".
MYANMAR	Ywat Nu Aung	06/02/2023	Click here	Sentencing of lawyer A secret court in Myanmar sentenced lawyer Ywat Nu Aung to 15 years in prison with hard labor, on charges of aiding a terrorist organisation. It is however believed that the charges are related to her legitimate activities as a lawyer representing a leader of the former ruling political party.
NICARAGUA	26 lawyers	16/06/2023	Click here	Disbarment of 26 lawyers On 11 May 2023, 26 lawyers were deprived of their licence to practice law and were declared stateless by a decision of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua. This decision is linked to their activities as defence lawyers of political prisoners and opponents, and that the decision was politically motivated as it is reported that the decision lacked sufficient arguments and motivation.
NIGERIA	Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa	22/02/2023	Click here	Death threats against lawyer Situation of human rights lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa. According to information we have received, lawyer Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa raised an alarm over alleged threats to his life and safety as a result of his advocacies and actions in relation to the campaign for good governance, rule of law and accountability.
NIGERIA	Cyril N. Orogwu	09/08/2023	Click here	Attempted killing of lawyer Cyril N. Orogwu, a lawyer based in Abakaliki in the law firm of Chief Kanu B. Okpaleke, wrote a letter saying his life was in serious danger for representing the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). Then, he was attacked by the Nigerian Joint Security Force in 2019. He was arrested and incarcerated at the then F-SARS custody Abakaliki Police Command alongside his wife which resulted in her losing her three-month pregnancy through miscarriage and him being hospitalised for two months upon his eventual release. In addition, lawyer Cyril N. Orogwu received death threats from the Nigerian Police Force, particularly from the SWATT Department, Abakaliki, in 2021 threatening to shoot him if he did not stop appearing as counsel in the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) cases.
NIGERIA	Chinaka Chigozie	19/10/2023	Click here	Detention and assault on lawyer Chinaka Chigozie Lawyer Chinaka Chigozie was detained and assaulted by police officers when he visited the Command to secure the freedom of his client, Wisdom Mmaduka, who has been detained by the command since June 2023. Mr. Chigozie was detained after his secretary took a picture of his client's impounded car for purposes of filing the bail application. Following his detention, it is also reported that he was subjected to multiple beatings.

PAKISTAN	<p>Dil Nawaz Kundi, Latif Afridi and Sheikh Imra</p> <p>Mustafa Marwat, Ibrar Kundi and Balkh Sher Khosa</p>	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Murder of lawyers and attempted murder of lawyers</p> <p>On 10 January 2023, Dil Nawaz Kundi, a senior lawyer from southern Tank district, was shot dead while lawyers Mustafa Marwat and Ibrar Kundi, who were traveling with him, were wounded after unknown motorcyclist opened fire on their car. We understand that an investigation has been launched into this attack.</p> <p>On 16 January 2023, it is reported that former Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior lawyer Latif Afridi was killed during a firing inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room. On the same day, lawyer Sheikh Imran, from the Rawalpindi District Bar, was shot dead by unidentified suspects in the Dheri Hassanabad area while he was driving his children to school. We understand that an investigation is also underway.</p> <p>Later, on 23 January 2023, lawyer Balkh Sher Khosa was shot injured by unidentified armed men while visiting the Punjab University to meet his clients</p>
PALESTINE	Human Rights Group Lawyers for Justice	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>The forcible dissolution of human rights group Lawyers for Justice by the Authorities.</p> <p>on 26 March 2023, the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy informed the Palestinian human rights group Lawyers for Justice of their final decision to not renew the registration of their organisation as a civil company. It is not the first their work is being hindered and it is believed that the group is solely being targeted with punitive measures and restrictions as a result of their peaceful and legitimate human rights work.</p>
PHILIPPINES	Maria Saniata Liwliwa Gonzales Alzate	21/09/2023	Click here	<p>The Murder of lawyer Maria Saniata Liwliwa Gonzales Alzate</p> <p>Lawyer Maria Saniata Liwliwa Gonzales Alzate was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding assailants in broad daylight on 14 September 2023 as she was parking in front of her residence. We understand that an investigation is underway.</p>
RUSSIA	Mikhail Benyash	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>The conviction of lawyer Mikhail Benyash.</p> <p>On 6 March, lawyer Mikhail Benyash was criminally convicted under Article 318 (1) of the Russian criminal code and fined for allegedly assaulting policemen back in 2018 while providing legal assistance to peaceful protesters against pension reform.</p> <p>Following an appeal, Mikhail Benyash’s conviction was overturned due to abuses during his first trial, and a retrial was ordered. However, it is reported that he has now been convicted again, with the prosecution relying on the same flawed evidence.</p>
RUSSIA	Vadim Kobzev, Alexey Liptser and Igor Sergunin	30/10/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest of lawyers Vadim Kobzev, Alexey Liptser and Igor Sergunin</p> <p>According to information we have received, on 13 October 2023, Russian authorities carried out searches at the residences and legal offices of the three lawyers. It is reported that equipment and privileged documents containing lawyer–client confidential information were confiscated. We understand that the lawyers were then arrested on the same day on charges of associating with an extremist group, pursuant to Article 282.1 of the Russian Criminal Code for which they could face from two to six years in prison. Additionally, we understand that it entails the freezing of their assets and the suspension of their ability to practice law.</p>

RUSSIA	Magomed Alamov	02/11/2023	Click here	<p>Harassment and death threats against lawyer Magomed Alamov</p> <p>Upon his return to the Chechen Republic after accompanying a young woman, a survivor of domestic violence, at the request of the human rights organisation 'North Caucasus: SOS' on 5 October 2023, the circumstances and whereabouts of lawyer Magomed Alamov are unsure. It is reported that Magomed Alamov initially returned after receiving information that death threats were made against his brother. We understand that on 23 October 2023, the survivor of domestic violence got in touch with her relatives in the Chechen Republic, and reported that Magomed Alamov, who was present during the call, informed her that him and his family had received death threats by her relatives.</p>
SAUDI ARABIA	Waleed Abu Al-Khair	26/06/2023	Click here	<p>Continued detention of lawyer</p> <p>Since 2013, there was serious concerns over the continued detention of human right lawyer Waleed Abu Al-Khair. Raif Badawi, the lawyer of Waleed Abu al-Khair had been convicted and then he was released from prison, but remains subject to a ten-year ban on leaving the country. However, lawyer Waleed Abu Al-Khair is still being detained.</p>
SINGAPORE	Ravi Madasamy	06/04/2023	Click here	<p>Suspension of lawyer</p> <p>On 21 March 2023, a court issued a five-year suspension order against human rights lawyer M. Ravi for allegedly making "grave and baseless accusations of improper conduct" against the Attorney-General of Singapore. The charges brought against him are related to an online interview M. Ravi gave regarding the case of Malaysian national who was sentenced to death in 2018 after being convicted of importing heroin into Singapore. In the interview, the human rights lawyer expressed that the public prosecutor "has been overzealous in his prosecution and that has led to the death sentence of Gobi".</p>
SOUTH AFRICA	Zanele Nkosi	20/04/2023	Click here	<p>The murder of lawyer Zanele Nkosi.</p> <p>On 29 March, Zanele Nkosi was shot dead outside her office in Rustenburg, Northwest. We understand that Zanele Nkosi was accosted by two unknown gunmen while walking to her car. Ms. Zanele Nkosi was the chairperson of the North-West branch of the Black Lawyers Association and served on numerous committees of the Law Society of South Africa</p>
SRI LANKA	Ptiyalal Sirisena	16/06/2023	Click here	<p>Threats and intimidation against lawyer Ptiyalal Sirisena</p> <p>Between the 21 and 23 May 2023, human rights lawyer Priyalal Sirisena received two threatening phone calls from unidentified persons who warned him to withdraw any actions taken against 'the Minister' and threatened him with consequences should he failed to comply. The threats are linked to Priyalal Sirisena's legal action against a state minister in Sri Lanka for contempt of court based on this Minister's public criticism of the magistrate court's decision to grant bail to protesters linked to the economic crisis.</p>

SRI LANKA	Hejaaz Hizbullah	26/06/2023	Click here	<p>Continued detention against lawyer</p> <p>Since 2020, there was concerns over the continued and arbitrary detention of lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah. His detention was held without charges or access to bail, and he was denied access to his lawyer and to his family. Apparently, those charges relate to a speech he allegedly gave at the Al-Zuhriya Arabic College in August 2018. Several witnesses in his case were subject to extreme pressure through threats and arbitrary arrest with the aim to incriminate Hejaaz Hizbullah. His detention and criminal prosecution are politically motivated and there are serious concerns that fair trial rights are being undermined.</p>
SUDAN	Mohammed Ahmed Kudia, Khamis Arabab, Abdelkhalig Matar	26/06/2023	Click here	<p>Murder of lawyers</p> <p>on 28 May 2023, lawyer Mohammed Ahmed Kudia was killed, his house burned down, and property looted by members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group.</p> <p>on 30 May 2023, lawyer Khamis Arabab, was killed when his house in El Geneina was attacked by members of the RSF.</p> <p>on 5 June 2023, lawyer Abdelkhalig Matar was killed alongside eight of his family members who were burned in their house in El Geneina.</p> <p>These three lawyers had previously received death threats from militia members while working on cases related to attacks on IDP camps in El Geneina prior to their killings.</p>
SUDAN	10 lawyers and human rights defenders, Tamid Ahmed Khamis Rayan	21/09/2023	Click here	<p>The Murder of several lawyers in Darfur</p> <p>The Darfur Bar Association (DBA) reported that more than 10 lawyers and human rights defenders have been killed in Nyala, capital of South Darfur, within a month and a half. It is reported that ‘Armed militias’ are deliberately targeting and storming the homes of lawyers and human rights defenders. It has notably been reported that Tamid Ahmed Khamis Rayan, a lawyer in Benyala, was recently killed inside his home in the El Wahda neighbourhood while resisting an armed group that stormed his house.</p>
TAJIKISTAN	Buzurgmehr Yorov	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Continued detention and ill-treatment of lawyer</p> <p>Lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov remains imprisoned after being convicted in October 2016 on a number of charges, including calling for the overthrow of the government, support of extremist activity, fraud and forgery. Mr. Yorov is still suffering from serious illtreatment and is at grave risk at the moment.</p>
THAILAND	Arnon Nampa	26/06/2023	Click here	<p>Disbarment proceeding against lawyer</p> <p>Since 2020, the lawyer Arnon Nampa was arrested in relation to his activities as a human rights lawyer, and there was a disbarment proceedings that were initiated against him. On 17-18 July 2023, the last two witness examinations of the disbarment are scheduled to take place.</p>
THAILAND	Arnon Nampa	26/10/2023	Click here	<p>Conviction and detention of lawyer Arnon Nampa</p> <p>On 26th September 2023, Mr. Arnon Nampa was found guilty of violating Section 112 (lèse-majesté) of the Criminal Code. It is reported that Thailand’s Criminal Court sentenced him to four years’ imprisonment while further imposing a fine of THB 20,000 for a subsequent conviction under the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005).</p>

TUNESIA	Dalila Msadek and Islem Hamza	19/10/2023	Click here	<p>Judicial harassment of lawyers Dalila Msadek and Islem Hamza</p> <p>On 29 September 2023, the Public Prosecutor of the Tunis Court of First Instance initiated criminal proceedings against Dalila Msadek and Islem Hamza, who are members of the legal team defending a number of political opponents whom have been detained since February 2023 for their alleged involvement in the so-called conspiracy case based on charges related to “terrorism” and “State security”. It is further reported that both lawyers now face charges of “spreading fake news with the aim of threatening public security through audio-visual media”, pursuant to article 24 of Decree-law 2022-54 of 13 September 2022.</p>
TURKEY	52 lawyers in Ankara	28/03/2023	Click here	<p>Mass trial and sentencing of 52 lawyers in Ankara</p> <p>Since 2017, 52 lawyers, members of the Ankara Bar Association, were charged under Art. 314 of the Turkish Penal Code for membership in an armed terrorist organisation. The last hearing of retrial will take place at the Ankara Regional Appeal Court on 12, 13 and 14 April 2023. The charges against them do not rely on any evidence of engagement in criminal activity but are linked to their legitimate activities as lawyers. At least three of these lawyers have suffered ill-treatment while in custody, including by the police.</p>
TURKEY	Detention of 25 lawyers	08/05/2023	Click here	<p>Detention of 25 lawyers</p> <p>25 Turkish lawyers were detained in raids conducted in 21 provinces on Tuesday 25 April 2023 as part of a counterterrorism operation, just three weeks before the 14 May elections. The charges against them do not rely on any evidence of engagement in criminal activity but are linked to their legitimate activities as lawyers. It is reported that they were arrested on the basis of a single, abstract and dubious testimony.</p>
TURKEY	Aytekin Aktaş	05/06/2023	Click here	<p>Violent Assault against lawyer</p> <p>On 4 April 2023, lawyer Aytekin Aktaş arrived at the Yeşilköy Neighborhood of Samandağ, a district in Hatay, to provide voluntary legal support and asked the Gendarmerie to see his client. When he arrived at the Gendarmerie at least ten Gendarmerie officers attacked Aytekin Aktaş A criminal complaint was filed following these violent acts with the Hatay Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office.</p>
UNITED KINGDOM	Julian Assange and his Lawyers	31/07/2023	Click here	<p>Second open CCBE Letter regarding the interception of communications between Julian Assange and his lawyers</p> <p>There was evidence that Mr. Assange was subjected to constant surveillance, included conversations between Mr Assange and his lawyers. Also, the US government had developed and considered plans to have Mr Assange killed in the embassy of Ecuador and that the material obtained from his illegal surveillance, including conversations between Mr. Assange and his lawyers, has been transmitted to actors associated with the intelligence community in the United States. Fundamental importance of the respect for legal professional privilege in assuring a fair trial, and the inviolability of that privilege.</p>

VIETNAM	Dang Dinh Bach	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Detention of lawyer</p> <p>The lawyer Dang Dinh Bach was arrested in July 2021 and sentenced to 5 years in prison for alleged “tax evasion” after leading a campaign to reduce Vietnam’s reliance on coal. He was not granted a fair trial as he was not allowed to meet with his lawyer until seven months after he was arrested. We also understand that he was prosecuted in a closed trial that resulted in a sentence much harsher than is usual for people accused of tax evasion in Vietnam.</p>
VIETNAM	Dang Dinh Manh and Nguyen Van Mieng	17/05/2023	Click here	<p>Investigation of human rights lawyers</p> <p>Dang Dinh Manh was summoned on 21 February 2023 by the Long An Police Investigative Agency to report to the Police after a request from the Ministry of Public Security to charge him under Article 331 of the Penal Code for allegedly “abusing democratic freedoms to infringe on the interests of the State, organisations and individuals”. Similarly, Nguyen Van Mieng has received three letters summoning him for an interrogation by the Long An Police.</p> <p>The criminal investigation against Dang Dinh Manh and Nguyen Van Mieng appears to be related to their work representing human rights defenders, political dissidents and other clients in apparently sensitive cases.</p>
ZIMBABWE	Kudzai Kadzere	06/02/2023	Click here	<p>Assault and arrest of lawyer</p> <p>on 14 January 2023, Lawyer Kudzai Kadzere was beaten up by the police and temporarily arrested while he was attending to his clients, members of the organization Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) who were arrested and detained at Budiro 2 Police Station. The lawyer sustained a fractured hand as a result of the police attack. This happened after the lawyer had visited a police station to file a report for assault by police in Harare’s Budiro suburb.</p>
ZIMBABWE	Obey Shava	20/07/2023	Click here	<p>Detention of lawyer</p> <p>On 5 July 2023, Lawyer Obey Shava was savagely attacked by at least four men driving. He had received a call from a man claiming to have an urgent legal matter and he had agreed to meet the individual in the Belvedere area, where he intended to drop off a lawyer colleague, and that those men attacked him soon after he came out of his car, and that they also took his phone.</p>
ZIMBABWE	Doug Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi	02/11/2023	Click here	<p>Arrest and judicial harassment of lawyers Doug Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi</p> <p>Doug Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi were arrested on 04 September 2023 while representing their clients, who are members of the opposition party Citizen Coalition for Change (CCC) and who were, at the time, recovering in the hospital from suspected kidnapping and torture by unknown actors. It is reported that both Doug Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi were arrested for advising police detectives not to interview their clients because the latter were in a poor state of health.</p>