

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

LRWC ANNUAL REPORT 2016

(January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016)

“Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them.”

MISSION

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC) is a committee of lawyers dedicated to promoting the rule of law and human rights internationally by:

- Providing support to lawyers and other human rights defenders whose rights, freedoms, or independence are threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy.
- Conducting legal research and producing legal analyses of national and international laws and standards relevant to advocacy rights, the integrity of legal systems, fair trial rights, and the rule of law.
- Working in cooperation with other human rights organizations.
- Engaging in legal education.

LRWC and LRW(Legal Research)C are non-profit societies incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. LRW(Legal Research)C engages in legal research and education and has charitable tax status.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

During 2016, attacks on lawyers and other human rights defenders in reprisal for their peaceful and legitimate human rights work continued to increase while efforts to prevent and remediate abuse targeting human rights defenders remained weak at both domestic and international levels. The misuse of criminal law systems to silence and punish human rights advocacy increased alongside increasing use of military courts and other courts lacking in independence to arbitrarily convict and imprison human rights defenders. Advocates were routinely imprisoned for peacefully opposing or exposing violations by states or state-sanctioned actors of protected rights, and for promoting enhanced rights to civil liberties and democratic governance. In short, 2016 was a harrowing year, one that tested the strength, resolve and resilience of advocates around the world.

Calls for justice from NGOs such as LRWC remained the only consistent voice promoting rights and identifying and opposing violations. LRWC responded to cases involving the arbitrary arrest and detention, wrongful prosecution and conviction, enforced disappearance, threatening and murder of lawyers and other human rights defenders with letters, statements, reports and petitions to monitoring bodies, oral and written statement to UN bodies, *amicus* briefs and interventions to domestic courts and by producing legal research on international human rights laws and jurisprudence. LRWC published *The Right to Dissent*. This guide—a one-of-a kind review of international law provision and jurisprudence from UN, OAS, EU and AU tribunals and monitoring bodies—was produced in response to the worldwide repression of the right to dissent. During 2016, LRWC also produced papers on state duties to investigate serious rights violations (in Cambodia, Honduras and Turkey) and on other issues critical to compliance with international human rights and the rule of law. LRWC filed *amicus* briefs on international law obligations affecting domestic law in courts in Cambodia, Canada and Turkey. LRWC members conducted in-country investigation and visits in Thailand, Colombia and Turkey. Positive developments following interventions by LRWC during 2016 included: release from prison (Bahrain, China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey); stay of charges (Malaysia); attackers convicted (Thailand); acquittals (Malaysia, Thailand); sentences suspended (Bahrain, Thailand); medical attention for prisoner (Bahrain); recommendations adopted (UPR/Thailand); NGO granted ECOSOC status; Ontario Court of Appeal agrees with LRWC submissions; international law *amicus* filed for the first time in Turkey's Constitutional Court; LRWC research and education strengthens human rights advocacy; human rights defenders in danger describe LRWC interventions as necessary to ensure safety and introduce/increase the chance for justice to prevail; and work with human rights defenders around the world. Victims and families expressed their thanks, noting that without LRWC, they would be alone and without hope.

In sum, while in 2016 we saw an expansion of attempts to undermine the rule of law and fundamental rights, we also saw something far more powerful. We saw human rights advocates, NGOs, politicians, members of civil society, and the broader public come together to protect the rule of law, the independence of lawyers, and other fundamental principles that are essential to a fully functioning, peaceful and democratic society. LRWC was proud to be part of this effort in 2016. Throughout the year, LRWC provided a unique voice critical to the struggle internationally to promote understanding and respect for human rights and the rule of law and adherence with international human rights and humanitarian laws. LRWC looks forward to continuing these efforts in the coming year and beyond.

I. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

The 31st Session of the HRC: 29 February to 24 March 2016

LRWC member and LRW(LR)C Director Lois Leslie attended the meeting of the HRC during the last two days of the session. LRWC member Vani Selvarajah attended to registration of LRWC's oral presentations.

i. Written Statement

- **Canada:** [Restoring the Space for Dissent in Canada | Joint Written Statement to the UN Human Rights Council, Pearl Eliadis, 15 February 2016](#). This report was filed jointly by LRWC and the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) for consideration at the 31st Session of the HRC. The report follows up on the issues of concern raised in the report, [The Shrinking Space for Dissent in Canada](#), also prepared by Pearl Eliadis, filed for consideration at the 29th Session of the HRC in June 2014. The February 2016 report focuses on the continuing need for Canada to repeal laws that threaten dissent and advocacy, establish security service oversight mechanisms, end CRA "political activities audits", and create an enabling environment for civil society organizations.

ii. Oral Statement

- **Global:** [Use of Internationally Non-Compliant Laws to Criminalize the Work of Human Rights Defenders](#). This joint LRWC/ALRC statement was scheduled for presentation on 3 March by Md. Ashrafuzzaman of ALRC during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders. The statement was not delivered because of HRC time constraints.

The 32nd Session of the HRC: 13 June to 1 July and 8 July 2016

LRWC members Catherine Morris and Paul Scambler, Q.C. attended the HRC from 21 to 24 June and met with representatives of other human rights organizations as well as the Secretariats of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. Vani Selvarajah attended to registration of LRWC's oral presentation.

i. Oral Statement

- **Global:** LRWC prepared and delivered a [statement](#) during the General Debate on the Report of the Forum on Business and Human Rights and the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). The statement emphasized that EMRIP's mandate should include enhanced cooperation and interaction with other special procedures mandate holders such as the Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The statement drew attention to links between conduct of businesses and attacks on indigenous human rights defenders in Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, and Honduras and the need for implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights to hold businesses accountable for violations of international human rights not only in their home states but also in all other states where they operate. This statement was delivered by Mr. Paul Scambler on 24 June 2016.

The 33rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council: 13 to 30 September 2016

LRWC member and Director Gavin Magrath attended one week of this session of the HRC and during that time met with representatives of NGOs, attended side events, and delivered two oral statements to the HRC. Vani Selvarajah registered LRWC to make presentations. LRWC UN Liaison Director Catherine Morris authored the two statements presented and provided logistical support.

i. Oral Statements

- **Cambodia:** [*Government Crackdown on Critics and Human Rights Defenders*](#), LRWC statement presented on 28 September by Gavin Magrath during the Interactive Dialogue following presentation of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia. The statement highlighted Cambodia's long record of abusing laws and utilizing corrupt and non-independent courts to harass critics and rights defenders. A video of the presentation can be viewed at the link above.
- **Global:** [*Failure of States to Implement Technical and Capacity Building Assistance from HRC Bodies*](#), LRWC statement presented on 29 September by Gavin Magrath during General Debate. The statement gave examples where Honduras, Cambodia, India, and Thailand had failed to accept and implement assistance and recommendations from Special Procedures and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights designed to promote human rights. A video of the presentation can be viewed at the link above.

II. UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

UPR of Thailand

LRWC filed a report in September 2015 for consideration on the UPR of Thailand and LRWC member Renee Mulligan attended a civil society consultation workshop in Thailand in December 2015 to prepare for the UPR, which was held in Geneva on 11 May 2016. Several recommendations made in LRWC's Thailand UPR submission were put forward by Member States and formally accepted by the Thai government, including:

- ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2006 (UNCAT), agreement to ensure that all laws are brought into conformity with the UNCAT, and adoption of UNCAT's definition of torture as a specific offence in Thai legislation;
- expedited ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED) signed by Thailand in 2012;
- agreement to ensure that the Constitution complies with Thailand's international human rights law obligations; and
- agreement to stop all forms of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, and to ensure their rights are respected.

III. UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION (WGAD)

Complaint to UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) for Nguyễn Văn Đài

LRWC, the Media Legal Defence Initiative, Lawyers for Lawyers, PEN International, and Viet Tan filed a complaint to the WGAD on behalf of prominent human rights lawyer Nguyễn Văn Đài on 25 November 2016. Nguyễn Văn Đài is a prominent human rights lawyer, an active blogger, a human rights educator, and a leading advocate for multiparty democracy. He has established a number of organizations that provide training to community members on their legal rights and has met with international delegations to discuss the state of human rights protection in Viet Nam. He has been detained incommunicado since being arrested on 16 December 2015 while enroute to meet with a European Union delegation. The government of Viet Nam states that suspicion of conducting propaganda against Viet Nam is the reason for detention. The petitioning NGOs seek a determination by the WGAD that the arrest and detention are arbitrary as being a violation of internationally protected rights to expression, association, participation in public affairs, the practice of law, freedom from arbitrary detention, pre-trial release, the presumption of innocence, timely and confidential access to counsel, and the right to a hearing before an impartial, independent, and competent tribunal.

IV. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT - ASSEMBLY OF STATE PARTIES

LRWC member Lisa Barrett attended the 15th Session of the Assembly of State Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 16–24 November 2016 in The Hague. The meeting was conducted in the wake of South Africa, Burundi, and Gambia having given notice of withdrawal from the Rome Statute and the ICC, citing the preponderance of prosecutions of African persons and the failure of the Court to investigate war crimes by Western states. Kenya is also reportedly considering withdrawal. The relationship between the ICC and Africa was therefore a major focus. Parties to the Assembly confirmed the importance of the presence of African State Parties to the success of the ICC. To that end, the Assembly determined to engage in open dialogues with African State Parties to better understand their concerns, and to continue to improve the transparency of the court. The Assembly also dealt with the finances and budget of the ICC, and reported on the activities of the Court since the last meeting in November 2015. The Assembly also featured panel discussions on effective cooperation and accountability for Rome Statute crimes, and on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal process of the Court. As a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, LRWC is entitled to attend Assembly meetings.

V. IN-COUNTRY INVESTIGATIONS AND VISITS

COLOMBIA CARAVANA 20–28 AUGUST 2016

LRWC delegates again participated in the Fifth Colombia Caravana, a delegation of lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals from several countries who travel to Colombia every two years to provide support for at-risk lawyers and other human rights defenders and to gather information critical to effective ongoing support.

LRWC delegates were: Justice Brent Knazan of the Ontario High Court, Jenny Reid, Debbie Markovitz, Melissa Tessler, and Heather Neun. After assembling in Bogotá, the entire delegation of 57 lawyer delegates divided into regional groups, with each Canadian delegate travelling to one of five different cities: Cali, Barranquilla, Medellín, Bucaramanga, or Cúcuta. Each regional delegation, hosted by lawyers' groups specializing in human rights, met with human rights defenders, victims of human rights violations, civil

society organizations, members of the press, and public officials. The regional groups reconvened in Bogotá on August 24 for several days of debriefing and meetings with officials, including the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in Colombia, members of the judiciary, national human rights and civil society groups, the Colombian national protection office, and the presidential advisor on human rights. Delegates also met with their respective embassies. Following the delegation's conclusion, Heather Neun traveled solo to meet with the Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP) in Bucaramanga. The CCALCP has a long history of being subject to persecution, logging 40 security incidents since its founding in 2001. All of the complaints filed remain addressed. Delegates were struck by the overriding sense of pessimism about the prospects for combatting impunity and achieving a lasting peace. Concerns about structural challenges to the effective implementation of the peace agreement are widespread, and relate to the capacity and will of the Colombian state to fulfill agreements such as the dismantling of paramilitary structures and the guarantee of political participation.

HONDURAS

Canadian Delegation Calls for Justice for Berta Cáceres in Honduras

From 12–22 April 2016, LRWC participated in a seven-member Canadian delegation to Honduras and Ottawa to call for justice for indigenous land rights defender Berta Cáceres after gunmen assassinated her and attempted to murder Mexican human rights defender Gustavo Castro Soto on 3 March 2016. LRWC joined numerous organizations calling for a thorough, independent, and impartial investigation under the auspices of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Berta Cáceres, who founded the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), worked to defend indigenous peoples' land rights, including protesting a project of DESA (Desarrollos Energéticos SA), an energy company involved in building a dam on indigenous Lenca land without Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Before her death, Ms. Cáceres received death threats after an altercation with DESA employees, soldiers, and police during a march.

While observing an April 15 commemoration of Berta Cáceres' life on the Gualcarque River, the Canadian delegates witnessed police collusion with violent pro-mining protestors allegedly hired by DESA to disrupt the commemoration. Police did not stop the attacks and arrested no perpetrators.

The delegation also visited the San Andrés Mine at Azacualpa, Honduras, operated by the Canadian corporation Aura Minerals. Despite attempts by local Aura Minerals employees to impede access to the affected community through a public road, the delegation was able to visit the community members, who told the delegation of environmental and health concerns from the open-pit, cyanide-leaching mine operations, as well as Aura Minerals' failure to keep its bargains for alternative housing, illegal attempts to remove the community's cemetery, and death threats.

The delegation visited Ottawa from 20–22 April to hold a press conference and report to Members of Parliament the lack of confidence in Honduran government investigations.

Members of the delegation were: Mary Hannaburg, Mohawk Nation Director for Quebec Native Women; Bev Sellars, former chief, Xat'sull (Soda Creek) First Nation, Williams Lake, BC; Catherine Morris, LRWC;

Grahame Russell, director, Rights Action; Maggie Padlewska, video-journalist; and Amelia Orellana, Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL).

THAILAND

LRWC Visit to Thailand 22 October to 4 November 2016

LRWC's UN Liaison Director, Catherine Morris, visited Bangkok from 21 October to 4 November 2016 where she consulted with lawyers, human rights defenders, and others about the situation of lawyers and human rights defenders in Thailand. Ms. Morris was part of a group of international observers to attend the Bangkok's Samranrat Municipality Police Station on 22 October 2016 with human



rights lawyer Ms. Sirikan “June” Charoensiri where she was formally informed of charges against her alleging that she was an accomplice to a peaceful protest organized by the New Democracy Movement (NDM) at the Democracy Monument in June 2015. Arising out of the June NDM student protests, the charges against Ms. Sirikan include being an accomplice to sedition by the NDM students and holding an illegal political gathering. Ms. Sirikan faces imprisonment of up to 15 years if convicted. The team of observers included representatives from the Embassies of Canada, France, Switzerland, and the European Union as well as representatives from the International Commission of Jurists, Lawyers for Lawyers, Amnesty International, and Thai Lawyers for Human Rights. These charges will to be determined by a military court. These charges are additional to charges laid against Ms. Sirikan in February 2016 when she was charged under the Thai Criminal Code with “giving false information regarding a criminal offence” and “refusing to comply with the order of an official” in relation to her lawful representation of 14 NDM student activists arrested in connection with the June 2015 protest. In a [statement](#) dated 28 October 2016, LRWC called on Thailand to withdraw all charges and comply with its international human rights obligations arising from the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, the *UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, the *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* and other instruments. On 4 November, representatives from LRWC and L4L also visited the Lawyers’ Council of Thailand to discuss their policies and practices for protection of lawyers threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy.

TURKEY

LRWC members visit imprisoned lawyer in Turkey

LRWC members Catherine Morris and Paul Scambler, Q.C. visited human rights lawyers in Turkey concerned with the arbitrary imprisonment of lawyers without bail on unspecified charges related to their legal representation of clients, which include other lawyers charged under Turkey’s catch-all anti-terrorism laws. On 14 July 2016, Ms. Morris and Mr. Scambler, accompanied by a Turkish human rights lawyer, attended the Bakırköy Closed Prison for Women and Juveniles and visited with one of the detained lawyers. The two also visited the Silivri 5th L-Type Closed Prison in an unsuccessful attempt to visit another of the detained lawyers. Several hours were spent trying to negotiate their entry into this prison. Turkish authorities

denied the second visit, stating that Canadian lawyers are not permitted to visit those imprisoned in Turkey because of the lack of an official reciprocal arrangement between Canada and Turkey for lawyers' visits with prisoners. Both lawyers were subsequently released pending trial.

VI. INTERVENTIONS AND *AMICUS* BRIEFS

Canada – On 29 June 2016, the Ontario Court of Appeal handed down its [decision](#) in *Trinity Western University v Law Society of Upper Canada*, 2016 ONCA 518. Justice MacPherson, with both other judges agreeing, rejected TWU's appeal, finding that the LSUC's original decision to refuse to accredit TWU's law school was made reasonably. Gavin Magrath presented oral arguments as *amicus* on behalf of LRWC based on the [Factum](#) drafted by Gail Davidson, Lois Leslie and Gavin Magrath with input from David F. Sutherland, Ed Levy and Carolyn McCool. The Court rejected TWU's submission that the 2001 decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in *British Columbia Teachers' Federation* was determinative. The Ontario Court of Appeal found (at para. 57) that the TWU case involved "different facts, different statutory regime, and a fundamentally different question." The Court stated that it agreed "with the intervener Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada that international human rights law, and especially international treaties and other documents that bind Canada, is relevant in assessing the reasonableness of the LSUC's decision." (At para. 139.) [Read more.](#)

Thailand – LRWC and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) prepared [submissions to the Bangkok South Provincial Court](#) in criminal defamation proceedings by the Natural Fruit Co. Ltd. against human rights defender Andy Hall for his research on violations of labour rights in Thailand's fruit export industry. The *amicus* brief identifies Thailand's international human rights law obligations to ensure freedom of expression and protect human rights defenders and examines how criminal sanctions in defamation cases contravene these obligations. The brief is available in English and Thai.

Turkey – On 27 September 2016, international human rights groups filed two *amicus* briefs in the Constitutional Court of Turkey in Ankara for consideration in the trial of human rights lawyers Ayşe Acinikli and Ramazan Demir. One brief was written by LRWC and the Law Society of England and Wales (endorsed by Lawyers for Lawyers and supported by the Tahir Elçi Foundation) and another by a group of French lawyers (signed by 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh). The Deputy President of the Court stated that "it was a kind of small historical moment" in the Court's history, as the Court had never before received *amicus* briefs from international lawyers' organizations. The brief by LRWC and the Law Society of England and Wales sets out international standards and clarifies the nature and scope of Turkey's international legal obligations—arising from UN membership and ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights—to ensure the rights at issue in the criminal proceedings against the lawyers, namely rights to: freedom of expression and assembly, participate in public affairs, liberty and security of the person, pre-trial release, as well as fair trial rights. The *amicus* brief by LRWC and the LSEW is available in [English](#) and [Turkish](#). LRWC's previous post on the *amicus* brief [is available here](#).

VII. LETTERS FOR LAWYERS

LRWC prepared, contributed to, or endorsed 60 letters, statements, and recommendations regarding attacks on human rights defenders and deviations from the rule of law in 19 countries in addition to letters to ECOSOC and members of the Organization of American States (OAS). Countries that received written

communications were: Bahrain (8), Canada (3), China (1), Colombia (2), Guatemala (1), Honduras (3), India (1) Indonesia (3), Iran (1), Kenya (2), Lesotho (1), Malaysia (2), Pakistan (1), Saudi Arabia (5), Sudan (2), Syria (4), Thailand (11), Turkey (3), United States (1), Viet Nam (3), Zimbabwe (1), ECOSOC (1), OAS members (1).

LRWC letters were written in response to abuses against lawyers and other human rights defenders engaged in opposing, exposing, and reporting on human rights violations and promoting enhanced civil liberties and democracy rights, preventing environmental damage, and resisting land grabs, and also those engaged in defending these people. Communications were sent to state officials and monitors for the UN, OAS, EU, and AU. States played a central role both in mounting attacks and in failing to prevent or punish attacks. States continued to use criminal law systems to put human rights advocates and their defenders out of action through the arbitrary use of powers to arrest, prosecution, convict, and sentence. Misuse of these powers leaves many the victims of wrongful convictions and lengthy jail sentences and incommunicado detention for peacefully exercising rights to expression, association, assembly, and participation in public affairs. The charges underlying the prosecutions and convictions were often based on statements of fact deemed to be an insult to the state. Defenders protesting environmental damage and land grabs by non-state and state actors were also targeted with abuse. Environmental and land rights activists were murdered in Honduras and Guatemala. In Pakistan over 50 lawyers were killed in a targeted bomb attack. Positive changes that occurred in 2016 subsequent to written communications included those listed below.

Argentina: Alberto Nisman murder investigation re-opened 15/01/16, LRWC letters 7/02/15 and 11/09/15;

Bahrain: Zainab Al-Khawaja released 31/05/16, LRWC letters 17/03/16 and 12/04/16; Ghada Jamsheer released 12/12/16, LRWC letter 16/11/2016;

China: Sui Muzing, Huang Lizun, and Wang Fang released 7/01/16, LRWC report 15/09/15; Zhang Kai released 23/03/16, LRWC report 15/09/15;

Guatemala: AG says murder of Jeremy Barrios under investigation, LRWC letter 12/11/16;

Honduras: Gustavo Castro Soto allowed to return to Mexico 06/16, LRWC letter 11/03/16;

India: Khurram Parvez released 30/11/16, LRWC joint letter 03/10/16;

Indonesia: Tigor Gempita Hutapea and Obed Saktio Luitnan acquitted and released 22/11/16, LRWC letter 29/03/16;

Iran: Mohammad Seifzadeh freed 10/03/16, LRWC UN report 27/05/14;

Kenya: Court rules Willie Kimani, his client, and driver executed by police, allows suit for compensation, LRWC letters 17/08/16;

Malaysia: Sedition charges against Azmi Sharom stayed 12/02/16, LRWC letter 15/01/15; Lena Hendry acquitted 10/03/16, LRWC letters 11/92/14 and /12/15: Sedition charges against N. Serendran stayed 12/07/16, LRWC letter 8/09/14;

Saudi Arabia: Samar Badawi and daughter released 01/16, LRWC letter 12/01/16;

Spain: Court allows exhumation of Franco-era victims' bodies 11/05/16, LRWC authored several letters, reports, and complaints re: Garzón during 2009–11.

Thailand: Attackers (army personnel) convicted 31/05/16, LRWC rep attended trial 10/2015; defamation charges dismissed against Thai Public Broadcasting Service 16/11/16, LRWC letter 14/11/16; defamation charges against Andy Hall dismissed 2/11/16, many LRWC letters.

VIII. LEGAL RESEARCH

LRWC Publications and Reports

LRWC produced legal analyses of the extent to which practices, policies, and laws did not comply with international human rights law arising from treaties and other instruments and from the decisions, comments, and recommendations of treaty monitoring bodies, special mandate holders, and other experts. LRWC reports are distributed widely and contribute to enhanced understating of international human rights law requirements and more effective advocacy. The research also forms the basis of many LRWC communications identifying human rights abuses and calling for remediation.

LEGAL ANALYSES AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

1. **Canada:** [*Recommendations for Reforming Canada's Access to Information Act*](#), LRWC and BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association, June 2016.
2. **Honduras:** [*International Law Duties to Investigate Serious Human Rights Violations*](#), Catherine Morris, Heather Neun, Gail Davidson, 15 June 2016.
3. **Cambodia:** [*International Law Duties to Investigate Serious Human Rights Violations*](#), Catherine Morris, 18 August 2016.
4. **Global:** [*The Right to Dissent: International Law Obligations to Respect, Protect and Fulfill the Right to Participate in Public Affairs by Engaging in Criticism, Opposition and Dissent*](#), Lois Leslie, 25 November 2016.

AMICUS BRIEFS

5. **Canada:** [*LRWC Intervenor's Factum in Trinity Western University v The Law Society of Upper Canada*](#), 2016 ONCA 518, prepared by Gail Davidson, Lois Leslie and Gavin Magrath filed 25 February 2016.
6. **Turkey:** [*Amicus Brief in the Trial of Ayşe Acinikli and Ramazan Demir*](#), LRWC and the Law Society of England and Wales.
7. **Thailand:** [*Amicus Curiae Brief in the Case of Andy Hall*](#), LRWC and the International Commission of Jurists, July 2016.

COLOMBIA CARAVANA REPORTS

8. [*Interim Report of the International Delegation of Jurists to Colombia \(Caravana\)*](#), Heather Neun, 30 September 2016.
9. [*Report of the Fifth International Caravana of Jurists to Colombia, International Caravana of Jurists 2016*](#), November 2016.

WRITTEN REPORTS TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BODIES

10. **Canada:** [*Restoring the Space for Dissent in Canada*](#), Pearl Eliadis, February 2016.
11. **Global:** [*Open Letter to ECOSOC Regarding the Committee on NGOs*](#), May 2016.
12. **Viet Nam:** [*Petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention for Release of Nguyen Van Dai*](#), joint petition by LRWC, L4L, Media Legal Defence Initiative, PEN International, and Viet Tan, 25 November 2016. [*Annexes in Support of WGAD Complaint for Release of Nguyen Van Dai*](#).

ORAL STATEMENTS TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

13. **Global:** [*Use of Internationally Non-Compliant Laws to Criminalize the Work of Human Rights Defenders*](#), joint statement by LRWC and Asian Legal Resource Centre, 3 March 2016.

14. **Global:** [Oral Statement to the 32nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council Regarding the Report of the Forum on Business and Human Rights and EMRIP Review](#), presented by Paul Scambler, Q.C., 24 June 2016.
15. **Cambodia:** [Government Crackdown on Critics and Human Rights Defenders](#), presented by Gavin Magrath, 28 September 2016.
16. **Global:** [Failure of States to Implement Technical and Capacity Building Assistance from HRC Bodies](#), presented by Gavin Magrath, 28 September 2016.

WORKING PAPERS

17. **United Nations:** *The Duties of Members of the UN Human Rights Council and Procedure for Suspension of Member States*, Chantelle Wilson-Cole, Gail Davidson.
18. **Turkey:** *International human rights law related to a state of emergency*, Samantha Black, Gail Davidson.
19. **Turkey:** [International Law Duties to Provide Remedies for Violations of the Right to Life](#).
20. **Global:** *Timely and Confidential Rights to Counsel*, Samantha Black.
21. **China:** *Report on Lawyers Targeted by 709 Crackdown*, Gillian Hutton.

NOMINATIONS

22. [Nomination of Waleed Abu al-Khair for Law Society of Upper Canada Human Rights Award](#) by LRWC and the Union Internationale des Avocats endorsed by the Law Society of England and Wales. Human rights lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair, currently imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, was [chosen](#) to receive this award along with Dr. Cindy Blackstock of Canada.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

23. [LRWC Annual Report 2015](#).

NEWSLETTERS

24. LRWC produced six bi-monthly newsletters reporting on LRWC initiatives, updates of case monitoring by LRWC, and developments regarding human rights issues of interest around the world.

IX. WORK WITH OTHER NGOS

LRWC cooperated with hundreds of domestic, regional, and international NGOs around the world working to promote and protect some aspect of internationally protected rights. Work in cooperation with other organizations serves to increase the quantity, extend the scope, improve the quality, and enhance the effectiveness of letters, written and oral statements, *amicus* briefs, petitions, and reports to monitoring bodies and education initiatives.

X. CONSTITUTIONS

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

- To provide support internationally to lawyers and other human rights defenders whose rights, freedoms, or independence are threatened as a result of their human rights advocacy
- To promote and protect the rights of lawyers and other human rights defenders to engage in independent advocacy

- To preserve and enhance the rule of law
- To encourage governments and other institutions to respect fair trial rights including the rights of lawyers to engage in independent advocacy
- To encourage ratification, implementation and enforcement of international human rights treaties that impact on legal advocacy rights, the integrity of legal systems and fair trial rights
- To encourage constitutional and legislative amendments necessary for conformity with international human rights standards relevant to lawyers, judges and human rights defenders; the integrity of legal systems; fair trial rights
- To provide research, education and public analyses with respect to the above
- To work with other human rights organizations to achieve these purposes

Lawyers' Rights Watch (Legal Research) Canada

- To do legal research on jurisprudence, national laws and international laws and standards related to the integrity of legal systems and the right of lawyers and other human rights defenders to engage in independent advocacy
- To make such research available to the public
- To provide public legal education on the above topics

XI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors of LRWC and LRW(LR)C are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in April and serve until the next election

Directors April 2015 – April 2016

LRWC

- Clive Ansley
- Gail Davidson
- Julius Grey
- Carolyn McCool, Secretary
- Leo McGrady, Q.C.
- David F. Sutherland, Chair
- Grace Woo

LRW(LR)C

- Siobhán Airey
- Lois Leslie, Vice-Chair
- Gavin Magrath, Chair
- Renee Racette
- Vani Selvarajah
- Margaret Stanier, Treasurer
- Samina Ullah, Secretary

Directors April 2016 – April 2017

LRWC

- Marjorie Cohn
- Gail Davidson
- Julius Grey, Vice Chair
- Andrew Guaglio, Secretary
- Leo McGrady, Q.C.
- Heather Neun
- David F. Sutherland, Q.C., Chair
- Grace Woo

LRW(LR)C

- Siobhan Airey
- Clive Ansley, Vice-Chair
- Gavin Magrath, Chair
- Brian Samuels
- Margaret Stanier, Treasurer
- Vani Selvarajah, Secretary
- Maureen Webb

XII. DONORS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

MONTHLY DONORS

- Clive Ansley
- Mark Battersby
- Gail Davidson
- Zoe Jackson
- Lois Leslie
- Catherine Morris
- Heather Neun
- Matthew Stacey
- Margaret Stanier
- David F. Sutherland, Q.C.

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