

# Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations  
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## LRWC NEWS – July 2009

5 August 2009

### In-Country Investigations

LRWC has two in-country investigations in the works. Currently an LRWC Monitor is conducting a confidential investigation – details to follow upon the monitor leaving the country in question. Coming up in September 2009, LRWC monitor Cara Gibbons will be attending an international delegation of lawyers coordinated by Peace Brigades International (PBI). The delegation will participate in a fact-finding mission, the aim of which is to provide support to lawyers in Mexico, learn more about the human rights situation and help to bring international attention to the difficulties faced by the indigenous communities so that lawyers and members of the indigenous groups can continue with their work without the constant fear of reprisals. More news of both investigations to come.

### New LRWC Monitors

LRWC welcomes three new country monitors and one new issue monitor to our team: Trish Apland – Human Trafficking; Cara Gibbons – Mexico; Isabela Piacentini de Andrade – Brazil; Harini Savalingam – Sri Lanka. Additionally, LRWC is pleased to have the help of Lois Leslie and Isabela Piacentini who are able to attend ECSOC meetings in Geneva on behalf of LRWC. LRWC is currently looking for a monitor for Malaysia.

### Reports to UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Leandro Despouy

LRWC monitors have provided Mr. Despouy with reports on the trend of attacks on the independence and safety of jurists in [Brazil](#), [Cambodia](#), [China](#), [Guatemala](#), [Iran](#), [Sri Lanka](#) and [Zimbabwe](#). Mr. Despouy requested these reports for use in preparing his October 2009 report to the UN General Assembly. Additionally, two reports have been completed of LRWC attendance at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions, the [11th Session](#) and the [16th Annual Meeting of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council](#). For full access to current LRWC reports, please visit: <http://www.lrwc.org/pub1.php>

### Campaign Letters

During the past month, LRWC members have written thirteen letters on behalf of lawyers under attack in seven countries: Walid al-Bunni in Syria, Remigio Saladero in the Philippines, Rommel Cain and Matilde Perez Romero in Mexico, Le Cong Ding in Vietnam, Mohamed Al Mahgoub in Sudan, Kong Sam Onn in Cambodia, and Abdolfattah Soltani in Iran. As many of these cases remained unresolved, we are experimenting with new means of follow up and collaboration with other organizations, including recently endorsed statements by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL). As always, LRWC welcomes your suggestions, feedback and participation.

### Upcoming Events

- LRWC Fundraising meeting: Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Member participation in person or via teleconference is encouraged and appreciated! Please let us know if you are interested.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNHRC takes place September 14 to October 2, 2009 in Geneva. Let us know if you are interested in receiving more information.

### Tax Deductible Airline Points Donations

Airline points donated to LRWC qualify as a tax-deductible donation! Your un-used airline points can help LRWC to increase UNHRC participation and strengthen collaboration with other NGOs.

### 2009 LRWC MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAST DUE

If you haven't already paid your 2009 membership fee (\$50), please do so now by either phoning or faxing your visa number and expiration date or mailing a cheque to the address listed above.

**Automatic monthly donations are preferred and greatly appreciated.**

**The work done by LRWC is made possible only by the generous support of your fees and donations.**