

FACTSHEET

Challenging breaches of human rights

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Charity Number 1093710



If you wish to take a complaint about prison conditions and / or the fairness of the trial to a higher level, you will need to seek advice from a specialist organisation. In most cases, you will need to have exhausted the legal process in the country of detention first. It is important to note that there may be time limits involved. This factsheet lists some of the organisations you may wish to contact.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Pro Bono Lawyers Panel

Natalie Wease
Pro Bono Lawyers Panel
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room K4.8 / KCS
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

The FCO Pro Bono Lawyers Panel was established to help promote and protect the human rights of British nationals overseas. The Panel functions by providing legal expertise and advice to British nationals facing legal proceedings overseas where there are human rights concerns. Lawyers from the Panel work in conjunction with a local lawyer; they do not replace them. If you think your case fits the above criteria, and believe the Panel may be able to assist you and your local lawyer, you should contact either the nearest British Embassy/Consulate/High Commission, or the Pro Bono Lawyers Panel at the above address. The FCO will then consider your case, and determine whether or not it is appropriate to refer it to the Panel.

Freedom Now

Andrew McCooey & Co.
3 London Road, Sittingbourne
Kent ME10 1NQ
Tel: +44 (0) 1795 470686 Tel (emergency/out of hours): +44 (0) 1795 478047
Fax: +44 (0) 1795 424497

Andrew McCooey provides legal intervention work for British prisoners in foreign jurisdictions. He has provided his services to those charged with very serious offences or given heavy penalties (such as very long prison sentences or the death penalty) as well as those who are not in such serious trouble abroad. Some of his work is pro bono (free) but he also undertakes fee-paying work in this field.

Fair Trials International

3rd Floor
59 Carter Lane
London EC4V 5AQ
Tel: 0044 (0) 207 762 6400
Fax: 0044 (0) 207 762 6401
Website: www.fairtrials.net

Fair Trials International seeks justice and fair legal representation for people detained outside their country of residence. They provide legal advice and assistance to people who feel they have been unfairly arrested or tried in foreign countries. They try to help avoid potential miscarriages of justice and assist with pardons if it can be established that a breach of legal rights has occurred. FTI does not charge any fees for its services. If FTI makes referrals to other lawyers or firms, these may charge a fee.

The AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe)

The AIRE Centre has a team of multi-lingual specialist international lawyers providing advice, information and a representation service covering all aspects of individual rights in Europe under international law. It provides information relating to prisoners' rights and other fundamental freedoms and human rights but does not advise on any individual country's legal system. They do not charge fees. The AIRE Centre cannot assist in cases outside of Europe. NB the AIRE Centre only accepts cases by referral through a legal representative. If you think that the AIRE Centre could help you, ask your lawyer to contact the AIRE Centre directly or talk to the casework team at Prisoners Abroad.

REDRESS

Carla Ferstman (Legal Director)
3rd Floor, 87 Vauxhall Walk, London, SE11 5HJ
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7793 1777; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7793 1719
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7329 7332; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7248 5397
Email: redresstrust@gn.apc.org Website: www.redress.org

REDRESS is dedicated to helping torture survivors obtain reparation for the violations they have suffered. They provide support, information and advice, and promote the implementation of international standards that provide effective remedies for torture. They also help make accountable all those who perpetrate, aid and abet acts of torture and increase awareness of widespread use of torture and of existing measures to provide redress.

Useful contacts for campaigning or lobbying

Your local MP

House of Commons
Whitehall
London SW1A 0AA
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7219 3000
Website: www.parliament.uk

Your local MEP

European Parliament UK Office 2 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA Tel: +44 (0) 20 7227
Website: www.europarl.org.uk

The MP / MEP representing your local UK constituency can help by seeking information and support on your behalf and liaising with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. In special circumstances they can raise particular areas for

concern in the House of Commons / European Parliament or make direct approaches to another country's ambassador or politicians.

Human Rights Watch

2nd Floor, 2-12 Pentonville Road

London N1 9HF, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7713 1995

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7713 1800

Website: www.hrw.org

Human Rights Watch monitors abuses of human rights such as torture and cruel conditions of imprisonment. They collect information on human rights abuses in various countries, send international missions, publicise violations and launch protests against governments that commit abuses. They also put pressure on international bodies such as the UN to respond to abuses. They have conducted prison research and campaigns for prisoners' rights (all prisoners, not only those held for political reasons) to focus international attention on prison conditions worldwide.

Amnesty International

Easton Street

London

WC1X 0DW

Amnesty International is a worldwide voluntary activist movement working towards the observance of all human rights enshrined in international documents. They promote respect for human rights and publicise breaches of rights anywhere in the world. Activities range from public demonstrations to letter writing and appeals in the cases of individuals whose human rights are being violated.

The information provided in this factsheet is intended for information purposes only. It is not intended to constitute, nor does it constitute legal advice. Prisoners Abroad recommend that professional legal advice should always be sought. The information contained in this factsheet is subject to change and may not be up-to-date or accurate. Prisoners Abroad gives no warranty and makes no representation regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. Prisoners Abroad will not be held responsible for any loss or damage arising from the use of the information provided.

If you spot any errors or inaccuracies in this factsheet please let us know by emailing info@prisonersabroad.org.uk. Thank you.

If you require this leaflet in a large print format, please contact us. Our details are below.

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+44 20 7561 6820 from outside the UK

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