



Human Rights
Institute

International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2020 marked 25 years since the creation of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela. 2020 also saw the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the disruption of the world as we knew it. The Institute's work has become more important than it has ever been in its 25-year history, in the face of growing authoritarianism and leaders worldwide using the pandemic as a pretext by which to increase emergency powers beyond those proportionate and necessary to the crisis. The Institute has adapted to face new challenges, moving our training programmes remotely, and strengthening our advocacy. During 2020, the IBAHRI sent over 166 letters of intervention and press statements to condemn human rights abuses. We have been more active than ever and have a successful year of work to display in this annual review.

The IBA remains the leading voice of the global profession worldwide and has adapted its work to meet the now different requirements of its members. The IBA held hundreds of webinars attracting thousands of viewers throughout 2020, including a month-long virtual conference, of which the IBAHRI led over 20 sessions responding to urgent human rights and Rule of Law issues such as the Black Lives Matter movement and the Internal Market Bill, which contravened

international law. We are ever grateful for the membership of the IBA and their continued support of the IBAHRI during this difficult year. We rely on the generosity of the IBA members who know that the protection of human rights is an integral part of modern law. It is IBA members who sustain the Institute, and I cannot express adequately how much we value your financial support, your encouragement and your legal input.

The Institute continued and strengthened our work during 2020, building on our strategic review of 2019. The year started with the launch of the Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk in Geneva. Since the IBAHRI's foundation 25 years ago, our programming has striven to advance the protection of lawyers. It is a unique tool aimed at facilitating the efforts of those seeking to protect lawyers at risk – that is, attacked for performing their professional duties and representing their clients' interests – as well as to support and assist the targeted legal profession in their struggle. This Toolkit formed the basis of over 50 virtual training programmes for lawyers in Central Asia, strengthening the protection of lawyers who face risk of persecution for carrying out their professional duties.

2020 also marked the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, and the IBA standards for the independence of the legal profession. In commemoration, the IBAHRI completed a number of activities, notably a call for action statement urging UN Member States to recognise, uphold and protect the role of lawyers. Issued jointly by the International Bar Association, together with the International Association of Lawyers and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the statement has been signed by more than 50 bar associations, law societies and lawyers' organisations from across the world. In Azerbaijan, the IBAHRI at the start of 2020 travelled to establish the first of its kind legal aid clinic with ADA University, to be run by young lawyers trained by the Institute to give them first-hand legal experience. While regrettably postponed owing to the pandemic, this and training a new generation of human rights lawyers remains a key priority for the Institute.

June 2020 saw the passing of the National Security Law in Hong Kong, and with it, a huge crackdown on freedom of expression and democracy in the region. The IBA and IBAHRI immediately reacted to condemn in the strongest possible terms this breach of international norms and of the Basic Law. I spoke at many events throughout the year, including side events held at the UN human rights council. The Institute also speaks out about the mounting human rights violations committed by China in the Xinjiang province against the Uighurs, bringing together a panel of parliamentarians and Uighur victims in a compelling webinar, and contributing to the development of the Uighur Tribunal, which held its first hearings in 2020.

The Institute's work as Secretariat to the High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, run by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has continued from strength to strength. The project began as a joint initiative between the UK and Canadian governments, but is now multilateral, with 39 signatory nations. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic,

ABOUT THE IBAHRI

About us

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity, works with the global legal community to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession worldwide.

What we do

We provide human rights training and technical assistance to legal practitioners and institutions, building their capacity to promote and protect human rights effectively under a just rule of law.

A leading institution in international fact-finding, we produce expert reports with key recommendations, delivering timely and reliable information on human rights and the legal profession.

We support lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested through advocacy and trial monitoring.

A focus on pertinent human rights issues, including equality and non-discrimination, poverty and human rights, and the independence of the legal profession, forms the basis of targeted capacity building and advocacy projects based on thematic areas.

the importance of the free press in spreading awareness, and the lack of transparency from China in the early stages leading to the global crisis, has proven to the world the need for a vibrant free press to strengthen the rule of law and democracy worldwide. The beginning of the year saw the launch of the first of 11 reports from the High Level Panel, on a targeted sanctions regime to protect journalists, was launched at an event in Chatham House with speakers including Amal Clooney, Professor Sarah Cleveland, the hon Irwin Cotler and CEO of Rappler Online News in the Philippines, Maria Ressa. Owing to the pandemic, three further enforcement reports proposing initiatives that can be taken by governments to ensure existing international obligations relating to media freedom are upheld, were launched at online virtual events. The IBAHRI and the Panel provided technical legal assistance to build the capacity of States and organisations and recommend changes to laws directed at media outlets and journalists to be in line with international standards, notably to the Zimbabwean Government and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The Institute's work on torture prevention work continued. The IBAHRI published the Spanish-language publication Responding to Torture: Latin American perspectives on a Global Challenge in collaboration with the Universidad Externado de Colombia, drawing on its long history of working in torture [prevention in Latin America to explore lessons learned. The IBAHRI also developed a series of online workshops on torture prevention in Peru, in collaboration with the Peruvian National Preventative Mechanism.

A very important programme of work for the Institute is its advocacy at the UN level. In 2020, the Institute embarked on a project with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association, Clement Voule. Throughout 2020, we have been conducting a worldwide survey of lawyers to gather quantitative data on the topic, and inform the future report of the Special Rapporteur, and shape the recommendations. The final stage of this research is a regional consultation between the practicing lawyers of Central Asia and the Special Rapporteur in 2021. The IBAHRI participated in 2020 at the 43rd, 44th and 45th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. In particular, in 2020 we witnessed the outbreak of a human rights crisis in Belarus following the contested re-election of President Lukashenko in August. Lawyers, journalists and peaceful protestors have faced persecution for exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly. The Institute has responded strongly, working closely with the special procedures of the UN and conducting advocacy in concert with key partners at the UN. I chaired the Belarus International Committee and chaired several webinars throughout 2020 to alert the international community to the ongoing crisis and inspire firmer action.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic affecting every aspect of the Institute's work, we have committed to building back stronger, taking our work in new directions and building on our strong 25-year history of work. This work is only made possible by the incredible commitment and work of the team that burns the midnight oil. And I want to express my gratitude to them all. I am also blessed by our wonderful council of advisors and terrific co-chairs who are so diligent and supportive.

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

FOREWORD



In 2020, the IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) met the challenges of Covid-19 and continued its work across the globe. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us all the importance of defending human rights as authoritarian governments have used the crisis as a pretext under which to restrict fundamental rights. The programmatic work of the IBAHRI has become now more urgent than ever. This programmatic work extends across the prevention of the death penalty; equality and non-discrimination; torture prevention; enforced disappearances; defending the rule of law; independence of lawyers and the judiciary; its United Nations programme; media freedom; and continuing trial observations. The IBAHRI's work during 2020 and beyond is focused on defending and protecting the independence of all members of the legal profession; safeguarding their role in upholding the rule of law; and ensuring observance of universal human rights.

The IBAHRI celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2020. The IBAHRI was established in 1995 under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela. In a short film, the IBAHRI reflected on the nascent hope and promise towards the end of the 20th century and the start of the new millennium for a more just world. It then looks at the reality of today and the swift diminution of that hope, brought about by reduced freedoms across the globe and a creeping resurgence of authoritarianism. The work of the IBAHRI to promote and protect international human rights is of greater importance now than it was when the Institute was first established 25 years ago. In recovery from the pandemic, the world must show renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Throughout 2020 the IBAHRI continued to engage global bar associations and governments through our intervention letter programme, where we saw an association's independence, and that of its members, compromised. In 2020, the IBAHRI sent over 166 letters of intervention and press statements and held 14 webinars to draw international attention to issues of concern. While unable to travel, the IBAHRI's global voice and advocacy was only strengthened.

The IBAHRI also concentrated on developing our tools for training. The IBAHRI published at the beginning of the year the Toolkit to help protect lawyers at risk of persecution for carrying out their professional duties. The toolkit aims to enhance the capacity of lawyers at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

The Toolkit created a basis for over 20 training webinars throughout 2020. The IBAHRI developed and published a *Manual for mainstreaming gender in the administration of justice*, and a *Manual for Judges and prosecutors on addressing sexual and gender-based violence within the criminal justice system*. These manuals will go on to forge the foundation of future training of the judiciary and legal profession globally.

We have also continued our global training programme to ensure that legal professionals have the necessary tools and knowledge to discharge their duties. In 2020, the IBAHRI began collaboration to establish a first-of-its-kind legal clinic with ADA University in Azerbaijan, where young lawyers already trained by the IBAHRI would gain first-hand experience in providing free legal advice. The IBAHRI at the beginning of the year also carried out several training programmes in Brazil and Paraguay for legal and medical

THE HON MICHAEL KIRBY AC CMG

 The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG is a former Justice of the High Court of Australia. He has held many senior positions with international organisations, including UNESCO and the OECD, and he was the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Cambodia and Chairperson of the UN fact-finding task force to North Korea. He is a member of the Eminent Persons Group of the Commonwealth and has been awarded many honours, including the Australian Human Rights Medal, the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun and the Gruber Prize, and he is the recipient of 29 honorary degrees.

ANNE RAMBERG DR JUR HC

 Anne Ramberg is the immediate past Secretary General of the Swedish Bar Association. She holds several senior positions as a substitute for Sweden's regular Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, board member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, mediator and alternate member of the Bureau of the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe) Court of Mediation and Arbitration, chair of the board of Uppsala university, chair of the Stockholm Criminology Prize Foundation and board member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Civil Rights Defenders and the Southern Africa Litigation Centre. In 2006, Anne Ramberg was awarded the HM King's Medal in the 12th size in a high blue ribbon for 'prominent contributions to the Swedish judiciary'. In 2019, she received the medal of the Supreme Court of Finland 'as proof of the high esteem for the many years of work she has done for the Nordic legal system and international human rights'.

professionals on the Istanbul Protocol, continuing a long history of work in this region on the protocol. The IBAHRI did not stop such critical training worldwide in the face of the pandemic, moving very successfully to virtual training programmes instead. The IBAHRI, together with a team of experts, held a series of online workshops as part of a torture prevention programme in Peru. Topics included the Istanbul Protocol, the concept of torture under international law and gender sensitive approaches to responding to alleged cases of torture. Following the publication of the *Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk* at the start of 2020, the IBAHRI set up a series of virtual training programmes for lawyers across Central Asia, to strengthen lawyers' protection, especially from risks of digital security, which is becoming an ever more prevalent risk to the legal profession worldwide. The IBAHRI continued training Tunisian Judges on economic, social and cultural rights virtually, and established a workshop for 20 Syrian lawyers based in Turkey about UN human rights mechanisms and accountability.

We also continued our UN programme of advocacy, both virtually and in person during the 43rd, 44th, 45th and 46th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, which focused on lawyers at risk, the role of lawyers in peaceful protest, the abolition of the death penalty and the Belarus crisis. The IBAHRI coordinated a number of resources to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles and called for greater protection of lawyers worldwide. This included 'A call for action' in support of the principles, which was signed by 50 bar associations, law societies and national and international lawyers' organisations from around the world.

Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, the work of human rights goes on undiminished and undaunted.

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG
IBAHRI Co-Chair

Anne Ramberg, Advocate, Dr jur hc
IBAHRI Co-Chair

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

One of the most valuable tools for ensuring that lawyers maintain independence and exhibit integrity when representing clients is the creation of self-governing professional associations. The IBAHRI provides support and technical assistance to under-resourced and newly established bar associations and law societies worldwide. A vital element of this capacity building is the placement of a legal specialist to work with the associations to strengthen internal operations, secure sustainable financing, ensure compliance with internationally recognised standards, provide training for staff and members and to build links with international and regional organisations.

FACT FINDING

The IBAHRI undertakes fact-finding missions to countries where there is a threat to, or deterioration of, the rule of law, human rights and the independence of the legal profession. Mission reports detailing findings and recommendations are widely distributed to UN bodies, international organisations and other in-country, regional and international stakeholders. Mission findings help to direct the long-term work of the IBAHRI through the development of targeted country initiatives.

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME

The IBAHRI launched its UN Programme with the aim of informing and fostering lawyers' engagement in UN mechanisms and strengthening the dialogue between states and the legal community on human rights. The UN Programme aims to strengthen international legal frameworks protecting the legal profession by providing expert support to UN human rights mechanisms; raising awareness about UN standards on the role of judges, lawyers and prosecutors, the independence of the judiciary and the situation of legal professionals at country level; and fostering the involvement of lawyers in UN human rights mechanisms by training lawyers and building the capacity of bar associations

TRAINING FOR JUDGES AND LAWYERS

Sharing expertise and skills across international borders is fundamental to strengthening the rule of law and supporting lawyers globally. For example, the IBAHRI and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have collaborated on publishing a training manual, *Human Rights in the Administration of Justice*, which has been translated into four languages (Arabic, English, Portuguese and Spanish) and continues to be used in training across all continents. The IBAHRI also produces training manuals and curricula on international criminal law, human rights and the role of parliaments and torture prevention.

ADVOCACY

By making public statements, sending intervention letters, submitting *amicus curiae* briefs and through its UN Programme, the IBAHRI advocates for lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested as a result of carrying out their professional duties. The IBAHRI will intervene when it considers human rights or the rule of law under threat. It undertakes advocacy in its thematic areas at the UN in Geneva, the Inter-American Court and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as in domestic courts.



International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

IBAHRI 2020 HIGHLIGHTS IN NUMBERS

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), an autonomous and financially independent entity, works with the global legal community to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession worldwide.

We provide human rights training and technical assistance to legal practitioners and institutions, building their capacity to promote and protect human rights effectively under a just rule of law.

A leading institution in international fact-finding, we produce expert reports with key recommendations, delivering timely and reliable information on human rights and the legal profession.

3
Trial hearings
observed



150
individuals
trained



2
Mission
rapporteur



We support lawyers and judges who are arbitrarily harassed, intimidated or arrested through advocacy and trial monitoring.

A focus on pertinent human rights issues, including equality and non-discrimination, poverty and human rights, and the independence of the legal profession, forms the basis of targeted capacity building and advocacy projects based on thematic areas.



23
Grant-funded
projects



17
Legal
consultants



£100k
Grant-funded
projects

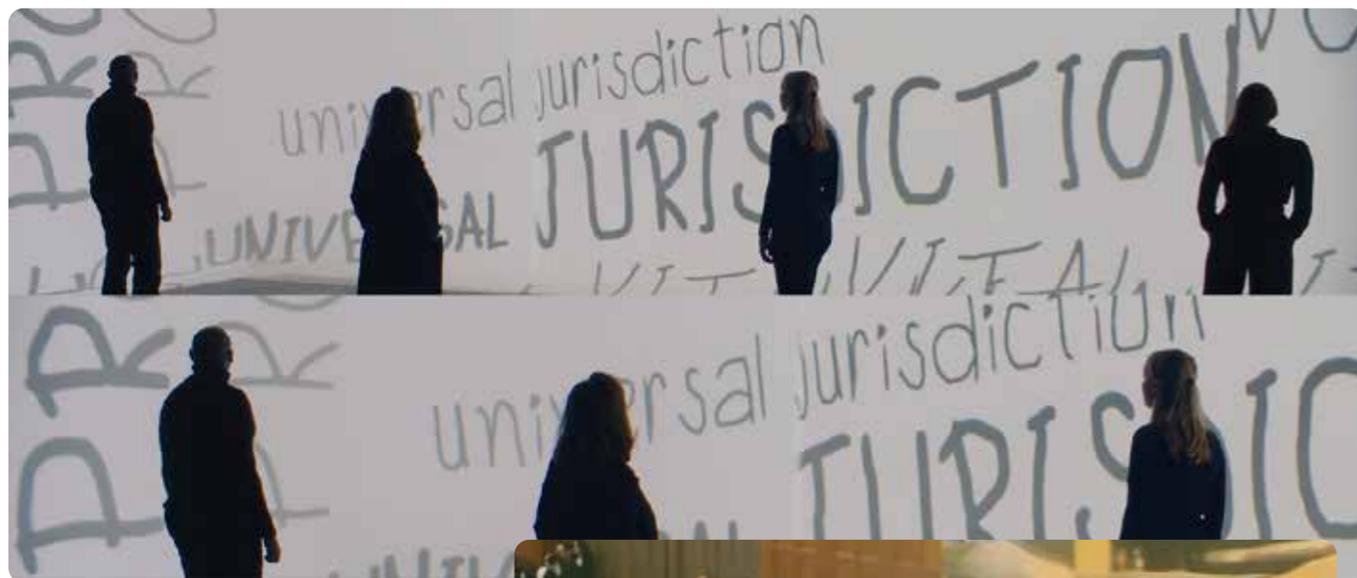
TO HELP SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS, BECOME A MEMBER FOR JUST £40 A YEAR – LESS THAN £4 A MONTH.
VISIT WWW.IBANET.ORG/IBAHRI FOR MORE INFORMATION
CLICK 'GET INVOLVED' FROM THE DROP DOWN MENU TO SUPPORT OUR WORK. ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL US AT HRI@INT-BAR.ORG.



25 YEARS OF THE IBAHRI

The IBA established its Human Rights Institute in 1995 under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela, to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession under a just rule of law. The IBAHRI is an independent entity within the Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) of the IBA. IBAHRI projects are funded by the generous support of its members and funding bodies.

In 2020, the IBAHRI released a short film on Human Rights Day to commemorate its 25th anniversary. The IBAHRI reflects on the nascent hope and promise towards the end of the 20th century and the start of the new millennium for a more just world. It then looks at the reality of today and the swift diminishing of that hope, brought about by reduced freedoms across the globe and a creeping resurgence of authoritarianism. – *'The need now is for us to reassert the centrality of law and a respect for human rights.'*



READ
Read an article by Baroness Kennedy in the Independent, which touches on the themes explored in the film:
<https://tinyurl.com/3b4y45sk>



WATCH  Watch the film: www.ibanet.org/IBAHRI-25th-anniversary-video



“On this year's Human Rights Day, we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. The work of the IBAHRI is only possible through the donations of IBA members and other supporters who share our values and appreciate our work. So, on this special day, I thank each and every person who has, and will, contribute to advancing our efforts. Seventy-two years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it remains vital for us to be diligent in safeguarding hard-won civil liberties. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us all the importance of defending human rights as authoritarian governments have used the crisis as a pretext under which to restrict fundamental rights. Words are important for global human rights. But they are not enough. They must be matched with good deeds, such as giving practical support to the IBAHRI so it can discharge its vital functions. Donations matter. The work of the IBAHRI to promote and protect international human rights seems of greater importance now than it was when the Institute was first established 25 years ago. In recovery from the pandemic, the world must show renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.



The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG
IBAHRI Co-Chair and former Justice of the High Court of Australia (1996 – 2006)



In celebration of 25 years of the IBAHRI
Human Rights Day, 10 December 2020

“Since the establishment of the IBA's Human Rights Institute in 1995, under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela, it has been at the forefront of defending the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession worldwide. From establishing the first independent bar associations in Afghanistan and Myanmar, to establishing the first International Human Rights Fact-Finding guidelines, to establishing trial observations globally from Venezuela to Turkey, to training the legal profession in Latin America on torture prevention and the Syrian legal profession on accountability mechanisms, and, more recently, training the legal profession in Central Asia on how to protect themselves and other lawyers at risk. On International Human Rights Day, we celebrate the work done so far and note the renewed importance of the ongoing fight for human rights.



Anne Ramberg Dr jur hc
Co-Chair, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute



In celebration of 25 years of the IBAHRI
Human Rights Day, 10 December 2020

THEMATIC AREAS

MEDIA FREEDOM

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the world witnessed an exacerbated global crisis of the right to freedom of expression. The universal, rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus has provided a legitimate justification for governments around the world to impose restrictions on individual rights, allowed by international human rights law in the context of serious public health risk and emergencies.

Concurrently, states have demonstrated that they stand fast to be less tolerant of dissent, criticism and alternative versions of events. Many are cracking down on the spread of false information adopting a fresh wave of legislation to deal with misinformation, silencing critical voices and reporting. This concerning trend has severely impacted the work of journalists and the media, restricting the public's right to receive accurate and reliable information at this unprecedented time.

The attack on journalists and the media have also worsened, and the pandemic has been exploited for draconian measures against media freedom that otherwise would be impossible.

Safeguarding and promoting freedom of expression in time of crisis is more important than ever and this is a key thematic concern for the IBAHRI.



THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF LEGAL EXPERTS ON MEDIA FREEDOM

The IBAHRI acts as Secretariat to the **High Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom** ('High Level Panel'), an independent body that was convened at the request of Chair Lord Neuberger, former President of the UK Supreme Court, on behalf of the UK and Canadian governments. The High Level Panel was announced during the **Global Media Freedom Conference** in July 2019. The remit of the High Level Panel is to provide legal advice and recommendations to governments to prevent and reverse abuses of media freedom by undertaking advocacy, technical legal assistance and capacity building initiatives to foster legal cooperation to combat impunity for attacks against journalists, as well as to promote the provision of legal assistance for journalists and defend media freedom.

In 2020, the IBAHRI Secretariat were responsible for the management of all activities relating to the High Level Panel, including undertaking and overseeing the research, development and production of the High Level Panel's Enforcement and International Standards reports, developing and maintaining an online platform that serves as the central hub for the High Level Panel's work, reviewing requests for technical legal assistance to states and providing legal support in this regard. The IBAHRI Secretariat also manages the relationships with the funder administrator UNESCO and global stakeholders, organises and hosts high level events, reports on the work of the High Level Panel including the development of **Periodic reports**, supports with the development and implementation of advocacy strategies and represents the High Level Panel at events, as required.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Release of the High Level Panel's four Enforcement Reports

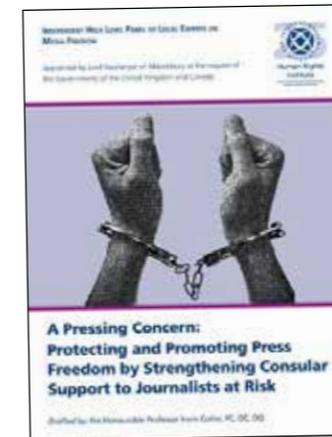
Throughout 2020, with support from the IBAHRI Secretariat, the High Level Panel produced a series of four advisory 'Enforcement Reports' that focus on improving international mechanisms to enforce international human rights norms. The reports recommend best practice and initiatives to ensure that more robust international mechanisms are in place when a journalist is arbitrarily targeted or attacked.



The Use of Targeted Sanctions to Protect Journalists

On 13 February 2020, the High Level Panel released their first report, '*The Use of Targeted Sanctions to Protect Journalists*', at Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs) in London. The report, authored by Deputy Chair, Amal Clooney, examines current challenges faced by journalists around the world and recommends the consistent use of targeted sanctions as a tool to enforce compliance with international human rights law, including the right to a free press. The report contains an in-depth analysis of the existing systems for targeted sanctions in Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States and concludes with 11 recommendations for designing and implementing global human rights sanctions regimes to better protect journalists around the world.

Ahead of launch, the report was endorsed by the **High Level Panel**, the **IBAHRI**, the **Committee to Protect Journalists**, **Reporters without Borders**, **PEN America**, **Human Rights First** and the **former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression**, **David Kaye**.



A Pressing Concern: Protecting and Promoting Press Freedom by Strengthening Consular Support to Journalists at Risk

On 16 November 2020, the High Level Panel launched their second report '*A Pressing Concern: Protecting and Promoting Press Freedom by Strengthening Consular Support to Journalists at Risk*', at the **Global Conference on Media Freedom**, co-hosted by the governments of Canada and Botswana. Panel member, the Honourable Professor Irwin Cotler authored the report, which examines existing approaches by states respecting consular assistance for journalists at risk abroad and proposes a new paradigm of justice and accountability.

Ahead of launch, the report was endorsed by the **High Level Panel**, the **IBAHRI**, **Canadian Journalists for Free Expression**, **Centre for International Media Assistance**, **Committee to Protect Journalists**, **Felice Gaer**, Former Vice Chair United Nations Committee against Torture and Director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, **Freedom House**, **Human Rights Foundation**, **James Foley Legacy Foundation**, **Journalists for Human Rights**, **Lantos Foundation for Human Rights**, **PEN America**, **PEN Canada**, **Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights**, **REDRESS**, **Reporters Without Borders**, and **Irene Khan**, **United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression**.

Report on Providing Safe Refuge to Journalists at Risk

As part of the IBA's **Virtually Together Conference**, on 23 November 2020, the High Level Panel launched their third report, 'Risk', authored by Panel member, Professor Can Yeginsu. By reference to real life case studies, the report examines in detail the circumstances, which make relocation necessary for journalists at risk today. Finding that the pathways to safety open to them are too few in number, and those that do exist are too slow, burdensome and difficult to navigate to be capable of providing practical and effective recourse. The report recommends to members of the Media Freedom Coalition and partner states committed to the protection and promotion of media freedom: (i) the introduction of a new emergency visa for journalists at risk; and (ii) the implementation of a number of essential adjustments to the existing framework for safe relocation.

Ahead of launch, the report was endorsed by the **High Level Panel**, the **IBAHRI**, the **United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression**, **Irene Khan** (the **Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission**, **Professor Pedro Vaca Villarreal** and **every major international non-governmental organisation working to promote media freedom**.



Advice on Promoting More Effective Investigations into Abuses against Journalists

On 25 November 2020, the High Level Panel launched their fourth report entitled, *'Advice on Promoting More Effective Investigations into Abuses against Journalists'*, as part of the IBA Virtually Together Conference. The report, authored by Panel member Nadim Houry, examines the increasing and varied nature of attacks against journalists and the persistent, rampant impunity. The report reviews the existing efforts to promote effective investigations and assesses the constraints of the present system. The report concludes with three major recommendations to the signatories to the Global Pledge on Media Freedom and other key governments to strengthen investigations into attacks on journalists to address the issue of impunity and progress towards accountability.

Ahead of launch, the report was endorsed by the **High Level Panel**, the **IBAHRI**, **Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp**, Senior Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Centre for Prevention of Genocide and at Oxford University's Centre for Ethics, Law & Armed Conflict, Chair of the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA) and former US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, **Association of European Journalists**, **Centre for Freedom of the Media**, **University of Sheffield**, **Commonwealth Journalists Association**, **Committee to Protect Journalists**, **David Kaye**, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, **Federica D'Alessandra**, Executive Director Oxford Programme on International Peace and Security at the Blavatnik School of Government's Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict, and also holds an appointment with the Oxford Bonavero Institute for Human Rights. Co-Chair of the International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee, **Justice for Journalists**, **Media Legal Defence Initiative**, **Patrick Penninckx**, Head of the Information Society Department of the Council of Europe and **Reporters Without Borders**.



TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

In 2020, the High Level Panel accepted a number of requests for the provision of technical legal assistance. All requests are reviewed by the Secretariat, who also provide legal research support and manage the relationship with the requesting states and organisations. Through the provision of technical assistance, the High Level Panel are able to build the capacity of the requesting states and organisations and recommend changes to laws directed at media organisations and journalists are made in line with international standards. Notable examples can be found below.

• Technical Legal Assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe

The High Level Panel provided technical legal assistance to the government of Zimbabwe on two separate occasions.

They provided legal opinions on the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill and the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Bill, authored by Panel member

Catherine Anite, who also held meetings with relevant Ministers, state officials and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the recommendations made by the High Level Panel including the Media Institute of Southern Africa, to discuss the support they can provide to civil society.

• Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Following a request, the High Level Panel constituted a working group to research and draft an amicus brief to be submitted in a landmark media freedom case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the use of criminal defamation laws against journalists. The hearing for the case was delayed in 2020 and is now due to take place in the summer of 2021.

RESOURCES

 **Press Releases, Submissions and Media Coverage relating to the Panel's work can be found on their webpages.**

Freedom of Expression Bulletin

The global Covid-19 health crisis has contributed to the expedited global crisis of the right to free expression. In their response to the pandemic, governments across the world have taken exceptional measures to halt the rapid spread of the virus, including measures that impact freedom of expression and assembly among other fundamental rights, acting outside of the framework afforded by international human rights law.

Such measures have directly impacted the media outlets and the work of journalists reporting on the pandemic. Many states have demonstrated their intolerance for dissent, criticism and alternative versions of events. Many are cracking down on the spread of false information or 'fake news' by adopting a fresh wave of legislation to deal with disinformation, silencing critical voices and reporting. The pandemic has created great concern over the risks of impeding the work of journalists and the media, restricting the public's right to receive accurate and reliable information at this unprecedented time. In certain countries, the authorities have taken action to muzzle the opposition, media and journalists, including by

shutting down websites and imposing internet censorship, limiting journalist access to press conferences and not issuing press cards or licences to restrict activity. It is vital that states allow journalists and media workers, many of whom serve on the frontline of reporting, to continue doing their work, free from danger, threat, or harassment of any kind.

In April 2020, the IBAHRI launched a monitoring tool, **IBAHRI Freedom of Expression Bulletin** which provides an insight into issues relating to the freedom of expression globally, highlighting current threats and trends to this fundamental right and monitoring cases and situations where this right is violated.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS REPORTS

The High Level Panel and their partners continue to prepare a series of six reports containing advice on model elements for the drafting and interpretation of legislation in line with international human rights standards. These reports will address laws that are frequently used to target journalists and those undertaking journalistic activity in separate reports, including:

1. Defamation, Seditious and 'insult' laws;
2. Misinformation and Disinformation (so-called 'fake news' laws);
3. Hate Speech laws;(4) Blasphemy laws;
4. Blasphemy laws;
5. National Security, including Counterterrorism and Espionage and Official Secrets laws; and
6. Internet Shutdowns.

WITH THANKS TO:



A full list of partners and the External Advisory Committee reviewing the reports can be found on the High Level Panel's webpage.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



- With support from the IBAHRI Secretariat, the High Level Panel will release their six individual International Standards reports at virtual events.
- The High Level Panel, with support from the IBAHRI Secretariat, will engage in regular advocacy efforts primarily with states, including members of the Media Freedom Coalition, on the recommendations of their four Enforcement reports, to ensure maximum uptake and impact for the beneficiaries of the project, namely, journalists and media outlets.
- The term of the current High Level Panel comes to an end in July 2021. It has been agreed by the High Level Panel, the project funding administrator, UNESCO and the present Co-Chairs of the Media Freedom Coalition (Canada and the UK) that the High Level Panel should continue their work. In quarter one and two of 2021, the IBAHRI Secretariat will undertake consultations with the High Level Panel, states, key partners and stakeholders across the globe to evaluate the programme thus far and develop a proposal of work for Phase Two of the High Level Panel's engagement, for the consideration of funders.

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

In 2008, the IBAHRI Council adopted a resolution calling for the total abolition of the death penalty. Since then, the IBAHRI has been committed to calling upon states to move towards the total abolition of the death penalty

In Autumn 2020, the IBAHRI undertook several initiatives to mark the 18th World Day against the Death Penalty, which focused on the right to effective legal representation in capital punishment cases. This included co-issuing a public statement with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty and issuing a joint oral statement during Agenda Item 3 at the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

The IBAHRI welcomed moves towards the abolition of capital punishment in **Saudi Arabia** via an order to abolish the practice of flogging and the application of the death penalty for crimes committed by minors, urging further action to secure the rule of law and ensure total abolition. The Institute also noted the commuting of the death penalty for five of the individuals convicted of killing prominent dissident Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi, while condemning the secret trial that led to the final verdict against the unnamed defendants.**

RESOURCES



IBAHRI **Council Resolution** on the Abolition of the Death Penalty (May 2008).

IBAHRI marks World Day against the Death Penalty with call for universal abolition: **Press release.**

IBAHRI welcomes Saudi Arabia's move towards total abolition of the death penalty: **Press release.**

Saudi Arabia: IBAHRI condemns non-transparent trial of Jamal Khashoggi killers: **Press release.**

IBAHRI welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in Colorado: **Press release.**

IBAHRI condemns federal executions in the United States: **Press release.**

IBAHRI condemns the murder of Iranian dissident journalist Ruhollah Zam: **Press release.**

PARTNERS: WITH THANKS TO:



- World Coalition against the Death Penalty
- Center for Prisoner's Rights (CPR)
- Children Education Society (CHESO)
- Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide
- Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM)
- FIACAT
- Legal Awareness Watch (LAW)
- Reprieve
- The Advocates for Human Rights
- UIA – Union Internationale des Avocats

TORTURE PREVENTION

“ The IBAHRI advocates the universal abolition, and calls on states that have not yet abolished the death penalty to commute all death sentences, quash all unsafe convictions, reconsider the application of the death penalty, introduce a moratorium on its use with a view to abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Co-Chairs,
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute



The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG



Anne Ramberg Dr jur hc



The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute supports:
World Day Against the Death Penalty

Saturday 10 October 2020

On 21 December, the IBAHRI issued a press release condemning federal executions in the **United States of America**, calling on then President-elect Joe Biden to reintroduce a moratorium on the federal death penalty with the ultimate aim of abolition. The IBAHRI also commended the State of Colorado on repealing the death penalty for crimes committed after 1 July 2020, becoming the 22nd US state to abolish capital punishment.

On 23 December, the IBAHRI issued a press release condemning the execution of journalist and editor of the website and Telegram channel Amad News, Ruhollah Zam, in **Iran**, highlighting, *inter alia*, that his arrest and detention were in breach of the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under international law and that he was denied the right to a fair trial and due process, rendering the death sentence arbitrary and in violation of right to life.

Throughout the year, the IBAHRI continued to send private intervention letters to governments around the world to raise concerns regarding the ongoing retention and use of capital punishment and to advocate for its total abolition.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue to monitor the use of the death penalty worldwide and advocate for its abolition via its UN programme and at the national level where possible.

From 9 – 10 March 2020, in collaboration with the Anti-Torture Initiative and the National Preventative Mechanism in **Paraguay**, the IBAHRI delivered training on the '*Investigation and Documentation of Torture: Theoretical Approach to the Istanbul Protocol*' for 23 legal and medical professionals. The IBAHRI delegation also held a high-level advocacy meeting with the President of the Supreme Court of Paraguay to discuss the overuse of preventive detention, judicial independence and overcrowding in detention facilities.

On 31 March, the IBAHRI published the Spanish-language publication '*Responding to Torture: Latin American perspectives on a Global Challenge*' in collaboration with the Universidad Externado de Colombia. The book brings together articles, authored by multidisciplinary professionals with whom the IBAHRI has had the opportunity to work in recent years, on lessons learned, concerns and contemporary challenges that stem from or have an impact on the effective prevention, identification, documentation and treatment of torture in **Latin America**.

On 10 November, Baroness Kennedy launched her report, '*A Stain on World Leaders and the G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia: The shameful detention and torture of Saudi women*'. The report evidences the persecution and torture of women's activists in Saudi Arabia and urges world leaders to boycott the G20 summit.

During 2020, the IBAHRI developed a series of online workshops for implementation in 2021 as part of a torture prevention programme in **Peru**, in collaboration with the Peruvian National Preventative Mechanism. Focus areas include the concept of torture under international law, the Istanbul Protocol and gender-sensitive approaches to responding to alleged cases of torture and ill-treatment.

PARTNERS: WITH THANKS TO:



- Anti-Torture Initiative
- Centre for Human Rights Education, Advice and Assistance
- Irish Rule of Law International
- National Preventative Mechanism in Paraguay
- National Preventative Mechanism in Peru
- Paralegal Advisory Service Institute
- Reprieve
- Southern Africa Litigation Centre
- Universidad Externado de Colombia

The IBAHRI began research and advocacy on the admissibility of forced confessions and torture prevention in **Malawi**. In this regard, the IBAHRI supported a multi-stakeholder submission to the UN Human Rights Committee with information on Malawi, including the use of torture and forced confessions, for the List of Issues Prior to Reporting. Programme Lawyer Cath Kent also attended the virtual public meetings of the 69th session of the UN Committee against Torture and the 41st and 42nd sessions of the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue its torture prevention work worldwide, with focuses on including the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol and the exclusionary rule and non-admissibility of forced confessions. Of note, the IBAHRI has been awarded a grant by the OPCAT Special Fund to extend its torture prevention work to Kyrgyzstan.

RESOURCES



Responding to Torture: Latin American perspectives on a Global Challenge: Spanish publication and English executive summary.

A Stain on World Leaders and the G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia: The shameful detention and torture of Saudi women:

Report and launch event.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES AND EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

From 17–20 February, the IBAHRI, in partnership with several organisations, delivered four multidisciplinary training sessions and workshops in **Brazil**, bringing together 22 legal professionals and 15 forensic doctors from seven states. The programme considered the documentation, investigation and litigation of cases of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, addressing the links between forensic sciences and international human rights standards.

The same month, the IBAHRI sent an open letter to the Integrated Bar of the **Philippines**, calling on the body to take action against the continued persecution of lawyers, prosecutors and judges, as well as the extrajudicial killings committed as part of the ‘war on drugs’ under President Rodrigo Duterte.

On 30 August, to mark the UN International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the IBAHRI issued a press release calling on UN Member States to uphold international law prohibiting enforced disappearances, intensify searches for forcibly disappeared persons, hold accountable and punish those perpetrating enforced disappearances and provide adequate remedy for victims’ relatives.

Via the IBAHRI’s UN Programme, Programme Lawyer Cath Kent attended the virtual public meetings of the 19th session of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and delivered an oral statement during the interactive dialogue with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statement expressed particular concern about reported short-term enforced disappearances in **Belarus**.

PARTNERS: WITH THANKS TO:



- Associação Brasileira de Medicina Legal e Perícias Médicas (ABMLPM) // Brazilian Association of Forensic Medicine and Medical Expertise
- Centro de Antropologia e Arqueologia Forense (CAAF/UNIFESP) // Center for Anthropology and Forensic Archeology
- Conectas Direitos Humanos // Conectas Human Rights
- Defensoria Pública do Estado do Rio de Janeiro // Rio de Janeiro Public Defender’s Office
- Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (EAAF) // Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team
- Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP) // São Paulo Federal University

The IBAHRI also prepared an *amicus curiae* brief for submission to the Federal Supreme Court of **Brazil** on the prohibition of military jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute and punish members of the armed forces accused of gross human rights violations in peacetime. Linked with this thematic issue, Programme Lawyer Cath Kent authored a blog on '*Excluding enforced disappearances from military jurisdiction*' for Völkerrechtsblog's online symposium '*Empty Chairs*' to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

RESOURCES



UN International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances: **Press release**.

Excluding enforced disappearances from military jurisdiction: **Blog post**.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue to focus on its work on enforced disappearances in the Latin American region, and also on expanding it to other regions. This includes development of a programme of work in Brazil addressing military jurisdiction over gross human rights violations in peacetime.

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) has been working with Central Asia lawyers towards the promotion of the independence of the legal profession in the region since 2016. The IBAHRI's programming in Central Asia includes trainings for lawyers, advocacy on safeguarding the independence of legal profession internationally (UN, OSCE) and nationally, trial monitoring, intervention letters, awareness raising and capacity building on legal issues, including on lawyers' security.

In 2019, the IBAHRI started cooperating with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association in order to assess the role of lawyers in the implementation of the right to freedom of assembly. In November 2019, we held consultations with lawyers to inform the Special Rapporteur on the lawyers' role before, during and after protests. Throughout 2020, we have been conducting a worldwide survey of lawyers to gather quantitative data on the topic, and inform the future report of the Special Rapporteur, and shape the recommendations. The final stage of this research will be the regional consultation between the practicing lawyers of Central Asia and the Special Rapporteur, which will be held virtually in 2021. The IBAHRI is working closely with its local partner – a civil society organisation Dignity – in order to organise, conduct and deliver on the regional consultation with lawyers. The invitation to the regional consultation will also be extended to lawyers working within the civil society organisations as they play a crucial role in safeguarding the right to freedom of assembly in the region. The report of the Special Rapporteur will be launched at UN Human Rights Council session in June 2021.

In addition to the worldwide surveys of lawyers researching their role in the implementation of the freedom of protests, the IBAHRI has also conducted a number of in-person interviews with lawyers on the practices of mass trials. A report based on the findings, and done jointly with the Law Society of England and Wales, will be launched in 2021.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI looks forward to the publication of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and the report on mass trials.

PARTNERS:



- Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association
- Law Society of England and Wales

RESOURCES



Peaceful Assemblies and the Role of Lawyers: defining challenges and opportunities in the OSCE region
<https://tinyurl.com/y3zox8ut>

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

At the beginning of February 2020, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute addressed an intervention letter to a number of Polish institutions regarding new legislative amendments adopted in the country days before, which gave politicians the power to sanction judges whose positions or actions they do not approve of. The newly adopted legislation prohibits Polish judges from questioning the legitimacy of appointment of judges by the Poland's President, or institutional independence of any court composed by such judges. The IBAHRI has been closely monitoring the situation in Poland since 2015, and all the legislative reforms championed by the Law and Justice Party, and on numerous occasions the IBAHRI has raised concerns about developments in the country and the backsliding of the rule of law.

The IBAHRI, and alongside the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, and the Human Rights Foundation made a submission to the UN to hold Venezuela accountable for the 11-year persecution and prosecution of Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, and to protect the independence of the Venezuelan legal profession. The submission was addressed to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and was also distributed to five other UN special procedures mandate holders, including the working group on arbitrary detention. The joint action seeks to reverse Judge Afiuni's conviction, establish an investigation into her devastating torture and protect the professional independence of the Venezuelan legal profession in the future. You can read more [here](#).

On 27 November, as part of the IBA's virtual annual conference, the IBAHRI held a session 'The Judiciary at Risk – A Case Study', chaired by IBAHRI Co-Chair the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and with panellists Veronica Hinestroza speaking to the IBAHRI's work observing the case of Venezuelan Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni and President of the European Association of Judges, Jose Igraja Matos. The recording is available to watch [here](#).

The IBAHRI's joint project with the International Legal Assistance Consortium training lawyers and Judges in Tunisia on economic, social and cultural rights, was forced to be postponed during the Covid-19 crisis as a lack of resources in the country meant it could not operate virtually. However, on the 28 September, the programme was able to relaunch with a two and a half day 'training of trainers' refresher workshop held in Tunis for 21 Tunisian lawyers, who will in turn then go on to train 20 of their lawyer peers at each of two forthcoming 'application workshops' to take place later in October. The

workshop involved training in both substantive material as well as teaching methodologies with two experts and was conducted with the IBAHRI's partners at the UNHCR.

In March 2021, two additional 'refresher' workshops will be held in Tunis, aimed at improving legal knowledge and judicial engagement based on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The workshop will train lawyers on how to hold the state accountable to its international obligations through judicial proceedings, and the gendered perspective of the ESCRs.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue to monitor issues of the independence of the judiciary worldwide, and particularly follow up work in crucial countries such as Poland and Venezuela.

RESOURCES



The Judiciary at Risk: A Case Study webinar: <https://tinyurl.com/695e96ne>

Legal Guarantees and Due Process: 10 Years of the Afiuni Case: <https://tinyurl.com/abryku6s>

INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION



A unique feature of the IBAHRI is that it is part of an international membership organisation, forming the world's leading community of lawyers. There are many human rights organisations with specific expertise in, for example, poverty economics, disability and sexual abuse of children. Our expertise is in law and protecting lawyers worldwide.

On 29–31 January 2020, an IBAHRI delegation of five experts paid a visit to the ADA University in Baku, **Azerbaijan**, with a goal of working jointly to establish a Legal Clinic. The delegation consisted of the following members:

- Shaila Pal, Director of Clinical Legal Education & Supervising Solicitor, King's Legal Clinic, Dickson Poon School of Law, London;
- Kanykei Kasybekova, Professor at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Kyrgyz Republic, running the Legal Clinic at the AUCA;
- Teresa Jennings, vice president & treasurer, LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation and head of Rule of Law Development for LexisNexis Legal & Professional;
- Vafa Fatizade, IBAHRI consultant in Azerbaijan; and
- Jurate Guzeviciute, IBAHRI Senior Programme Lawyer

Following the visit, both King's Legal Clinic and the AUCA Legal Clinic shared with the ADA University their internal regulations, including strategies, job descriptions, mission statements and structure. LexisNexis held a demo call with the ADA University's library staff. Providing free legal advice is a great way for law students to learn legal skills and contribute to a fairer society. As a recent **IBA and World Bank report** demonstrated, legal aid is also astute economics as it saves considerable government expenditure in various areas.

On a number of occasions, the IBAHRI has raised concerns about the situation of the legal profession in Azerbaijan, and we hope to see the new generation of lawyers growing to fully understand and respect the role, responsibilities and importance of an independent legal profession.

Continuing its work with law students, in April 2020 the IBAHRI held a first online webinar for Azerbaijani young lawyers, which focused on Article 3 of the ECHR. The series of training continued in May 2020, when we held a follow-up webinar on Article 3 of ECHR.



On 12 March 2020, at the 43rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the IBAHRI jointly with Lawyers for Lawyers delivered an oral statement on the UPR outcomes for **Kazakhstan**. Among other things, the IBAHRI noted that according to our information, lawyers in Kazakhstan are subjected to improper interference and harassment, among others, by the Ministry of Justice, members of the law enforcement agencies, investigative bodies, the judiciary as well as the bar association itself. Lawyers working on sensitive cases are reportedly often pressured and intimidated to drop those cases. Their right to access and privately consult with their detained clients is often restricted.

Several days earlier, on 5 March 2020, following the presentation of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, after her visit to Kazakhstan, the IBAHRI delivered an oral statement too. The IBAHRI stressed that independent human rights lawyers working on terrorism and extremism cases are frequently under surveillance by authorities, subjected to threats and intimidation, including threats of their licence being revoked, and risk facing terrorism charges on fraudulent grounds for undertaking their work. We urged the government of Kazakhstan to ensure a safe and free working environment for all lawyers in the country and to take all the necessary measures to guarantee that all lawyers are able to perform their professional duties without fear of reprisal, intimidation or harassment.

In May 2020, the IBAHRI expressed its concerns regarding a number of restrictions on freedom of assembly in Kazakhstan, provided for in the then-draft Law 'On the Procedure of Organising and Holding Peaceful Assemblies in the Republic of Kazakhstan'. The bill was later adopted and signed into the law and included restrictive provisions on excessive notification and approval requirements; excessive authority to ban an assembly; a prohibition on spontaneous assemblies; restriction of assemblies to specific locations; preferential treatment for assemblies organised by the government; a prohibition against foreigners, refugees and stateless persons from organising or participating in assemblies; excessive obligations on organisers and participants; and excessive sanctions for organisers and participants.

The IBAHRI has emphasised in a **joint letter** with the International Commission of Jurists and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights that the new law is contrary to the standards and principles of the international human rights, and will further restrict the role of lawyers when it comes to defending the rights of protesters.

On 19 March 2020, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute addressed the Prosecutor General of the **Kyrgyz Republic** to express concern over their actions targeting Kyrgyz lawyers Mr Ikramidin Aitkulov, Mr Nurbek Toktakunov, Mr Zamir Khooshev, Mr Sergei Sergei Slesarenko and Mr Bakytbek Avtandil uulu. The IBAHRI received reports that a number of lawyers have been intimidated or threatened in different ways – through arrest, fraud charges, smear campaign or by being summoned for interrogations. All lawyers have also reported having received threats in relation to conducting their professional duties.

The IBAHRI reminded the Kyrgyz authorities of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, which in Article 16 provides that states should ensure that lawyers are able to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference. It is essential for human rights lawyers to be able to undertake high profile or politically sensitive cases without concern of retribution from the state or any other actor.

As the world commemorated the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer on 23 January, the IBAHRI launched its **Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk**, aimed to enable lawyers to identify and prevent risks where possible, and protect themselves as much as possible. The Toolkit serves as an important instrument in future IBAHRI training on security for lawyers and facilitates the efforts of all those supporting lawyers' work. The Toolkit is the result of a joint initiative with the Bar Human Rights Committee, the Human Rights House Foundation, Lawyers for Lawyers and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada.

The launch event also marked the start of the commemorative year of the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, as well as the IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession.

Lawyers are the chief guardians of the rule of law, and it is clear that there is much work to be done to prevent its gradual erosion from many parts of



the world. By shedding light on the importance of the legal profession in the protection of fair trial rights, and all human rights, the two instruments play a major role in building accountable institutions, protecting individuals, promoting inclusive economic growth and ultimately safeguarding the rule of law and our democracies.

Following the launch, the IBAHRI Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk has been translated into Russian and French. Though originally it was planned to have in-person training seminars based on the IBAHRI Toolkit, due to Covid-19 restrictions the training activity was modified and moved online. Throughout 2020, IBAHRI held a series of training for lawyers from three Central Asian countries – **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan:**

- **11 July:** New risks faced by lawyers: how to respond
- **18 July:** Disbarment (deprivation of licence)
- **22 July:** Criminal prosecution of lawyers
- **23 July:** Access to a client
- **30 July:** Criminal persecution of a lawyer
- **6 August:** Psychological security
- **7 August:** Creating lawyers' group on responding to risks
- **13 August:** Linguistic aspects and security
- **18 August:** Psychological security: stress management, dealing with consequences
- **19 August:** Psychological security: effective behavior in conflicts
- **20 August:** Restriction of personal freedom
- **27 August:** IT security
- **3 September:** Interrogation of a lawyer
- **4 September:** Mechanisms to protect lawyers
- **10 September:** Search
- **19 September:** Confidentiality principle

The IBAHRI also initiated talks and ended up signing a cooperation agreement with the American Bar Association (ABA) aimed at working jointly to support the Central Asian lawyers and deliver a series of online trainings based on the IBAHRI Toolkit. As a result, in November 2020, the IBAHRI together with the ABA held three webinars for Kyrgyz lawyers addressing the lawyers' security issue.

On 11 June 2020, the Law Society of England and Wales, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights, the Turkey Human Rights Litigation Support Project, Lawyers for Lawyers and the Izmir Bar Association jointly organised an online conference on the situation of lawyers in **Turkey**. The conference was titled: 'Lawyers rights in peril: A discussion on the challenges to the integrity

of the legal profession in Turkey amid the ongoing hunger strikes of the lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal'. Baroness Kennedy gave the keynote speech, citing the attacks on the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession in Turkey since 2016, and the work of the IBAHRI in defending the rights of lawyers. It also examined the proposed legislation threatening the independence of the bar associations by fragmenting regional bar associations and undermining the power of existing bars that have recently criticised the Government, such as the Ankara Bar Association. This legislation has now been passed into law. Other speakers included representatives of and members from the Law Society of England and Wales, Diyarbakir, Izmir and Ankara Bar Associations, and a representative of the Progressive Lawyers' Association in Turkey.

In September, the IBAHRI, in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, issued an urgent submission to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions to urge for the immediate release of Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh. She is currently serving a sentence of 38 years in prison, and is in critical condition as she undergoes hunger strike to protest these charges. On 18 August, Ms Sotoudeh's daughter, Mehraveh Khandan, was arbitrarily arrested by five security officers at her home in Tehran and transferred to the court in Evin Prison. No reason was given for her arrest at the time, however, she was later charged with physically assaulting a female security officer and released on bail. In 2018, Ms Sotoudeh's husband, Reza Khandan, was charged with subversion and in January 2019 he was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for campaigning for his wife's release, a sentence which has since been appealed and is currently before the Iranian courts. In July 2020, Mr Khandan reported that the Iranian authorities had also barred access to family funds.

Following this submission, the IBAHRI released an open letter of intervention urging Iranian authorities to release lawyers Nasrin Sotoudeh, and fellow Iranian lawyer Amirshah Davoodi to draw international attention to their cases. This was followed up with a social media campaign in support of Nasrin Sotoudeh. IBAHRI Director Baroness Kennedy and Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the Hon Irwin Cotler, also jointly penned an opinion piece in support of her case, which is soon to be published in a prominent newspaper. On 4 December, Baroness Kennedy spoke at a Panel event, co-organised by the IBAHRI and the Law Society of England and Wales, celebrating the release of the documentary film 'NASRIN' on the life of persecuted Iranian human rights and women's activist Nasrin Sotoudeh. She spoke alongside Reza Khandan, Ms Sotoudeh's husband, Iranian lawyer Hossein Ahmadiyaz and the filmmakers of the documentary Jeff Kauffman

and Marcia Ross. A recording of the Panel is available [here](#). Coinciding with this, the IBAHRI and the Law Society coordinated a statement, co-signed by 26 global organisations, in support of detained Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh and other Iranian lawyers.

As the crackdown on dissenters and members of the opposition continues, the IBAHRI issued a private letter of intervention to the President of Zimbabwe regarding the arrest of investigative journalist Hopewell Chin'ono and several other journalists following their criticism of the



Nasrin Sotoudeh

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



In 2021, the IBAHRI will continue to work on the independence of the legal profession as one of its most central themes, and continue to take up advocacy worldwide with key partners in defence of lawyers at risk. The IBAHRI will expand the trainings it gives based on the Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk worldwide.

Government. IBAHRI Council member and prominent Zimbabwean human rights lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa, who was acting as lawyer for Hopewell Chin'ono until Harare Magistrate Ngoni Nduna's decision to hold Beatrice Mtetwa in contempt of court and barring her from representing Hopewell. The IBA and the IBAHRI issued a joint statement condemning this decision. Following this, the IBAHRI issued a further public statement condemning the decision against Ms Mtetwa and the recent crackdown on dissent in Zimbabwe with the TrialWatch initiative of the Clooney Foundation for Justice.

On 11 September, the IBAHRI held a webinar entitled 'Crackdown in Zimbabwe: a serious challenge to the Rule of Law and Human Rights'. Chaired by IBAHRI Director Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, IBAHRI Council Member Beatrice Mtetwa spoke to the attacks made against human rights lawyers and defenders in the country, and spoke regarding the case of her client, the detained journalist Hopewell Chin'ono. Linda Kasone, Senior Vice-Chair of the IBA African Regional Forum, also spoke at the event to the issues in Zimbabwe and neighbouring Zambia.

The IBAHRI has continued its involvement in the Belarus International Committee, set up with activists from Belarus and international lawyers to continue to combat the ongoing human rights crisis in Belarus. Most recently, a meeting was held to discuss the difficulty of collecting evidence for the ongoing attacks on peaceful protestors and opposition figures in Belarus.

The IBAHRI also issued a statement condemning further attacks made against lawyers in Belarus for carrying out their professional duties. With hundreds of citizens detained by security forces in Belarus following the disputed 9 August

presidential election – which the incumbent president, Alexander Lukashenko, claims to have won by a landslide – many lawyers, including Aliaksandr Pylchanka, Yulia Levanchuk, Maxim Znak, Lyudmila Kazak, Ilya Salei and Liliya Vlasova, are facing disbarment and/or detention for their work with opposition figures and other arrested citizens.

The IBAHRI, in collaboration with the International Association of Lawyers and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, coordinated a number of resources to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles and to call for greater protection of lawyers worldwide. A call for action in support of the Principles was signed by 50 bar associations, law societies and national and international lawyers' organisations from across the world. The IBAHRI also coordinated the production of a video featuring representatives from several partner organisations calling on the international community to denounce the growing attacks on independent lawyers worldwide and support their role in upholding free and democratic societies, and an educational booklet on the UN and IBA instruments supporting the role of lawyers.

On 13 July, the IBAHRI released this series of resources, alongside an oral statement, during the discussion for the adoption of the UN Resolution on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. Following these activities, the Resolution was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council without a vote, containing reference to our Call for Action.

On 24 September, Baroness Kennedy took part in a panel discussion on the role of bar associations in protecting lawyers as part of a webinar to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, in collaboration

PARTNERS:



- American Bar Association Centre for Human Rights
- Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe
- International Commission of Jurists
- Lawyers for Lawyers
- The Bar Human Rights Committee
- The Human Rights House Foundation
- Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
- Centre for Civil and Political Rights
- Japanese Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA)
- International Association of Lawyers (UIA)

RESOURCES



IBA together with UIA and JFBA issued a Call for Action urging UN Member States to uphold and protect the role of lawyers

IBAHRI delivered oral statement at the 44th UN HRC session during ID wit SR ILJ

Developed Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk – a collaborative project of the IBAHRI, the Bar Human Rights Committee, Human Rights House Foundation, L4L, Lawyers Rights Watch Canada

Published a video calling on denouncing growing attacks on lawyers worldwide

Promoted an educational booklet on the principle of independence of lawyers: UN and IBA reference instruments

UN Resolution adopted with a reference to Call for Action

with the Geneva Bar Association among many others. Speakers included Diego García-Sayán, Special Rapporteur on the independence of Judges and Lawyers, Margaret Ng Ngoi-yee, Pascal Maurer, former Chair of the Geneva Bar Association and several other global lawyers.

In March 2020, the IBAHRI was due to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers at the UN Crime Congress in Kyoto. After the outbreak of the pandemic, this was indefinitely postponed. On Friday 12 March 2021, IBAHRI Co-chair the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG spoke on behalf of the IBAHRI at a side event during the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event commemorated the 30th Anniversary for the UN Basic Principles and called for the promoting of the principles and the significance of converting them to a convention, co-organised by the International Association of Lawyers (UIA) and the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations.



Beatrice Mtetwa, IBAHRI Council member

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Under the directorship of Baroness Kennedy, tackling discrimination against women and girls has become a crucial aspect of the IBAHRI's work advancing equality and non-discrimination. In May 2020, the IBAHRI prepared a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and girls on 'rape as a grave and systematic human rights violation and gender-based violence against women'. This helped to inform the report of the UN Special Rapporteur. The report is to support and encourage a process of harmonisation of national criminal laws and systems and practice with international standards on rape and sexual violence in both peacetime and during conflicts. The report is available [here](#).

During 2020, the IBAHRI also developed a *Manual on incorporating a gender perspective into the administration of justice*, and a *Manual on addressing sexual and gender-based violence within the criminal justice system*. The IBAHRI has been seeking funding to embark on projects implementing training to the judiciary based on these manuals. The IBAHRI is working closely with the Ministry of Justice in Pakistan to establish training on cases about sexual and gender based violence for the judiciary.

On 8 June, IBAHRI Director Baroness Kennedy, alongside IBAHRI Co-Chairs the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and Anne Ramberg Dr jur hc, signed a joint IBA and IBAHRI statement calling on the US to address racism and police brutality in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and calling for the global legal profession to ensure greater justice and equality for all. The statement was also signed by IBA President Horacio Bernardes Neto, and IBA Executive Director Mark Ellis. The statement is available to read [here](#).

On Tuesday 16 June, IBAHRI Director Baroness Helena Kennedy QC organised and moderated a very successful IBA webinar, 'Black Lives Matter: A Challenge to the Law', in conversation with David Lammy – Shadow Secretary for Justice in the UK, Ulele Burnham – Barrister of Doughty Street Chambers and Matthew Ryder QC – Barrister of Matrix Chambers and ex-Deputy Mayor of London. It attracted over 500 participants and led to a lively discussion.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



Based on the two manuals developed, the IBAHRI will seek to finalise funding and project plans for training programmes for the judiciary in Pakistan and India on sexual and gender based violence and seek opportunities to train the judiciary in other countries on mainstreaming gender.



In June – Pride Month – the IBAHRI joined a coalition of 187 global organisations signing a statement regarding the impact of Covid-19 on LGBTI+ persons’ human rights, making several recommendations to States and relevant stakeholders. The statement is available [here](#).

In further celebration of Pride Month, the IBAHRI released a **statement** calling for continued commitment to equality for LGBTI+ communities, signed jointly by IBAHRI Director Baroness Kennedy and IBAHRI Co-Chairs the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and Anne Ramberg Dr jur hc. It reiterated the 2010 IBAHRI Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Human Rights and called for the decriminalisation of same sex relations; the end of discriminatory practices; marriage equality; a universal ban on conversion therapies; and legal recognition of transgender identities and equality in gender identity.

On 25 September, Baroness Kennedy also provided opening remarks to the webinar ‘Disability and the legal profession: a conversation with international lawyers with disabilities about creating a more inclusive profession’. Speakers included Michael Ashley Stein, of the Harvard Law School Disability Project and one of the drafters of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Carlos Rios Espinosa of Human Rights Watch in Mexico, Wanhong Zhang from Wuhan University School of Law and Florence Ndagire, the first visually impaired female lawyer in Uganda. This webinar was organised by IBAHRI intern Lindsay Johnston, from Georgetown Law School, who previously worked in the disability sector. A recording is also available [here](#).

The IBAHRI continues to work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide, as per the IBAHRI Council Resolution passed in 2010. In a documentary film ‘Francesco’ premiered at the Rome Film Festival on 21 October, Pope Francis gave his most explicit backing to same-sex civil unions, calling for their legalisation. In 2019, a delegation of the IBA and IBAHRI – including Mark Ellis, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and Dr Leonardo Raznovich – travelled to Rome and attended a meeting with Cardinal Pietro Parolin to seek Pope Francis’ support in decriminalising homosexuality, who promised to pass on to the Pope what was discussed at the meeting. Since then, Baroness Kennedy has remained in close contact with the Pope’s assistant to further the dialogue. Many messages of

Michael Kirby, Helena Kennedy, Mark Ellis



congratulations were sent to the IBA LGBTI Rights Committee and the IBAHRI, and we hope the discussion of our delegation went some way in bringing about this very positive development.

On 28 October, IBAHRI Director Baroness Kennedy spoke at the final virtual seminar on research conducted to evidence the legislation and institutional mechanisms of discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ people concluding in the completion of a report, ‘Impacts of criminalisation (and other types of institutionalised violence) on LGBTIQ+ people in the Caribbean and Latin America’. The IBA LGBTI Law Committee launched the final report at the IBA Virtually Together Conference.

The IBAHRI intervenes worldwide in issues of LGBTI+ rights, including issuing a **press release** expressing concern over Hungarian laws expanding executive power and curtailing LGBTI+ rights.

The IBAHRI also issued a **statement** condemning the Estonian parliament’s proposal to hold a referendum, on 18 April 2021, on the definition of marriage.

PARTNERS:



- GQUAL
- OSCE

RESOURCES



‘Addressing Discrimination against Women in Law, in Legal Systems and in Legal Practice’

‘Disability and the legal profession: a conversation with international lawyers with disabilities about creating a more inclusive profession’

IBA and IBAHRI statement on George Floyd killing: <https://tinyurl.com/nzczb2te>

‘Black Lives Matter: A Challenge to the Law’

On 20 November, as a follow up to previous webinars held by the IBAHRI and the Human Rights Law Committee, Baroness Kennedy also spoke at a webinar on combatting systemic racism with the Human Rights Law Committee entitled ‘United Nations Human Rights Council Emergency Session on Systemic Racism in Review’. Speakers included Dominique Day of the United Nations Working Group on Experts of People of African Descent, Margarette May Macaulay the Commissioner Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination and Women’s Rights and Ambassador Dr Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, Former President of United Nations Human Rights Council.

On 22 October, Baroness Kennedy gave the opening speech for a virtual training programme on sexual and gender-based violence for judges in Uzbekistan, hosted by OSCE.



On 20 November, Baroness Kennedy Chaired the IBAHRI’s first event at the IBA Virtual Conference ‘Gender and Violence: A Challenge to the Law’ with Pakistani Secretary for Law and Justice Maleeka Bokhari, Sunday Times Chief Foreign Correspondent Christina Lamb and Alia Al-Dalli from the UNDP speaking.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the IBAHRI released statements via **Twitter** and **Facebook** calling for action to be taken to end sexual and gender based violence.

On International Women’s Day, the IBAHRI published the Resolution of its Advisory Council on ‘Addressing Discrimination against Women in Law, in Legal Systems and in Legal Practice’, reaffirming the IBAHRI’s commitment to addressing discrimination against women in law, legal systems and legal practice.

RULE OF LAW

As part of the International Bar Association, preserving the rule of law in order to guarantee universal human rights is central to the aims of the IBAHRI.

On 20 February 2020, the third Working Meeting on Implementation of UN Committees' decisions took place in Nursultan, **Kazakhstan**. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Ministry of Information and Social Development, Ministry of Justice, National Security Committee and other Kazakh government bodies.



The goal of the meeting was to develop a national procedure for the implementation of the decisions of the UN treaty bodies, discuss the roadmap and hear out the first-hand experience of the victims of human rights violations acknowledged by the UN treaty bodies.

The IBAHRI was invited to the meeting as experts, and brought an international expert Mrs Ramune Narbutaviciene, Adviser to the Agent of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania before the European Court of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, who is responsible for assisting the Government Agent in representing Lithuania before the ECHR and UN Human Rights Committee.

Mrs Ramune Narbutaviciene, serving as a state official herself, shared a very important point of view that it is not enough for countries to ratify the UN conventions but rather as much effort need to be made to ensure they are respected and implemented. This is not the first time Central Asian countries are learning from the Baltic states' experience. IBAHRI is hopeful that some of Lithuania's practice could be transferred and implemented in Kazakhstan too.

Following the publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in **India's** north-eastern Assam State, 1.9 million people have been excluded from the list, potentially rendering them de facto stateless. This process has ostensibly taken place to identify undocumented immigrants, but its effects have been disproportionately felt by the Muslim community of Assam, approximately one third of the state's population. Those who have been excluded from the NRC anticipate receiving a 'rejection order' soon, at which point many will seek leave to appeal. The appeals process has not yet been confirmed, but local counsel indicates a reasonable likelihood of anticipating how it will proceed. Alongside the Bar Human Rights Committee, the IBAHRI developed a training programme for lawyers to build their capacity to take forward appeals on behalf of those rejected from the NRC, to be led by Sir Nicholas Blake and Amanda Weston QC. Following this, to receive their training certificate, those trained will be required to go on to take forward five cases. The training was delivered virtually in early 2021.

Continuing the IBAHRI's longstanding project training **Syrian** legal professionals, alongside the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), on accountability mechanisms, from 2–4 November, IBAHRI Programme Lawyer helped to organize, and participated in, a virtual workshop alongside the Syria Legal Development Programme. The webinar was for 20 Syrian lawyers based in Turkey and was about UN human rights mechanisms and accountability in the Syrian context. This follows on from previous workshops held in person, which were forced to be suspended due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The IBAHRI, in partnership with the International Commission of Jurists, has been conducting a trial observation in Turkey at the Silivri Prison Court.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue to work worldwide to uphold the rule of law. The training programme in India will be completed, and the IBAHRI will work with local lawyers to take forward their cases. The observation of Osman Kavala's trials will continue.

This is in relation to the detention of Osman Kavala and 14 other defendants standing accused of having attempted to overthrow the Turkish Government via the Gezi Park (Istanbul) protests in 2013.

The IBAHRI and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) have published a trial observation report following the joint trial observation of the case of Osman Kavala and the other Gezi Park protestors. The report documented a range of human rights abuses in the trial and called for the immediate release of Osman Kavala. The organisations concluded that the trial did not meet the requirement of a fair trial under Article 6 ECHR and Article 14 ICCPR. Specifically, the proceeding failed to comply with the rights to be tried by an independent and impartial court, the presumption of innocence and to call and cross examine witnesses. The ICJ and IBAHRI further affirmed that this trial was already compromised due to the clear violation of the principle of legality in relation to the criminal law applied in this case, as well as in respect of the grounds for detention, which failed to satisfy Articles 9 and 15 ICCPR and 5 and 7 ECHR. The criminal charges brought against the defendants related to offences that are overly broad and prone to unduly restrict the exercise of human rights, notably the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, political participation and privacy. The defendants in the trial were Mehmet Osman Kavala, Gökçe Yılmaz, Ali Hakan Altınay, Hanzade Hikmet Germiyanoglu, Yigit Aksakoglu, Cigdem Mater Utku, Yigit Ali Ekmekci, Memet Ali Alabora, Handan Meltem Arikan, Can Dundar, Ayse Mucella, Serafettin Can Atalay, Tayfun Kahraman, Inanç Ekmekçi, Mine Ozerden, and Ayse Pinar Alabora.

Unfortunately, Osman Kavala still faces fresh charges against him, after he was acquitted earlier in the year but then re-arrested the next day. As of 18 December, he faced trial again, and the IBAHRI and ICJ are again arranging for an independent trial observer to attend the hearings. Owing to the

pandemic, the IBAHRI was unable to attend the trial in person as we had before but have arranged for an in-country contact to attend.

On 18 April, the IBAHRI released a statement condemning the arrest of senior figures in the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, for taking part in 'unauthorised assemblies' in late 2019. Those arrested included Martin Lee QC, and Margaret Ng, joint recipients of the IBA's Human Rights Award in 2019. The statement, signed by IBA President and IBAHRI Director, was joint with the Bar Council of England & Wales, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales and the International Commission of Jurists.

IBAHRI Director Baroness Kennedy remains engaged with Hong Kong Watch to monitor the region. In a trip scheduled for the end of April, she was due to meet with Margaret Ng. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, this trip had to be cancelled, but they remain in communication regarding her current arrest.

Following the proposed imposition of National Security Legislation in Hong Kong by China, IBAHRI Director signed on to two public statements related to the new national security legislation implemented in Hong Kong, which will curtail rights to freedom of assembly further. Firstly, she joined a cross-party international coalition of nearly 200 parliamentarians and policymakers from 27 countries in signing a statement decrying Beijing's 'unilateral introduction of national security legislation in Hong Kong'. Secondly, Baroness Kennedy signed a joint statement led by Chris Patten, Lord David Alton and herself, urging the UN to create a special envoy on Hong Kong to help mediate the crisis between Hong Kong and Beijing. In a statement, jointly signed by IBAHRI Director, IBA President Horacio Bernardes Neto and IBA

Internal Market Bill a threat to international law webinar, October 2020



Executive Director Mark Ellis, the IBA and IBAHRI also condemned the introduction of national security legislation in Hong Kong.

In response to the introduction of the Internal Market Bill, the IBAHRI organised two very successful webinars to demonstrate the threat this Bill posed and its breaking of international law to the Rule of Law in the UK. The first webinar, featuring former Attorney General Dominic Grieve, former President of the UK Supreme Court Lord David Neuberger and Philippe Sands QC examined the potential impact of the Internal Market Bill on international law. The follow up webinar owing to the first's popularity, featured Lord David Neuberger, Dominic Grieve, former Conservative Party Leader Lord Michael Howard, Joanna Cherry QC, and Jessica Simor QC. This webinar attracted thousands of participants, and the Zoom webinar reached its capacity within minutes.

RESOURCES



IBA/UN training manual Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers
tinyurl.com/y246sg3l

PARTNERS: WITH THANKS TO:



- UN
- The Bar Human Rights Committee
- Human Rights House Foundation
- Lawyers for Lawyers
- Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
- International Legal Assistance Consortium
- Syria Legal Development Programme
- ICJ

COVID-19

Considering the impact of Covid-19 worldwide, the IBAHRI has undertaken specific work surrounding the impact of Covid-19. On 9 April, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC attended a virtual informal briefing with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human rights globally. The IBAHRI submitted three statements joint with other CIVICUS and other NGOs, presented orally during the briefing.

The IBAHRI has put considerable effort into public statements, releasing an unprecedented number. From April, the IBAHRI established the Covid-19 Human Rights Monitor, a weekly report to follow closely and report on the impact of the virus and the restrictions on vulnerable groups worldwide. To complement this work, in April at the outbreak of the pandemic, the IBAHRI launched a survey to assess the impacts of Covid-19 emergency legislation on the rule of law and human rights in different jurisdictions. The Senior Programme Lawyer collated the responses of the legal practitioners from around the world, and wrote up an analysis of the first-hand information, which can be read [here](#). The IBAHRI survey, which includes responses from 38 different jurisdictions worldwide, illustrated that often these tests were forgotten or purposefully abandoned by governments in order to impose certain restrictions on 'inconvenient' human rights and strengthen political powers. Such practices had a strong impact on certain groups in society and their rights. The restrictions also further weakened the general status of the principle of the rule of law and contributed to the growing ignorance, and sometimes open disrespect for it, as well as other basic democratic norms and standards.

IBAHRI Director Baroness Helena Kennedy QC has appeared at several webinars to discuss the human rights implications of Covid-19. Baroness Kennedy developed a podcast with the IBA content team on the **rule of law during Covid-19**. On 23 April, Baroness Kennedy gave a speech to the Women, Peace and Security Conference held by Binghamton University reflecting upon the vulnerabilities of women during Covid-19. Further, on 30 April she attended an OpenDemocracy webinar as a panellist on how we can push back on the derogation of rights during Covid-19 to discuss the use of disproportionate restrictions.

As part of the IBA's virtual annual conference in November, the IBAHRI and the Rule of Law Symposium led a webinar entitled 'Rule of Law in the time of Covid-19'. Baroness Kennedy spoke alongside Rule of Law Forum Chair Stephen Macliver, Professor Staffan Lindberg, Neri Javier Colmenares, the Hon Irwin Cotler and Bianca Jagger. The session was moderated by Channel Four News host, Jon Snow. A recording is available [here](#).

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue to monitor the impact of the Covid-19 crisis and emergency measures on human rights worldwide. As the world looks towards the recovery phase of the pandemic, the IBAHRI focuses on building back better democracies worldwide and developing human rights.



The IBAHRI submitted inputs for the UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers' report on the implications of Covid-19 related measures for the administration of justice. The report will be presented during the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council. This includes inputs received by Bar Associations from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Poland, Spain, Turkey, and US.

The IBAHRI was invited to make an intervention from the floor during the 'Special Virtual Discussion: Access to Justice for All' in support of the Human Rights Council Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. The event included a very powerful keynote by IBAHRI Co-chair the Hon Michael Kirby. IBAHRI Senior UN Representative's intervention from the floor related to challenges in accessing justice during the Covid-19 emergency, referring to the result of the IBAHRI's survey of its membership, and emphasising intersectional discrimination of vulnerable groups, as well as challenges in sustaining the independence of judiciary.

RESOURCES

 Rule of Law Symposium: Rule of Law in the time of Covid-19 at the IBA Virtual Conference: <https://www.ibanet.org/Conferences/484479553>

Podcast: rule of law during Covid-19

Impact of Covid-19 emergency powers on the rule of law and human rights in different jurisdictions survey: https://www.ibanet.org/Human_Rights_Institute/Bulletins/IBAHRI-Survey-Impact-of-Covid-Measures-Results

UN PROGRAMME

ACTIVITIES AT THE 43RD UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSION, GENEVA

- Side events held: During the 43rd session, the IBAHRI had planned a side event in collaboration with Terre des Hommes regarding juvenile justice, to be held on 19 March. Unfortunately, with the outbreak of Covid-19, all side events in the latter half of the session were cancelled.
- On 5 March 2020, the IBAHRI delivered a statement about the intimidation experienced by some independent human rights lawyers in Kazakhstan.
- On 6 March, the IBAHRI delivered an oral statement, jointly with the Law Council of Australia, expressing concern over the increased use of security measures to repress the work of human rights lawyers in China, the Philippines and Turkey.
- The IBAHRI and Lawyers for Lawyers issued a joint statement addressing the outcomes of Iran's third UPR, urging action to guarantee the safety of lawyers and the independence of the judiciary.
- On 12 March, the IBAHRI and Lawyers for Lawyers delivered a joint statement addressing the outcomes of Kazakhstan's third UPR and called on the country to take immediate measures to protect lawyers from undue interference.
- The IBAHRI, Lawyers for Lawyers, the Law Society of England and Wales and The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy delivered a statement on the outcomes of Egypt's UPR urging for the immediate release of lawyers facing prosecution and the amendment of laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.



44TH UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSION

The 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council ran from 30 June – 17 July 2020, allowing for virtual participation from civil society organisations. Activities of the IBAHRI during the session included:

- On 10 July, the IBAHRI submitted an oral statement to be delivered via video during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, based upon the work of the IBAHRI as Secretariat to the High Level Legal Panel on media freedom. A copy of the statement is available to read [here](#).
- In collaboration with the International Service for Human Rights, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Law Council of Australia and Lawyers Rights Watch Canada the IBAHRI also delivered a second oral statement during the interactive dialogue calling for the end to restrictions of media workers and lawyers in China. A copy of the oral statement is available [here](#).
- On 13 July, the IBAHRI delivered an oral statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers marking the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and the IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession.
- On 13 July, IBAHRI Programme Lawyer for Torture Prevention Cath Kent attended the virtual 69th session of the Committee against Torture.
- On 15 July, Cath Kent also attended the annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building on 'Upholding

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



The IBAHRI will continue its advocacy work at the UN through participation in the UN Human Rights Council sessions and the delivery of statements to contribute to UPR sessions. The IBAHRI will continue to strengthen and develop key

the human rights of prisoners, including women prisoners and offenders: enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules’.

45TH SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

- On 18 September, the IBAHRI and the International Commission of Jurists delivered a joint oral statement during the Urgent Debate on Belarus at the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council, detailing concern regarding the continuing human rights violations in Belarus, violence against peaceful protestors, torture of detainees, the denial of detainees’ access to a lawyer and the recent arrests of two prominent lawyers Ilya Salei and Mazim Znak.
- On 21 September, IBAHRI Programme Lawyer Cath Kent delivered an oral statement via video to the Working Group on Enforced Involuntary Disappearances, expressing particular concern of the disappearances of persons from Belarus. The statement can be watched [here](#).
- On 24 September, the IBAHRI also signed onto a joint statement delivered orally on the right to effective legal representation in capital cases during the General Debate on Item 3 - Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, which can be watched [here](#) at Chapter 27.
- On 29 September, the IBAHRI joined an oral statement to the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council during the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review of Turkey alongside Lawyers for Lawyers, the Law Society and

Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada, calling for Turkey to adopt the suggestions of the UPR without delay and expressing grave concern over a change in legislation, which reformed bar associations.

- On 30 September, the IBAHRI also co-hosted a virtual side event at the UNHRC, alongside the ICJ, Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy, Amnesty International and Bar Human Rights Committee entitled ‘Targeting the last line of defence: Egypt’s attacks against lawyers’.

Following the 45th session, the IBAHRI, in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, issued an urgent submission to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions to urge for the immediate release of Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh. She is currently serving a sentence of 38 years in prison and is in critical condition on the 25th day of her hunger strike.

On 12 November 2019, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a UPR report on Kazakhstan reviewing country’s human rights progress in the last five years. The IBAHRI, with five lawyers from Kazakhstan, advocated for reforms to strengthen the independence of the legal profession in Kazakhstan. The IBAHRI was pleased with the adopted recommendations which included calls to guarantee that judges and lawyers exercise their profession independently (from Mexico); to ensure effective investigation into acts of intimidation and harassment against lawyers and human right defenders (from Austria); to take immediate measures to ensure the effective protection of lawyers (from Czechia); and others.

RESOLUTION ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN BASIC PRINCIPLES

The IBAHRI, in collaboration with the International Association of Lawyers and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, coordinated a number of resources to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles and to call for greater protection of lawyers worldwide. A call for action in support of the Principles was signed by 50 bar associations, law societies and national and international lawyers’ organisations from across the world. On 13 July, the IBAHRI released this series of resources, alongside the oral statement delivered, during the discussion for the adoption of the UN Resolution on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. Following these activities, the Resolution was adopted by

the UN Human Rights Council without a vote, containing reference to our Call for Action. The Australian Mission to the UN, when presenting the resolution for voting, again referenced the Call for Action. Hungary dropped their plans to weaken the resolution and the text stayed similar to that adopted last year, with only some amendments in relation to Covid-19, as well as including our Call for Action.

In March 2020, the IBAHRI was due to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers at the UN Crime Congress in Kyoto. After the outbreak of the pandemic, this was indefinitely postponed. On Friday 12 March, IBAHRI Co-chair the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG spoke on behalf of the IBAHRI at a side event during the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The event commemorated the 30th Anniversary for the UN Basic Principles and calling for the promoting of the principles and the significance of converting them to a convention, co-organised by the International Association of Lawyers (UIA) and the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations.

RESOLUTION ON THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION

IBAHRI Programme Lawyer on Media Freedom, Zara Iqbal, attended four informal consultations of the draft Resolution on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression, submitted by Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Namibia, the Netherlands and Sweden. Further to this, Ms Iqbal provided written remarks on the draft resolution, with a particular focus on the importance of freedom of information during the present Covid-19 crisis. The Resolution was adopted without a vote at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council, incorporating several of the recommendations made by the IBAHRI’s proposals.

RESOLUTION ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

IBAHRI Programme Lawyer Zara Iqbal, at the invitation of the core group of states leading on the matter, attended several UN consultations to finalise the Resolution on the Safety of Journalists. The Resolution was approved without a vote at the UN Human Rights Council’s 45th session. The IBAHRI was pleased to see a number of our recommendations taken into consideration, including references to online and offline safeguards and new initiatives like the media freedom coalition that will contribute to accountability and reform in this area.

PARTNERS: WITH THANKS TO:



- ICJ
- Law Council of Australia
- Japanese Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA)
- International Association of Lawyers (UIA)
- Bar Human Rights Committee
- Lawyers for Lawyers
- The Law Society
- Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada
- International Service for Human Rights
- The Committee to Protect Journalists
- Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy
- Amnesty International

RESOURCES



IBAHRI marks 30th anniversary of UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers: www.ibanet.org/article/A62E191F-948A-47CE-A1B4-233ED997F2F9

233ED997F2F9

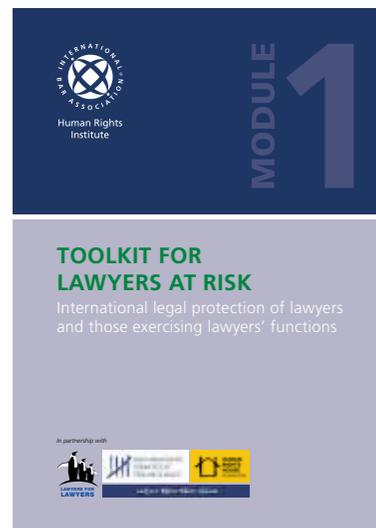
Marking the 30th Anniversary of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers: www.ibanet.org/film/UN-Basic-Principles-30th-Anniversary

IBA urges UN Member States to recognise, uphold and protect the role of lawyers: www.ibanet.org/article/D8FC30B4-1FF4-4D3E-80E1-59549317C2E7

The principle of independence of lawyers: UN and IBA reference instruments <https://tinyurl.com/59xckdtx>

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Toolkit for Lawyers at Risk <https://tinyurl.com/dkfb4ys6>
International Legal Digest: Lawyers' protection and states' obligations <https://tinyurl.com/ad3rftku>
- Responding to Torture: Latin American perspectives on a Global Challenge <https://tinyurl.com/vn7aytua>
- Report on the Use of Targeted Sanctions to Protect Journalists <https://tinyurl.com/267uanz7>
- A Stain on World Leaders and the G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia: The shameful detention and torture of Saudi women <https://tinyurl.com/juudsmh3>
- A Pressing Concern: Protecting and promoting press freedom by strengthening consular support to journalists at risk <https://tinyurl.com/yty63b6d>
- Report on Providing Safe Refuge to Journalists at Risk <https://tinyurl.com/b5r8m2h6>
- Advice on Promoting More Effective Investigations into Abuses Against Journalists <https://tinyurl.com/y2fwtw3s>
- The principle of independence of lawyers: UN and IBA reference instruments <https://tinyurl.com/59xckdtx>



WEBINARS

- Black Lives Matter: A Challenge to the Law www.ibanet.org/Black-Lives-Matter-a-challenge-to-the-law
- Covid-19 and human rights in Central America www.ibanet.org/Covid-19-and-human-rights-in-Central-America
- Black Lives Matter: reviewing US systemic racism under CERD and CAT www.ibanet.org/Black-Lives-Matter-reviewing-US-systemic-racism
- Crackdown in Zimbabwe: a serious challenge to the Rule of Law and Human Rights www.ibanet.org/Crackdown-in-Zimbabwe-webinar
- Disability and the legal profession: a conversation with international lawyers with disabilities about creating a more inclusive profession www.ibanet.org/Disability-and-the-legal-profession-webinar
- International Law and the Internal Market Bill www.ibanet.org/International-Law-and-the-Internal-Market-Bill
- The Implications of the Internal Market Bill for the rule of law in the United Kingdom www.ibanet.org/Implications-of-the-Internal-Market-Bill
- Lawyers at risk: the impact of human trafficking and modern slavery on lawyers and their clients www.ibanet.org/Lawyers-at-risk
- Rule of Law Symposium: Rule of Law in the time of Covid-19 www.ibanet.org/Conferences/484479553
- Book Launch: The Right to a Fair Trial in International Law by Amal Clooney and Philippa Webb www.ibanet.org/The-Right-to-a-Fair-Trial-in-International-Law-Book-Launch



Disability and the legal profession webinar panel

NEWS RELEASES

To view all IBAHRI news releases for 2021, visit bit.ly/39iDj2G



GOVERNANCE

Established in 1947, the IBA is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations and law societies. The IBA influences the development of international law and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of over 80,000 individual lawyers and 190 bar associations and law societies spanning all continents. Grouped into two divisions – the Legal Practice Division (LPD) and the Public and Professional Interest Division (PPID) – the IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to-date information.

The IBA established the IBAHRI in 1995 under the honorary presidency of Nelson Mandela, to promote and protect human rights and the independence of the legal profession under a just rule of law. The IBAHRI is an independent entity within the PPID of the IBA. IBAHRI projects are

funded by the generous support of its members and funding bodies. Under the IBAHRI by-laws,

the Institute is governed by an advisory council, known as the IBAHRI Council, comprising co-chairs, a vice-chair, secretary-treasurer, eight council members and one representative from the LPD, the IBA Section on Public and Professional Interest and the IBA Bar Issues Commission.

Council 2020



HONORARY PRESIDENT

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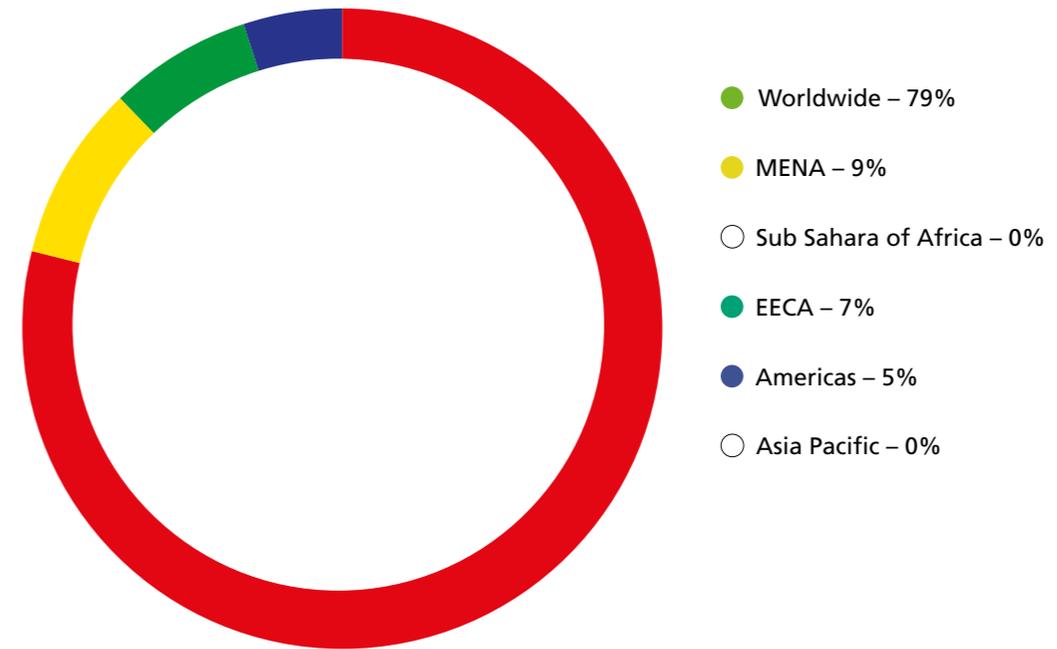
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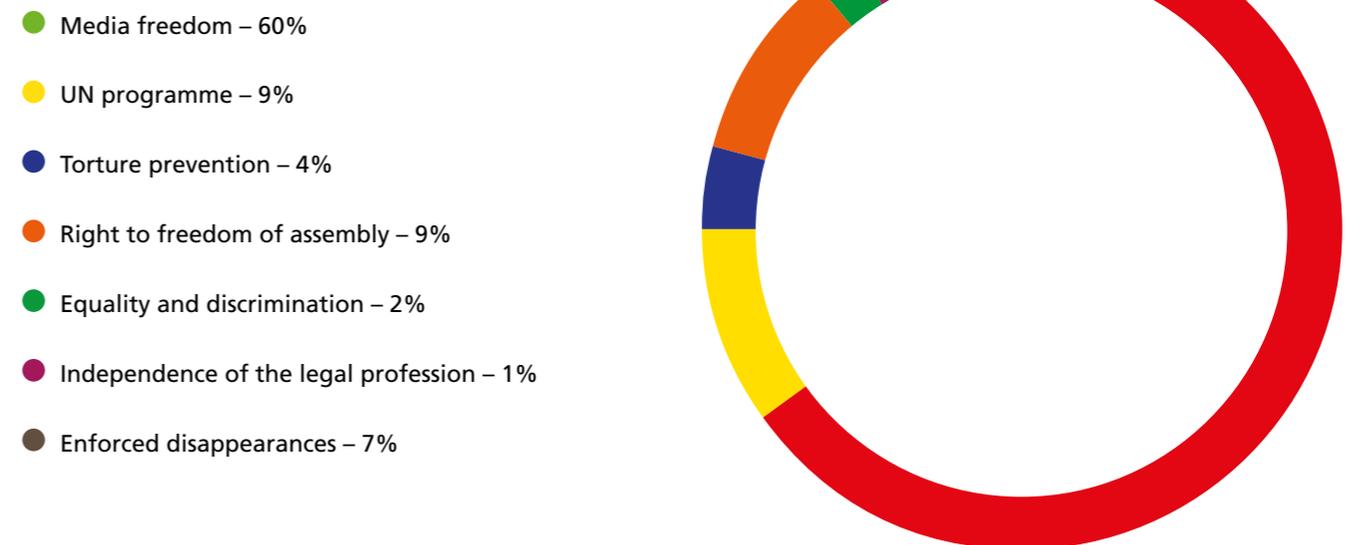
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- International Bar Associations' Human Rights Institute Trust
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- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- UNESCO
- OPCAT

All IBAHRI activities are funded by grants and individual donations. To help support our projects, become a member for just £40 a year – less than £4 a month.



MEET THE TEAM

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC *Director*



Baroness Kennedy officially took over from Philip Tahmindjis as Director of the IBAHRI in January 2019. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC is one of Britain's most distinguished lawyers. She has spent her professional life giving voice to those who have least power within the system, championing civil liberties

and promoting human rights. She also undertakes judicial review, public inquiries and sex discrimination work. She has acted in many prominent cases, including the Brighton Bombing Trial, Guildford Four Appeal, the bombing of the Israeli Embassy, the abduction of Baby Abbie Humphries and a number of key domestic violence and terrorism cases. In 1997 she was elevated to the House of Lords, where she is a Labour peer. She has published two books

on how the justice system is failing women and has written and broadcasted on many other pertinent issues over the years. At the IBAHRI, as well as acting as Director, she has led on projects on the death penalty, sexual and gender-based violence and LGBTI rights.



Jurate Guzeviciute *Senior Programme Lawyer*

Jurate is a lawyer with ten years' experience in national and international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law. At the IBAHRI, Jurate covers the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, where she works with legal professionals

and human rights defenders to establish greater respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Before joining the IBAHRI, Jurate worked as a legal director at a human rights NGO in Lithuania, where she managed legal programmes and supervised litigation work. Jurate has led strategic litigation on domestic violence, discrimination, disability rights, inclusive education, rights of unaccompanied minors (illegal detention), hate speech and more. She has conducted research into rights of hate crime victims, gender equality and state-guaranteed legal aid.

Jurate has also worked with a defence team at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague, and interned at Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations at the European Commission in Brussels. Jurate speaks Lithuanian and Russian. She holds an LLM degree in public international law from Leiden University, the Netherlands and a LLM degree from Vilnius University, Lithuania.



Phil Chambers *Programme Lawyer*

At the IBAHRI, Phil covers the Middle East and Northern Africa region. After obtaining his Juris Doctor from the University of Ottawa, Phil completed his training as a Solicitor with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP in Dubai. Following this, Phil worked in the Office of the Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, concerning the trial of Rafic Hariri, former Prime Minister of Lebanon. Phil has also worked within the Canadian

Government's Competition Bureau working as a Law Officer. Previously to qualifying in law, he specialised in banking, government and international affairs in the MENA region. Phil speaks French, Spanish and Arabic.



Alex Herlihy *Grants Coordinator (on maternity leave from September)*

Alex is responsible for developing relationships with the IBAHRI's funders, including trusts,

foundations and institutional donors. She works with the IBAHRI programme lawyers and

administrators to design and articulate the IBAHRI's project proposals. Prior to joining the IBAHRI, Alex worked at the

John Smith Trust and the Open Society Foundations European Council on Foreign Relations. She holds an LLB from King's College London and has a Certificate of Higher Education in legal methods from Birkbeck University. Alex is a contributor to the Bulletin of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre. Alex speaks Polish.



Cath Kent
Programme Lawyer

JCath works on human rights in the administration of justice at the IBAHRI, leading the Institute's thematic work on torture prevention, enforced disappearances and the death penalty. She works with legal professionals and human rights defenders worldwide to design and deliver rights-

based and gender-sensitive programmes to better protect and promote human rights and the rule of law, including capacity building, technical assistance and advocacy elements. She is also a member of the UK Government's Civilian Stabilisation Group, a membership body of individuals who can deploy to fragile and conflict affected states to assist the UK Government in addressing instability. Before joining the IBAHRI, Cath was a Human Rights Officer with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. Prior

to this, she worked as a Human Rights Project Officer at the School of Law and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, as a Team Leader on human rights projects in the West Bank and as a Legal Intern in the Registry and Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Cath holds an LLM in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law from the University of Essex and an LLB (Hons) from the University of Nottingham.



Perri Lyons
Media Freedom Programme Manager

Perri oversees and coordinates the work of the High Level Panel, providing operational, research and other support for their activities and projects. Perri manages the relationship with all key stakeholders, including the funder UNESCO, the Media Freedom Coalition, the Consultative Network to the Media Freedom Coalition, leading civil society organisations and members of the External Advisory Committee to the High Level Panel. Perri is Vice-Chair of Islington and Hackney Amnesty International Local Group, where she coordinates and manages outreach and fundraising events, driving engagement and raising funds to support Amnesty International's UK work. Perri is currently undertaking an LLM in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex. Perri has a placement at the University of Essex's Digital Verification Unit, where she undertakes open-source investigations into human rights violations around the world. Perri has a BA (Hons) in Cultural and Historical studies from the University of Brighton and she is also a PRINCE2 qualified practitioner. Before taking on the role of Project Manager, Perri was the Administration Manager at the IBAHRI.



Zara Iqbal *Programme Lawyer*

Zara is a lawyer with experience in international human rights, humanitarian, and criminal law. Zara provides coordination, technical, legal and other assistance to the activities and projects of the High Level Panel. Zara is the thematic lead on work relating to the freedom of expression and manages the publication of the IBAHRI Freedom of Expression Bulletin. Zara has also designed and implemented projects on human rights in the administration of justice, the independence of the legal profession, sexual and gender-based violence, and on accountability for core international crimes for the Institute. Zara holds a BA in English Studies and Law, Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), LLM in Human Rights, Globalisation, and Justice and has completed her studies at the Bar of England and Wales. Zara speaks Punjabi and Urdu.



Emily Foale *Programme Coordinator*

Emily is assistant to the IBAHRI Director, manages the IBAHRI internship programme, the public communications and press, the work of the HRI Advisory Council and acts as liaison with the IBAHRI Trust. Emily also

works across all programmes to assist and coordinate activity, as well as managing some programmes such as legal training for lawyers on citizenship, and work in Cameroon. Emily holds a BA Hons from the University of York in History and English. She is currently studying part time for her combined LLB/LLM at Birkbeck College, University of London.

She has previously worked as a consultant at Ardea International, working on issues of modern slavery, and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, working on the Home Office audit of companies' compliance with the modern slavery act.



Marilena Stegbauer *Programme Administrator (until October 2020)*

Marilena previously worked as an intern in the Executive Office, for Executive Director of the IBA Dr Mark Ellis. After impressing us, she was hired as a programme administrator for the IBAHRI from April 2020. She worked across several programmes, including torture prevention and work in Eastern Europe and Central

Asia to assist programme lawyers with legal research, logistics and financial reconciliation. Marilena holds a BA in Governance from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg in Breisgau, and an LLM in International Criminal Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland.



Aurora Garcia
Programme Administrator

Aurora assists with the implementation of the IBAHRI's capacity-building programmes, fact-finding missions and trial observations, as well as supporting the IBAHRI's legal specialist programmes. She also contributes to the creation of budgets for new funding proposals and supports financial grant reporting to donors. Aurora holds a BA in tourism from the University of Girona. She also completed Florida State University's International Human Rights Law course, attended training on European Union funding and took a course on 'Managing the Project Cycle' at Bond. In 2018 she was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for her participation in the course 'Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace' by SDG Academy. Aurora speaks Catalan and Spanish.



Nadia Ismail *Programme Administrator (from November 2019)*

Nadia assists with the implementation of the IBAHRI's capacity-building programmes, fact-finding missions and trial observations, as well as supporting the IBAHRI legal specialist programmes. She also contributes to the creation of budgets for new funding proposals and supports financial grant reporting to donors. From April 2020, Nadia began coordinating and leading on the publication of the Covid-19 Rights Monitor. Nadia holds a BA in History from the University of Glasgow. Prior to working at the IBAHRI, Nadia worked in Berlin at the International Organization for Migration.

Azadeh Hosseini
Programme Administrator

Azadeh supports the facilitation of the High Level Panel's activities, including arranging logistics, supporting with the organisation of virtual and in-person events and assisting with financial reconciliation. Azadeh also provides research support, particularly on media freedom violations in the MENA region and supports the team with monitoring the human rights situation in Iran. Azadeh is a former journalist who has first-hand experience relating to the attack against journalists and human rights defenders in Iran. She studied Political Science and International Relations and recently received her MA in Human Rights Law.

CONSULTANTS, TRIAL OBSERVERS AND RAPORTEURS

With special thanks to the consultants, rapporteurs and trial observers who have supported our work throughout 2018:

- Helene Ramos dos Santos
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- Dilrabo Samadova
- Galiya Azhenova
- Natalya Yantsen
- Rinat Zhkenov
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- Hana Ben Abda
- Fathi Zaabar
- Emily Patterson

INTERNS 2020

We are extremely grateful to all the interns who participated in the 2020 internship programme, providing a remarkable contribution in supporting the IBAHRI staff and projects.

Martin Davenas	Zhonghua Du
Aarushi Mehta	Elkhan Heydarli
Jasmina Drekovic	Atakan Güngördü
Laura Krawczyk	Nigel Chidombwe
Alessia Mercuri	Yassin Osman
Colette Allen	Ritika Pillai
Lindsay Johnson	Nana Kruashvili
Mini Saxena	Mahdev Sachdev
Iness Arabi	Andreea Chilan
Farai Chikwanha	

IBAHRI interns are based in the IBA London office on voluntary placements and work on a range of research and IBAHRI programmatic tasks.

To find out more about the IBAHRI internships and how to apply, visit: tinyurl.com/IBAIternshipProgramme



Interns 2020: (From left to right, back row then front row) Madeleine Castles, Chui Loo Ong, Martin Davenas, Colette Allen, Aarushi Mehta, Sharon Rausch, Laura Krawczyk, Marilena Stegbaeur, Jasmina Drekovic.



Rule of Law Symposium, IBA Virtual Conference, November 2020



Brazil enforced disappearances training, February 2020



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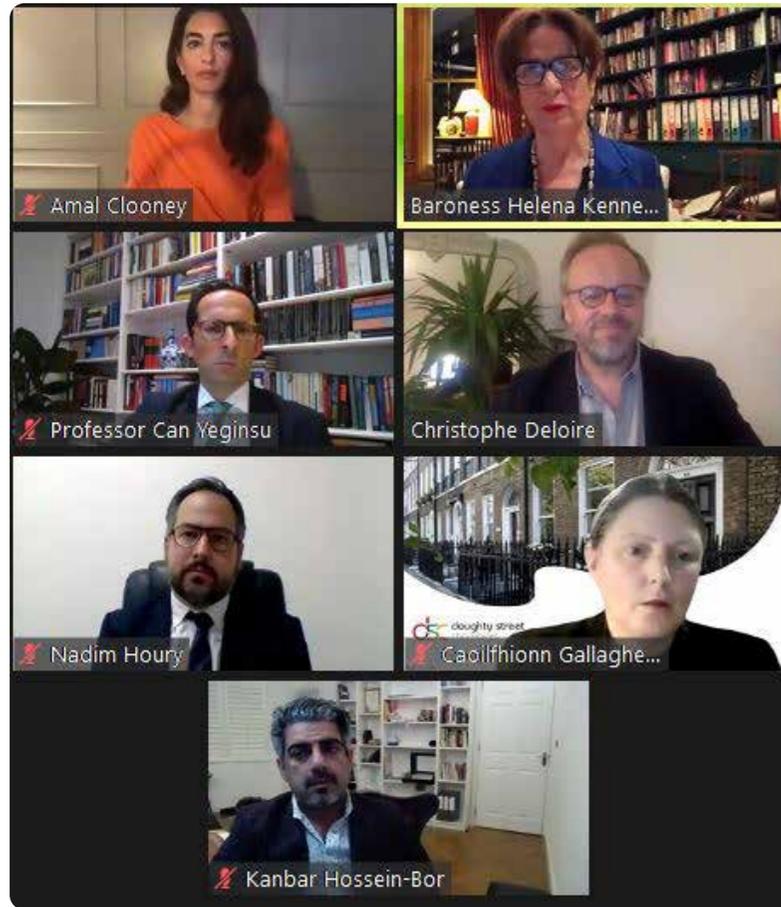
Trainings and meetings Asuncion- Paraguay March 2020



Amal Clooney book launch



Baroness Amos, and Baroness Kennedy in Conversation, at the IBA Virtually Together, November 2020



Advice on promoting more effective investigations report launch, IBA Virtually Together, November 2020



Torture prevention training, Paraguay, March 2020



3. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon at report launch, Chatham House, February 2020



Report on providing safe refuge report launch, IBA virtually together, November 2020



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