



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON THE FRONT LINE

ANNUAL REPORT 1999

**THE OBSERVATORY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

International Federation
of Human Rights

World Organisation
Against Torture



CONTENTS	5
-----------------------	----------

PREFACE	11
----------------------	-----------

PART 1

Human Rights Defenders between Recognition and Repression	15
--	-----------

INTRODUCTION

One Step Forward, Three Steps Back, Antoine Bernard	17
--	-----------

<i>Africa</i>	23
----------------------------	-----------

Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders in Africa: A General Assessment, Sidiki Kaba	25
---	-----------

Protecting Human Rights with Unwavering Determination, Floribert Chebeya	31
---	-----------

Burkina Faso	33
---------------------------	-----------

Cameroon	37
-----------------------	-----------

Chad	39
-------------------	-----------

Congo	42
--------------------	-----------

Democratic Republic of Congo	44
---	-----------

Djibouti	54
-----------------------	-----------

Guinea	55
---------------------	-----------

Guinea Bissau	56
----------------------------	-----------

Kenya	58
--------------------	-----------

Mauritania	59
-------------------------	-----------

Namibia	60
----------------------	-----------

Nigeria	61
----------------------	-----------

Rwanda	64
---------------------	-----------

Senegal	65
----------------------	-----------



Sudan	67
Togo	68
Americas	71
Human Rights Defenders in Latin America, Fernando Mejia	73
Arbitrary Detention, Esteban Cancelado Gomez	78
Argentina	81
Bolivia	84
Brazil	87
Chile	90
Colombia	91
Cuba	106
El Salvador	107
Equador	109
Guatemala	112
Haïti	117
Mexico	119
Nicaragua	131
Peru	132
Uruguay	136
Venezuela	137
Asia	139
Human Rights Defenders in Asia, Ben Schonveld and Anne Christine Hubbard	141
The Voice of Civil Society, Aniceto Guterres Lopez	144
Bangladesh	146
Cambodia	147
China	150
India	152
Indonesia	155
Iran	157
Malaysia	160
Nepal	163



Occupied East Timor	164
Pakistan	166
Philippines	168
South Korea	170
Sri Lanka	172
Vietnam	174
<i>Europe and the CIS</i>	177
Defending Human Rights in the CIS, Erika Dailey	179
Testimony of Rosemary Nelson, killed in Belfast on 15th March 1999	182
Belarus	184
Czech Republic	185
Greece	187
Kosovo	188
Kyrgystan	190
Russia	193
Turkey	196
United Kingdom	202
Uzbekistan	204
<i>North Africa and the Middle East</i>	207
Defending the Universality of Human Rights, Driss El Yazami	209
Gratitude and the Duty to Testify, Khémaïs Ksila	211
Algeria	215
Bahrain	218
Egypt	219
Morroco	225
Palestine	227
Syria	232
Tunisia	234