
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

20 September 2021 Index: POL 30/4754/2021

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JOHN RUGGIE

Professor John Ruggie, who has passed away at the age of 75, was fundamental to the creation of a long-overdue reassessment of the relationship between businesses and human rights law.

Overcoming years of divisive debate, the endorsement of the ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework in 2008 created a conceptual framework for the human rights responsibilities of businesses and how these relate to state obligations.

John Ruggie then embarked on the development the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to operationalize this framework. By tirelessly consulting with an array of stakeholders, he gained the necessary support to make what became known as the “Ruggie Principles” a globally accepted standard.

John Ruggie worked for years on their promotion and for businesses to change their behaviour in line with the principles. Amnesty International and many other NGOs continue to use the “Ruggie Principles” as a benchmark to ensure companies respect human rights and to hold them to account when they do not. Professor Ruggie’s profound expertise and long-standing engagement in business and human rights – a field he helped create – will be sorely missed.