

G20: Hundreds of civil society organizations pledge to avoid Saudi Arabia-led process

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24 March 2020 – More than 220 civil society organizations from around the world have voiced their concerns over the G20 civil society engagement process hosted by and in Saudi Arabia in 2020. The organizations have pledged not to participate in this year's process, known as the Civil 20 or 'C20', the dedicated stream of meetings for civil society within the G20.

The organisations endorsed a [statement](#), originally published in January 2020, that reads in part:

“Instead of real reform, the Saudi government has been trying to whitewash its dire human rights record by holding major international events in the country. This includes the G20 and – through a government-authorized NGO – the C20. As leading civil society organisations present in most countries around the world (but notably not Saudi Arabia), we cannot participate in a process that seeks to give international legitimacy to a state that provides virtually no space for civil society, and where independent civil society voices are not tolerated.”

Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International, said: “Civil society offers the G20 independent, expert policy recommendations to promote sustainable development and improve the lives of billions of people. The G20 must be serious about ensuring an effective civil society engagement where all independent voices have equal standing. We continue to work with our partners to find ways of bringing this expertise to the G20, but will not participate in a process that seeks to launder Saudi Arabia's appalling record on human rights and independent civil society.”

Netsanet Belay, Amnesty International's Director of Research and Advocacy, said: “It's high time for the Saudi Arabian authorities to take meaningful steps to end arbitrary arrests, torture, and unfair trials, and to end its widespread resort to the death penalty. We hope that the dozens of human rights defenders and women's rights activists behind bars - such as Waleed Abu al-Khair, Loujain al-Hathloul, Raif Badawi, Samar Badawi and Naseema al-Sada - gain strength from this act of solidarity by so many organizations worldwide who are not prepared to allow Saudi Arabia's appalling human rights record to be whitewashed. Even better would be their immediate and unconditional release so that they can engage meaningfully with their government on developing human rights compliant laws and policies at home and abroad – including in relation to the G20”.

Lysa John, Secretary General, CIVICUS, stated “The Saudi authorities have made it virtually impossible for human rights defenders and civil society organisations to operate. Saudi Arabia does not tolerate freedom of speech and scores of human rights defenders and activists are in jail or exile. We refuse to engage in the Saudi-led C20 because we believe that activists and independent civil society organisations will not be able to freely participate in this process.”

List of organizations endorsing the statement as of 20th March 2020:

A Common Future	Cameroon
Association Catholique pour la Protection de l'Environnement au Burundi (ACAPE BURUNDI)	Burundi
Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR)	Lebanon
Action for Pastoralists Integrated Resilience	Kenya
Adilisha Child, Youth Development and Family Preservation	Tanzania
Advance Center for Peace and Credibility International	Nigeria
Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD)	Georgia
Africa Rise Foundation	Zimbabwe
African Youth Peer Review Committee (AYPRC)	Liberia
African Youth Union Commission	Nigeria
Association Aide aux Familles et Victimes des Migrations Clandestines (AFVMC)	Cameroon
Association pour l'Integration et le Developpement Durable au Burundi (AIDB Burundi)	Burundi
Alcondoms Cameroun	Cameroon
Alliance des Défenseurs des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement au Tchad	Chad
ALQST	UK
AL-Shafaa Organisation	Iraq
Amagugu International Heritage Center	Zimbabwe
Angels in the Field	India
Anqad Association for Development and Social Welfare	Morocco
Ark Wellness Hub Uganda	Uganda
Action pour le Respect et la Protection de l'Environnement (ARPE)	Cameroon
Asociacion Alfalit Guatemala	Guatemala
Aspafrique-Jics	Switzerland
Association Sauvons la vie, de l'eau potable pour tous (ASSAUVET)	Cameroon
Association de Lutte contre le Chomage et la Torture (ALUCHOTO)	Burundi
Association des Amis de la Nature	Burundi
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development	India
Association les Amis du Verbe	Morocco
Association of the Prodigy Youth for the Sustainable Development	Central African Republic
Association of Working Children and Youths	Benin
Aware Girls	Pakistan
Bina Foundation	Nigeria
Bonabo United	Cameroon
BRIDGE Foundation	Bangladesh
Brother's Keeper	Nigeria
Bunjakko Modern Farm Limited	Uganda
Bureau d'Informations, Formations, Échanges et Recherches pour le Développement (BIFERD)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Egypt
Calvin Ong'era	Kenya
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Canada
Canadian Council for International Co-operation	Canada
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada
Center for Constitutional Governance	USA
Center for Development of Civil Society	Armenia

Centre for Law and Democracy	Canada
Centre de Recherche sur l'Anticorruption	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Centre for Legal Support	Gambia
Centre for Media and Development Communication (CEMEDEC)	Nigeria
Centre for Social Policy Development	Pakistan
Community Initiative for Social Empowerment (CISE)	Malawi
Children on the Edge	UK
Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic	Canada
Civil Society in Development (CISU)	Denmark
Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)	Kenya
Coalition in Defence of Nigerian Democracy and Constitution	Nigeria
Coalition of Youth Organizations (SEGA)	Macedonia
Collectif de Développement et Respect de la Dignité Humaine (CODDHU)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
CODENET	Cameroon
Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)	Cambodia
Commonwealth Society of Nigeria	Nigeria
Community Health Education Sports Initiative Zambia	Zambia
Community Youth Initiatives Liberia Inc	Liberia
Consultando Soluciones REcosrec	Venezuela
Coalition d'organisations volontaires et solidaires pour des actions de développement communautaire (COSAD)	Benin
Corruption Watch	South Africa
Curtis Business	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Democracy Without Borders	Germany
Denis Miki Foundation	Cameroon
Dhankuta Municipality	Nepal
Diálogo de Mujeres por la Democracia	Nicaragua
Dominion Empowerment Solutions	Kenya
Dytech - OutGrow It	Zambia
Edutech for Africa	Nigeria
EnlacesXSustentabilidad	El Salvador
Enoch Adeyemi Foundation	Nigeria
Equality Now	USA
Fédération Internationale des Entrepreneurs et ou Etudiants Africains d'Affaires (FIEAA)	Guinea
Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés (FCPEEP)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Fellowship for Community Enlightenment (FCE)	Uganda
Federación Nacional de Personerías de Colombia (FENALPER)	Colombia
FINESTE	Haiti
Focus Youth Forum (FYF)	Uganda
Freedom Now	USA
Fund Our Future	South Africa
Fundación Integral para el Desarrollo Regional (FINDER)	El Salvador

Fundación Selva Sagrada	Ecuador
Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS)	Argentina
<i>Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana</i>	Panamá
Futur Radieux	Togo
Gatef Organization	Egypt
Geospatial Organization	Tanzania
Germany Zimbabwe Forum	Germany
Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organisations in Development	Ghana
Give Hope Uganda	Uganda
Global Network for Sustainable Development	Nigeria
Global Witness	UK
Global Shapers Castries Hub	Saint Lucia
Globalpeace Chain	Kenya
Gram Bharati Samiti	India
Gulf Centre for Human Rights	Middle East
Gutu United Residents and Ratepayers Association (GURRA)	Zimbabwe
HAKI Africa	Kenya
Hands of External Love Program	Liberia
Hannibal Entertainment Visual Studio Production	Nigeria
Hitesh BHATT	India
HOPE Worldwide-Pakistan	New Zealand
Human Rights First	International
Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa	Canada
Human Rights Watch	USA
Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD)	Uruguay
India Media Centre	India
Individual	Pakistan
Initiative de Gestion Civile des Crises (IGC)	Burundi
Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution	Nigeria
Instituto para el Futuro Común Amerindio (IFCA)	Honduras
International Center for Accelerated Development	Nigeria
International Development Opportunity Initiative	Ghana
International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA Nigeria	Nigeria
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)	Switzerland
International Student Environmental Coalition	Cameroon
Interregional Public Charitable Organization of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Sail of Hope	
Jeunesse Assistance	Russia
Justice Access Point	Niger
Justice Initiative for the Disadvantaged and Oppressed Persons (JIDOP)	Uganda
JVBC	Nigeria
Key populations Uganda	United States of America
Konstitusiya Arasdirmalar Fondu	Uganda
Vulnerable People's Development Organization (KOTHOWAIN)	Azerbaijan
Kurdistan Without Genocide	Bangladesh
	Iraq

Kuza Livelihood Improvement Projects	Kenya
Laxman Belbase - Individual	Nepal
The Lesbians, Gays & Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO)	Botswana
Leila Oguntayo	Tunisia
Liberia Media Center	Liberia
Local Communities Development Initiative	Nigeria
Makerere University Uganda	Uganda
Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition	Malawi
Mama Leah Foundation	Kenya
Moabite Indigenous Nation Trust	United States of America
Morya Samajik Pratishthan	India
Mother of Hope Cameroon (MOHCAM)	Cameroon
Mzimba Youth Organization	Malawi
Narayana	India
National Sudanese Women Association	Sudan
Network of Estonian Non-profit Organizations	Estonia
New Owerri Youth Organisation	Nigeria
Nobel Women's Initiative	Canada
One More Salary	Tanzania
ONG Les Batisseurs	United States of America
Organization of the Justice Campaign	Iraq
ORUD	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network	Fiji
Pakistan NGOs Forum	Pakistan
Palestinian Center for Communication and Development Strategies	Palestine
Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA)	Palestine
Parent-Child Intervention Centre	Nigeria
Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN)	Bangladesh
Peaceful and Active Centre for Humanity (PEACH)	Pakistan
PEN International	UK
Primadent Initiative for Oral Health	Nigeria
Public Organization Youth House	Tajikistan
Rainbow Pride Foundation	Fiji
Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Real Agenda For Youth Transformation	Zimbabwe
Red Global de Acción Juvenil (GYAN)	Mexico
Richard Bennett	United Kingdom
Rural Initiatives in Sustainability & Empowerment (RISE)	Pakistan
Rideau Institute	Canada
Rising Generation for Youth Organization	Nigeria
Réseau Nigérien des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (RNDDH)	Niger
Role Model Zambia	Zambia
Sauti ya Haki Tanzania	Tanzania
Self	Norway

Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care	Zimbabwe
Sierra Leone School Green Clubs	Sierra Leone
Social Watch Benin	Benin
Society for Development and Research	Pakistan
Society for Rural Women and Youth Development	Nigeria
South Sudan Community Change Agency	South Sudan
Street Youth Connection Sierra Leone (SYC-SL)	Sierra Leone
Success Capital Organisation	Botswana
Sudda Changing Lives Foundation	Ghana
Synergy of experts on environment and sustainable development	Burkina Faso
TATU Project	Tanzania
Human Rights Defenders Network (ACPDH)	Burundi
The Rock Shalom	Kenya
	Democratic Republic of the Congo
The Social Science Centre for African Development (KUTAFITI)	Sweden
The Young Republic	UK
The Tax Justice Network	South Africa
The Youth Voice of SA	Nigeria
Tochukwu Anyadike	Australia
Transparency International Australia	Bangladesh
Transparency International Bangladesh	Colombia
Transparencia por Colombia	Belgium
Transparency International EU	Kazakhstan
Transparency International Kazakhstan	Uganda
Transparency International Uganda	Ukraine
Transparency International Ukraine	Pakistan
Transparency International Pakistan	Haiti
Union des Frères pour Alternatif du Développement Intégré (UFADI)	Uganda
Uganda Youth Guidance and Development Association	Nigeria
Ugonma Foundation	Nigeria
Ukana West 2 Community Based Health Initiative	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Union for the Promotion, Defense of Human Rights and the Environment-UPDDHE.GL	Vanuatu
Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisation	India
VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM - The World is One Family	Togo
Veille Citoyenne	Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Liberia
Vijana Hope	Zambia
Volunteers Hub Liberia	Somalia
Volunteers Welfare for Community Based Care of Zambia (VOWAZA)	Cameroon
WDC Somalia	Kenya
We Lead Intergrated Foundation	Liberia
Women Empowerment Group (WEG)	United States of America
Women United to Fight Sexual Violence in Liberia (WOUFSVIL)	Sierra Leone
Women's March Global	Ghana
World Youth Union SL	
WorldEat	

WORLDLITE

Yole Africa

Young League Pakistan

Youth Advocates for Change

Youth For Change

Youth for Development Network

Youth For Environment Education And Development Foundation (YFEED
Foundation)

Youth for Future 2006

Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana

Youth Leadership Initiative for Social Justice

YOUTH AID

Zambian Governance Foundation for Civil Society

Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition

Cote D'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of the

Congo

Pakistan

Zambia

Nigeria

Liberia

Nepal

Romania

Ghana

Nigeria

Liberia

Zambia

Zimbabwe