

**AMNESTY
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Human Rights Defenders Available for Interview

Human Rights Defenders are people who fight for human rights around the world, often at great personal risk. Below are details of Defenders from each region who are happy to talk about their experiences and what the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights means to them.

AFRICA: patricknaagbantonyahoo.ca +234 (0)803 336 7823

Nigeria: Patrick Barigbalo Naagbantonyahoo.ca was repeatedly arrested and harassed for his human rights work while Nigeria was under military rule. He currently coordinates the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) in the Niger Delta, working on behalf of victims of human rights violations, and campaigns against unregulated arms trade. He originally trained as journalist before working as trade unionist. Elected as chairman of the workers union, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), he was fired for campaigning for improvement of working conditions. Languages: English.

AMERICAS: abel.barrera@tlachinollan.org (52.757) 476.1220/1200

Mexico: Abel Barrera Hernández is an outspoken critic of human rights violations by civil and military authorities in Mexico, who has been subject to serious harassment and threats. He founded the Tlachinollan Human Rights Center in Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero, Mexico in order to provide human rights education and legal assistance to the Nuaa, Me'phaa, Mixteco and Amuzgo indigenous peoples. Languages: Spanish.

ASIA: somchai@hrdfoundation.org +66 81 899 5476

Thailand: Somchai Homlaor has been detained and forced into exile during his years defending human rights. He has founded, led or been a prominent member of nearly every major human rights organization and movement in Thailand over the last 25 years. He is currently President of Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCF), focusing on armed conflict between Muslim militants and largely Buddhist security forces and civilians in southern Thailand. Languages: Thai and English.

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA: +49 163 265 94 32 (Europe) +99873 235 05 99 (home) +998 90 303 42 99 (mobile)

Uzbekistan: Mutabar Tadzhibaeva was recently recognized for her outstanding human rights work and received the 2008 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders. She was allowed to travel abroad to receive the award after being released from prison, having served three of her original eight year sentence, for her outspoken criticism of the Uzbek government over the 2005 massacre of Andizhan, where hundreds of unarmed civilians were killed and wounded. She has long helped ordinary people to find justice, monitored trials and publicized their findings. Languages: Russian and Uzbek.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: raji@pchrgaza.org or pchr@pchrgaza.org
Tel/Fax +972 8 2824-776 or +972 8 2825-893

Gaza: Raji Sourani has been detained by both the Israel Defence Forces and the Palestinian Authorities, and has been subject to harassment and threats, but has remained adamant in defending human rights. He is a lawyer and one of the foremost human rights defenders in the

Gaza Strip. He is the founder of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, which documents and campaigns against human rights abuses committed by all parties, Israelis and Palestinians, in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Languages: Arabic and English.