

## **Indipendent expert in the field of cultural rights**

### **Submission of information and individual complaints**

In the framework of his/her mandate, the Special Rapporteur receives information on alleged violations of the right to food. To the limit of its available resources, he/she may accordingly write to the concerned government, either jointly with other special procedure mandate-holders or independently, inviting comment on the allegation, seeking clarification, reminding the Government of its obligations under international law and requesting information, where relevant, on steps being taken by the authorities to redress the situation in question. The Special Rapporteur urges all Parties to respond promptly to his/her communications and to take all steps necessary to redress situations involving the violation of the right to food.

Communications of the Special Rapporteur can take various forms including:

- a) **Urgent appeals** which are used in cases where the alleged violations are time-sensitive in terms of involving loss of life, life-threatening situations or either imminent or ongoing damage of a very grave nature to victims that cannot be addressed in a timely manner by the procedure of allegation letters.
- b) **Allegation letters** which are used to communicate information about violations that are said to have already occurred or in cases not covered by urgent appeals.

### **Submitting Individual Complaints**

In order for a complaint to be assessed, the following information is needed:

- **Who is the alleged victim(s) (individual(s), community, group, etc.);**
- **Who is the alleged perpetrator(s) of the violation;**  
Please provide substantiated information on all the actors involved, including non-state actors if relevant.
- **Identification of the person(s) or organization(s) submitting the communication (this information will be kept confidential);**  
As a general rule, the identity of the source of information on the alleged violation is always kept confidential. When submitting information please indicate whether there are any of the submitted information which you would like to remain confidential.
- **Date, place and detailed description of the circumstances of the incident(s) or the violation;**

The information submitted can refer to violations that are said to have already occurred, that are ongoing or about to occur. Information should include the legal remedies, if any, taken at the national level or regional level, and any other relevant information on the various aspects of the case.

As a general rule, communications that contain abusive language or that are obviously politically motivated are not considered. Communications should describe the facts of the incident and the relevant details referred to above clearly and concisely. The information should be submitted by any person or group of persons claiming to be victim of violations and/or to have direct or reliable knowledge of those violations. The Special Rapporteur is open to receiving communications under any format (he has not yet developed a model questionnaire).

A complaint can be submitted by:  
E-mail: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)  
Fax: +41 22 917 90 06  
or Postal mail: OHCHR-UNOG  
8-14 Avenue de la Paix  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

### **Follow-up**