



The Law Society
of England and Wales

The Law Society Intervention Tracker

January - December 2017

The Law Society's Lawyers at Risk programme supports lawyers and human rights defenders who are hindered from carrying out their professional duties because of threats, intimidation, disciplinary measures, disappearances, assassination attempts or murder. We send intervention letters to State authorities highlighting individual cases of lawyers and human rights defenders under threat. We also undertake preventative work to improve lawyers' and human rights defenders' safety before national and international bodies. Through our work, we aim to address the structural causes that give rise to such threats. In addition to the intervention letters, in 2017 the Law Society of England and Wales has undertaken substantial drafting (e.g. UPRs, Amicus Curiae briefs, etc.) and advocacy work in Cameroon, Turkey, Guatemala and Colombia.

The Law Society has developed the Intervention Tracker to monitor the situation of lawyers in different countries as well as to identify trends to tailor our interventions. This is a database in which all information relating to the intervention letters is compiled and disaggregated using a series of factors that, among others, include: country, type of violation, facts of the case, and the lawyer or human rights defender involved. The Intervention Tracker is also used to facilitate the effective follow-up to each intervention sent by the Law Society and to annually publish information.

The Law Society launched its first Intervention Tracker in March 2017 at the UN side event, at the UN headquarters in Geneva. The tracker showed data compiled on intervention letters for 2016, when we sent 28 intervention letters relating to 18 countries. In 2016, the highest number of letters were sent to countries in the Middle East and North Africa (29 %), followed by Turkey (14 %), Sub-Saharan Africa (14 %) and the Americas (14 %). The highest percentage of human rights violations addressed in these letters concerned arbitrary detentions (40 %) and assassinations (20 %).

In 2017, the Law Society sent **19 intervention letters** relating to **12 countries**. The highest number of letters sent in 2017 were addressed to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (31.5 %), followed by Europe (21 %) and Americas (15 %). In the same year, the highest percentage of human rights violations addressed in all intervention letters concerned **arrest or detention** (42 %) and **harassment or threats** (21 %) against lawyers or human rights defenders.

Human rights violations are committed against lawyers and human rights defenders worldwide. The map that we have developed (see reverse) indicates the countries where the Law Society sent intervention letters for the period January to December 2017. Please note that these figures do not reflect the threats, intimidations, and murders carried out against lawyers in 2017 worldwide. These figures are illustrative of the Law Society's work in support of lawyers and human rights defenders in foreign jurisdictions, where we intervened according to the severity or relevance of the cases.





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