



Human Rights update

October 2017

Connect with us



International human rights

Documents and submissions

UPR Cameroon

On 3 October the Law Society made a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submission to the United Nations for the 30th Human Rights Council session in May 2018, at which the UPR of Cameroon will take place. The submission focused on:

- the lack of implementation by Cameroon of recommendations made during previous UPR cycles
- the exercise of military jurisdiction over civilians
- deficiencies in Law No 2014/028 of 23 December 2014 on the Suppression of Acts of Terrorism.

[> Read the text of the submission](#)

Trial observation report Cameroon

Following a visit to Cameroon, the Law Society published a trial observation report. The report describes the circumstances of the hearing on 27 April in the case of Felix Agbor Balla and others and describes the human rights violations recorded.

[> Download the report \(English and French\) and a summary \(English\)](#)

Events

In conversation with Diego García-Sayán: the independence of judges and lawyers - 23 November, London

UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers Diego Garcia-Sayán will be our keynote speaker at this Law Society event, compered by Dr Marina Brillman (international human rights adviser at the Law Society) and introduced by the Law Society's vice-president Christina Blacklaws. The topic for discussion will be the independence of the legal profession and the obstacles encountered in different jurisdictions around the world. Diego Garcia-Sayán will also be discussing the objectives of his mandate.

[> More information and registration](#)

International Action Team training - 6 December

This is a repeat of the training given on 22 June and will focus on the basics of international human rights law and different methods of intervention. It's open only to IAT members, who will receive registration details by email.

Interventions

Poland: We sent a letter regarding threats to the independence of the judiciary in Poland, after the Polish parliament approved legislation that would restrict judicial independence by relegating certain matters to the legislative and executive powers.

Turkey: We sent a letter regarding the arrest and continued detention, some in solitary confinement, of nine human rights defenders, including the director and chair of Amnesty International Turkey.

Tanzania: The Law Society, together with the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the Bar Council, sent a letter on the arrests and shooting of the president of the Tanganyika Law Society.

Cameroon: We sent letters in February and April on the arrest, prolonged pre-trial detention, and prosecution before a military tribunal of the lawyer Felix Agbor Balla, deputy attorney-general of the Supreme Court Paul Ayah Abine, and others. The detained have since been released, and we sent a letter welcoming this release, but also focusing on the continued detention of others.

Ethiopia: The Law Society, together with the Bar Council, sent a letter regarding the ongoing detention on death row and violation of fair trial guarantees in the case of a UK national who is being held in Ethiopia.

[> See all interventions](#)

UK Human rights

Podcasts

- [Nick Howard talking about the Welsh Government and human rights](#)
- [Alastair Logan reflecting on his career as a human rights advocate](#)
- [Professor Laurent Pech and Dr Joelle Grogan on the constitutional implications of Brexit](#)

