

## **Attachment 2**

Selection of photos and publications of the demonstrations and events that were organised around the world on the 10th Day of the Endangered Lawyer

# DAY OF THE ENDANGERED LAWYER 2020

## Endangered Lawyers in Pakistan

*Giornata dell'avvocato minacciato*

लुप्तप्राय वकील दिवस

يوم المحامي المهدد

Ημέρα του Δικηγόρου που Κινδυνεύει



受迫害律師日

*Journée des avocats en danger*

Tehlikedeki avukatlar günü

ਸੰਕਟਮਈ ਵਕੀਲ ਦਾ ਦਿਨ

*El Día del Abogado Amenazado*

TAG DER BEDROHTEN ANWÄLTE



## DAY OF THE ENDANGERED LAWYER 2020: PAKISTAN

### WHY SUCH A DAY?

Since 2009, the European Democratic Lawyers' Association has been organizing, in collaboration with the "Day of the Endangered Lawyer" Foundation and other lawyers' and bar associations, each year, the Day of the Endangered Lawyer in as many cities, countries and continents as possible.

The purpose of this international day is to focus the attention of civil society and public authorities on the situation of lawyers in a particular country in order to

raise awareness of the threats faced by lawyers in the exercise of their profession.

After the situation of lawyers in Iran, Turkey, the Philippines, the Basque Country, Honduras, China and Egypt, the Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020 will be dedicated to the situation of lawyers in Pakistan. It will be dedicated to Pakistani lawyers to testify to the seriousness of the situation in that country.

### HOW MANY LAWYERS ARE THREATENED IN THE WORLD?

There is currently no real official estimate of the number of lawyers in serious danger in the world. Yet, almost every day, lawyers are murdered, threatened, arrested, tortured, prosecuted – or simply disappeared – for the simple fact of doing their job.

Among the most dangerous countries for lawyers, today are China, Iran, Honduras, the Philippines, Colombia, Mexico and Pakistan.

### WHICH CATEGORIES OF LAWYERS ARE MOST AT RISK?

The most threatened lawyers are those who defend cases that may be considered sensitive in a given country. "Sensitive" cases vary from one country to another, but there are nevertheless some constants such as the defense of journalists and bloggers, expropriation cases, the defense of human rights defenders, political opponents, trade unionists or the

defense of victims of torture by the State authorities. After journalists, the legal profession is often considered to be the most threatened profession. Of course, lawyers who combine activist and human rights activities with the legal profession are doubly at risk.

### WHAT TYPES OF THREATS ARE USED AGAINST LAWYERS?

First, there are direct physical retaliation measures: murder, kidnapping, imprisonment.

Honduras and Mexico are undoubtedly at the top of the countries where lawyers are murdered the most. But we must not forget Peru, Panama, the Philippines and Pakistan. In the city of Quetta, Pakistan, on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a bomb destroyed the bar killing 70 lawyers gathered outside the hospital after the murder of their President a few hours earlier. In total, some 150 of Baluchistan's 280 lawyers were killed or

wounded on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 in Quetta. The Baluchistan Bar Association was awarded a special mention by the 2017 jury of the Ludovic Trarieux Prize for its action and suffering in the service of human rights.

Violence against lawyers can extend to psychiatric hospitalization.

There are also more subtle retaliatory measures such as the use of disciplinary procedures with the permanent threat of disbarment. This is the





experience of our Chinese colleagues whose license to practice is questioned every year. Many Chinese human rights lawyers who are not imprisoned are then simply denied the right to practice. The ultimate weapon against a disturbing lawyer is to make him a common law prisoner.

Prosecutions for tax fraud, corruption and extortion are often used because they allow for serious convictions.

Lawyers working on sensitive cases are also sometimes under such pressure from the authorities

that they lose all profitable clients and then face intense economic pressure.

There are also all the insidious obstacles to the lawyer's practice when lawyers are prevented from interviewing, communicating, visiting clients or when their office and communications are searched.

Nor should we forget the argument of the fight against terrorism, which affects all countries, even those whose rights of defense seemed deeply implanted.

## WHICH TEXTS TO PROTECT THEM?

There are many national and international legal instruments recalling the essential role of lawyers, particularly through the right to a fair trial. But it was only after the adoption of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana from Augusts 27<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> of 1990, that the lawyer became known as an "essential agent in the administration of justice". These principles are intended to guide Member States so that lawyers can carry out their work independently. These Basic Principles on the

Role of Lawyers are still the only international text that protects the founding principles of the profession, in particular independence, confidentiality, freedom of expression and the vital distinction between lawyers and their clients or cases. Unfortunately, these do not yet, or not always, provide real protection for many lawyers around the world.

There is also a Special procedure at the United Nations to protect lawyers, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of Judges and Lawyers.

## HOW TO PROTECT LAWYERS?

The first line of protection for lawyers is to be able to count on the support of an independent bar. The independence of the bar is a linchpin of the protection of the Rule of Law and human rights.

Identifying threatened lawyers around the world, listing them and carefully monitoring their situation and the threats they face is a necessary vigilance that we must all exercise.

This helps to attract international attention when necessary. It is essential that law societies and bar associations around the world can work together to

share information and join forces to defend those colleagues who need it most.

For this reason, the Paris bar (France), the Conseil National des barreaux (France), the Consejo General de la Abogacía Española (Spain) and the Consiglio Nazionale Forense (Italy) have decided to be founding members of the International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger in order to constantly monitor the situation of lawyers threatened in the world because of the legitimate exercise of their profession and to assist lawyers whose life, freedom or professional practice are threatened.





 [hrcp-web.org](http://hrcp-web.org)

## HRCP | Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

Afbeeldingen kunnen auteursrechtelijk beschermd zijn. Meer informatie



*Islamabad*



## Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

### Invite Day of the Endangered Lawyer: Threats to lawyers in Pakistan

Dear sir/madam,

You are cordially invited to attend a discussion to share ideas to counter threats to lawyers on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Friday) between 11am-1pm (sharp) at **HRCP Secretariat, 107-Tipu Block, New Garden Town, Lahore.**

The discussion is being held in connection with the **Day of the Endangered Lawyer**. The year 2020 is the tenth year of the *Day of the Endangered Lawyer*. The focus this year is on Pakistan.

It has been observed that Pakistani lawyers who take up cases of difficult nature have to face harassment by the state as well as non-state actors. We hope to discuss the nature of threats to lawyers who defend human rights as well as the ways and means to collectively counter such threats. Your experience and insight will enrich the discussion and help us find a way forward.

We also aim to make recommendations to eliminate the threats posed to lawyers. Members of civil society organisations, bar councils and associations as well as the government are expected to attend the discussion. The format of discussion will be roundtable.

We regret the short notice for the event. However, we hope that you will be able to spare time to share your valuable thoughts. Kindly confirm your participation to Mr. Asad Jamal, advocate, at [asadjamal.aba@gmail.com](mailto:asadjamal.aba@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Best regards,

**Harris Khalique**  
Secretary-General

.....  
Aiwan-i-Jamhoor, 107-Tipu Block, New Garden Town, Lahore-54600

■ Tel: (92-42) 35838341, 35864994, 35869969

■ Complaint Cell: (92-42) 35845969 or 0333-2006800 ■ Fax: (92-42) 35883582

■ E-Mail: [hrcp@hrcp-web.org](mailto:hrcp@hrcp-web.org) ■ Website: [www.hrcp-web.org](http://www.hrcp-web.org)  
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# CCBE/Info

The newsletter of European Lawyers

ISSUE :

November - December 2019

# #85

## SPECIAL FOCUS HUMAN RIGHTS : *Threats to the Legal Profession*

### Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020:

*Focus on Pakistan*

The tenth annual Day of the Endangered Lawyer, on 24 January, 2020, will focus on Pakistan. Over the past several years lawyers in Pakistan have been subjected to acts of mass terrorism, murder, attempted murder, assaults, (death) threats, contempt proceedings, harassment and intimidation in the execution of their professional duties. They have also been arrested, detained or tortured, and, in some cases, the family members of murdered lawyers have also been murdered. Some lawyers have been threatened with disbarment or had their homes raided by the police. Sometimes christian lawyers or members of minority sects have been assaulted or threatened with death. The most notorious attack on Pakistani lawyers occurred on 8 August, 2016 when terrorists attacked the Government Hospital of Quetta with a suicide bombing and shooting which resulted in the death of 54 lawyers : <https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/tag/pakistan/>

Since then there has been an alarming increase in the number of lawyers murdered, with nine reported over the past year.

Four organisations are particularly involved in the preparation of this event: The Foundation Day of the Endangered Lawyer, the Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers (IAPL), the European Democratic Lawyers (ELD) and the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights (ELDH) with the support of several Bars and Law Societies and other lawyers' organisations such as the CCBE.

A report on the situation of lawyers in Pakistan is available [here](#).



**KEEP YOUR HANDS**

**OFF THE LAWYERS**





ANTALYA



# İZMİR







İSTANBUL



As for this year action, here is what the Geneva bar did:

- I went on Geneva local TV to speak about the day:  
<http://www.lemanbleu.ch/replay/video.html?VideoID=40400>
- We organised an interview of Saif Ul-Malook on Swiss radio: <https://www.rts.ch/play/radio/tout-un-monde/audio/de-la-liberte-et-de-letat-de-droit-au-pakistan-interview-de-saif-ul-malook?id=11020122>

Best wishes,

Sandrine

Sandrine GIROUD  
Partner  
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LALIVE business continuity plan

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BRUSSELS



January 23, 2020

## Statement of ABA President Judy Perry Martinez Re: International Day of the Endangered Lawyer

Share this:



WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2020 – Tomorrow, the American Bar Association marks the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer. The day recognizes the lawyers and legal professionals who ensure that governments around the world honor the rule of law and fundamental principles of human rights in their countries.

The international legal community in the past year has documented a variety of attacks on independent lawyers and legal professionals who are working to promote the rule of law and the basic rights of the most vulnerable members of their societies in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Turkey, Poland and elsewhere. The U.N. Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers establishes that lawyers are entitled to practice their profession without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference. Yet these legal professionals have faced threats, retaliatory disciplinary proceedings, frivolous criminal charges and surveillance.

The ABA confirms its commitment to the U.N. Principles and calls on all legal professionals to support the brave prosecutors, judges and lawyers who dedicate themselves at great personal cost to defending human rights around the world.



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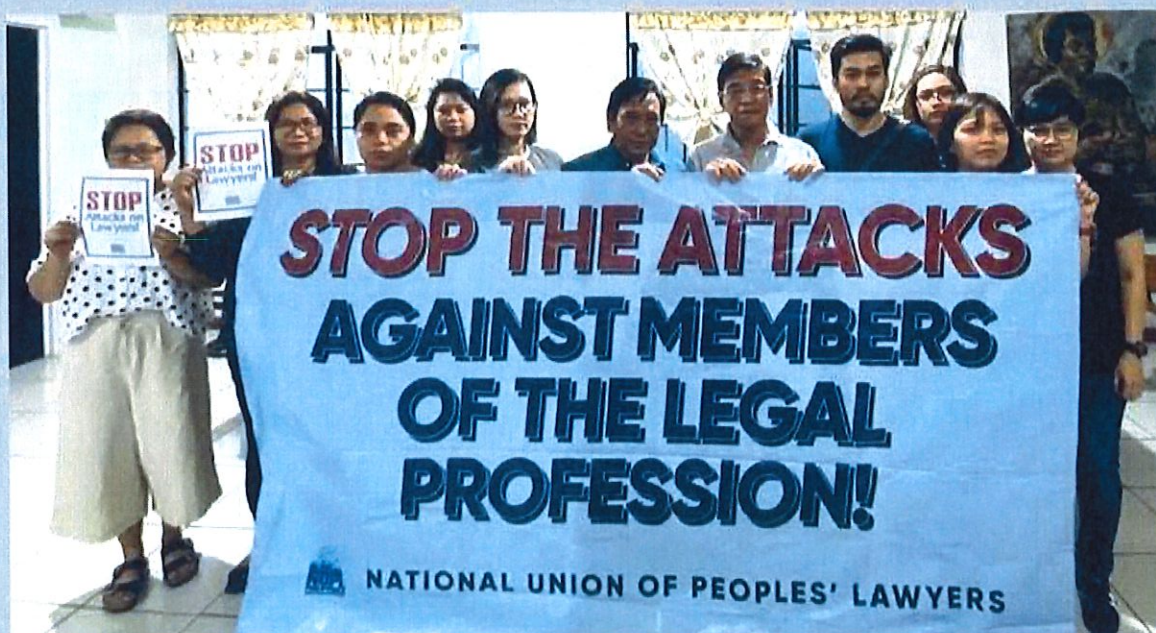
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BERLIN







The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), a nationwide association of human rights lawyers, students, and legal workers committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, stands in solidarity with Pakistan lawyers in the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Day of the Endangered Lawyer and in their struggle for attaining justice and demanding accountability in the numerous cases of silencing, harassment, attempted murder and murder against Pakistan lawyers.

The most notorious attack on Pakistan lawyers occurred on August 8, 2016 when a suspected suicide bomber and shooter attacked the Government Hospital of Quetta leading to the death of 56 lawyers who were visiting a colleague. Until now, the Government of Pakistan has failed to identify and punish the perpetrators due to the lack of an effective and comprehensive investigation.

It has also been a great cause of concern that Pakistan lawyers have been targeted because of the clients that they represent. The Pakistan Penal Code criminalizes blasphemy against any organized religion with a punishment ranging from fine to death and the people accused of this have been killed before their trials, which has also exposed their lawyers to similar threats. One of the most prominent case is that of Saif ul-Malool who was targeted with death threats after obtaining an acquittal on appeal for his client who had been on death row since 2010 for her conviction of blasphemy. At least 21 lawyers have been killed since February 2018 in Pakistan and there are many other instances of attempted murder against lawyers.

This is reminiscent of what is happening in the Philippines. From July 2016, at least 45 Filipino lawyers who have been killed under the Duterte administration. Peoples' lawyers have been vilified and red-tagged by state agents because of the advocacies that they carry and the clients they represent. They have been subjected to surveillance by suspected state agents; others face trumped up charges. Judges, prosecutors and lawyers have received death threats because they chose to side with the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized.

We are one with Pakistan lawyers in their demands to the Government and the Parliament of Pakistan for accountability in their failure to serve justice and for measures to ensure that lawyers can carry out their duties without fear of attacks: of the conduct of effective and swift investigations of all attacks committed against lawyers and measures preventing and punishing vigilantism against lawyers.



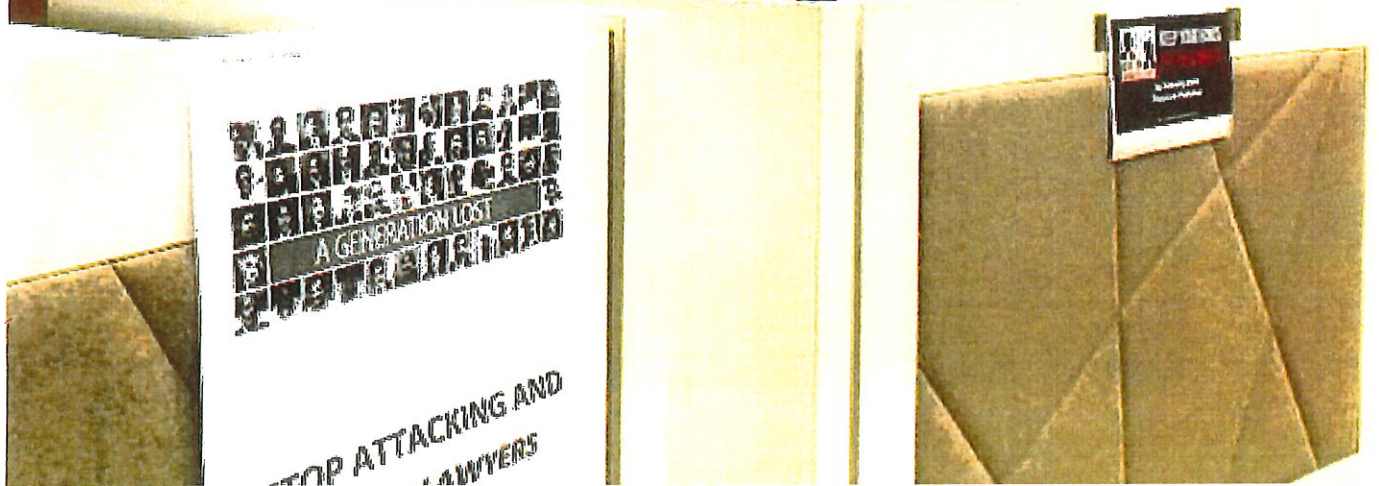
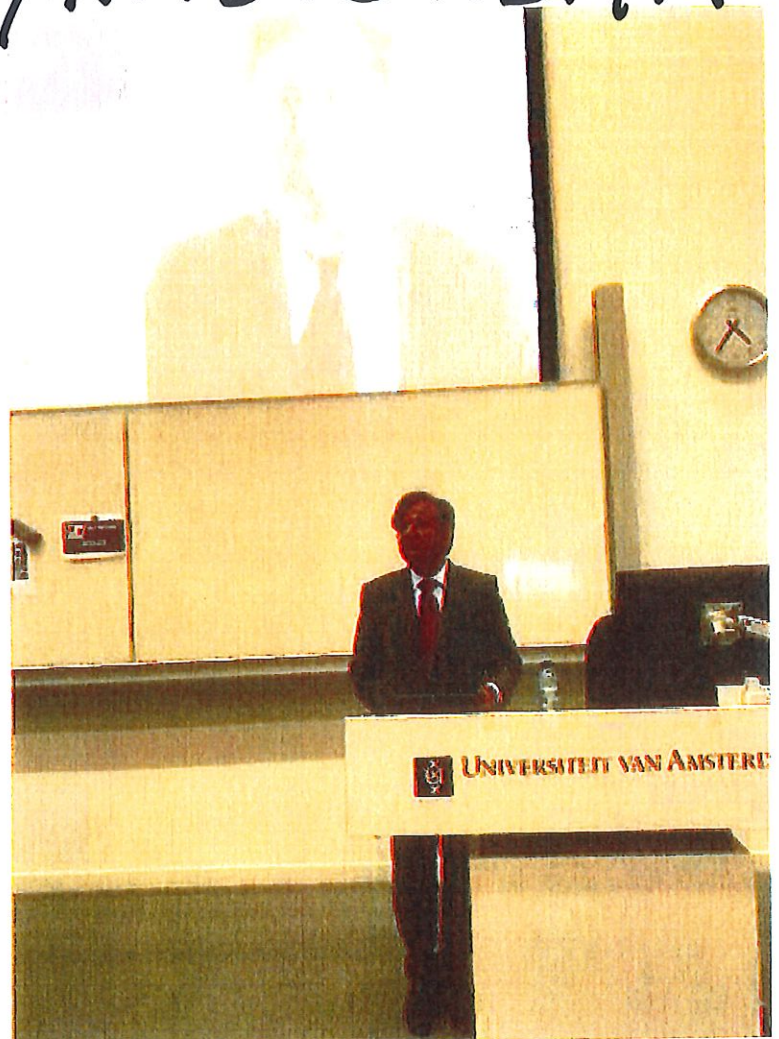


**KEEP YOUR HANDS**  
**OFF PAKISTANI LAWYERS**  
**AED-ATHENS**





# THE HAGUE / AMSTERDAM





# THE HAGUE







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NEW ZEALAND  
LAW SOCIETY

## Pakistan the focus of 2020 Day of Endangered Lawyer

17 July 2019

The tenth annual Day of the Endangered Lawyer will focus on Pakistan, on 24 January 2020.

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer foundation (<http://dayoftheendangeredlawyer.eu>) is based in the Netherlands. It has developed a wide range of activities around the world on 24 January to raise awareness of lawyers who are being harassed, silenced, persecuted, threatened, threatened, persecuted, tortured and murdered for their work as lawyers.

The day is commemorated on 24 January because on 24 January 1977 four lawyers and a coworker were murdered at their place of work in Madrid, Spain.

Of the perpetrators, who were affiliated with extreme right-wing parties and organizations, one was sentenced to 15 years in prison, another fled to Brazil and the third ended up in jail in Bolivia for drug smuggling.

The focus in 2019 has been on Turkey, with Egypt chosen for 2018.

Information released by the organisers says that over the past several years lawyers in Pakistan have been subjected to acts of mass terrorism, murder, attempted murder, assaults, (death) threats, contempt proceedings, harassment and intimidation in the execution of their professional duties.

"They have also been arrested, detained or tortured, and in some cases the family members of the murdered lawyer have also been murdered. Some lawyers have been threatened with disbarment or had their homes raided by the police. Sometimes Christian lawyers or members of minority sects have been assaulted or threatened with death."

The most notorious attack on Pakistani lawyers occurred on August 8, 2016 when terrorists attacked the Government Hospital of Quetta with a suicide bombing and shooting which resulted in the death of 54 lawyers. Since there has been an alarming increase in the number of lawyers murdered, with nine reported over the past year.

Last updated on the 16th September 2019



## Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020

January 24, 2020



Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) calls on all countries, including Australia, to ensure that lawyers are able to perform their professional obligations without fear of retribution.

On 24 January 2020, the 10th Day of the Endangered Lawyer, lawyers across the world are given a specific opportunity to reflect on the grave infringement of human rights experienced by some of our colleagues, and to advocate for systemic change in their treatment. ALHR finds it highly concerning that lawyers risk danger for upholding the human rights of others and protecting vulnerable clients.

ALHR is always saddened by news of lawyers facing consequences such as being silenced, harassed, kidnapped, imprisoned, injured and killed for fulfilling their roles as advocates.

The mistreatment of lawyers contravenes a number of international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

ALHR President Kerry Weste said, "on the Day of the Endangered Lawyer, ALHR gives thought to the many human rights lawyers around the world who remain in prison or are at risk for simply doing their job and attempting to carry out their duties in line with international standards."

ALHR notes that in 2020 the Day of the Endangered Lawyer focuses on the experiences of lawyers in Pakistan. The International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers recorded at least 21 Pakistani lawyers murdered since 2018. In addition, recent years have seen lawyers in Pakistan subjected to acts of mass terrorism, attempted murder, assaults, death threats, contempt proceedings, harassment and intimidation in the execution of their professional duties. They have also been arrested, detained or tortured and, in some cases, the family members of the murdered lawyer have also been murdered. Some lawyers have been threatened with disbarment or had their homes raided by the police."

ALHR is also using the Day of the Endangered Lawyer to highlight the plight of Australian lawyer Bernard Collaery who, together with his client Witness K, is currently subject to a secretive prosecution under national security laws for revealing that the Australian

Government spied on East Timor. Ms Weste said, "Even here in Australia we must remain vigilant to protect the important role that lawyers, using legitimate legal mechanisms, play in uncovering illegality in government agencies. Lawyers who do so, should not find themselves facing secretive prosecution and a jail term."

"ALHR calls on all countries to comply with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and ensure that lawyers can act in accordance with the law and without improper interference or persecution," Ms Weste said.

Read the Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020 Report [here](#).

contact Matt Mitchell on 0431 980 365 or [media@alhr.org.au](mailto:media@alhr.org.au)

*ALHR was established in 1993 and is a national association of Australian solicitors, barristers, academics, judicial officers and law students who practise and promote international human rights law in Australia. ALHR has active and engaged National, State and Territory committees and specialist thematic committees. Through advocacy, media engagement, education, networking, research and training, ALHR promotes, practices and protects universally accepted standards of human rights throughout Australia and overseas.*

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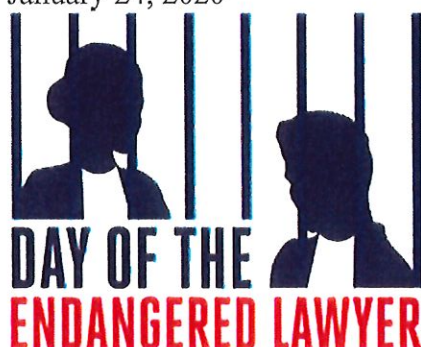
### Attachments

Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020



# Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020

January 24, 2020



# KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF THE LAWYERS

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## **Attachments**

Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020



[Open to the Public](#)

# International Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020

January 24, 2020, 3:30PM to 6:30PM

## International Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020: The Role of Lawyers, Paralegals, Judges and Advocates in Defending the Rule of Law in Pakistan

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer is a time to reflect on the work of lawyers who face persecution, physical danger, and reprisal in defending the rights of the most vulnerable individuals and communities around the world.

On January 24th of each year, members of the international legal community honour the courage and commitment of lawyers on the frontlines of efforts to promote human rights and to uphold the rule of law. Each year, a consortium of international lawyer organizations and bar associations, led by the Day of the Endangered Lawyer Foundation, which includes Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, select a country around the world to highlight issues around human rights, the rule of law and the state of endangered lawyers in that specific country. The country of focus for 2020 is Pakistan.

Please join the Law Society of Ontario, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, for a panel discussion and networking reception on Friday, January 24, 2020, to mark this occasion. You are invited to participate in the event in person or view it via webcast. Please submit your RSVP by [clicking here](#).

Registration: 3:30-4:30 pm

Program: 4:00-5:30 pm

Reception: 5:30-6:30 pm

Program in Lamont Learning Centre/Reception to follow in Convocation Hall  
Law Society of Ontario - [Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W, Toronto](#)  
[Please enter through the east-side doors facing Nathan Phillips Square]

This program contains 1 hour and 30 minutes of CPD EDI Professionalism Content.



# CNF News

☐ Stampa (*javascript:\_101\_INSTANCE\_lu2UEwGgzZiq\_printPage\_0();*)

## CNF: "Il 2020 è l'anno dell'avvocato in pericolo nel mondo"

Il Consiglio nazionale forense, riunito in seduta amministrativa, nell'ambito delle proprie prerogative di legge, ha deliberato (<https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/web/cnf/avvocati-in-pericolo>) di proclamare l'anno 2020 l'“Anno dell'avvocato in pericolo nel mondo”, riaffermando il proprio impegno nella difesa del libero esercizio della professione di avvocato, e potenziando, anche attraverso la delegazione italiana al Consiglio degli Ordini Forensi d'Europa, iniziative concrete, dagli osservatori internazionali ai processi a carico degli avvocati alle missioni nelle carceri, di concerto con l'Osservatorio Internazionale degli avvocati in pericolo.

La decisione, presa all'unanimità dal plenum del Cnf lo scorso venerdì, è stata determinata dalla situazione in cui, in molti Stati, gli avvocati si trovano, subendo intimidazioni, violenze e ingiuste condanne solo perché “colpevoli” di difendere in autonomia e indipendenza i diritti dei loro assistiti. Il Consiglio nazionale forense rileva, nel testo di delibera, che “è necessario sensibilizzare maggiormente l'opinione pubblica e le istituzioni su tali temi”.

La Giornata internazionale dell'avvocato in pericolo

(<https://www.consiglionazionaleforense.it/web/cnf/giornata-avvocati-in-pericolo>), istituita nel 2009 con l'obiettivo di richiamare l'attenzione della società civile e delle istituzioni pubbliche sulle violazioni del diritto alla difesa, si celebra il 24 gennaio e ogni anno evidenzia le situazioni di pericolo nelle varie Nazioni come Iran, Turchia, Filippine, Paesi baschi, Honduras, Cina, Egitto e di nuovo Turchia nel 2019. Il 2020 è dedicato al Pakistan, dove le violenze e le intimidazioni contro gli



avvocati sono all'ordine del giorno, da febbraio 2018 sono stati uccisi più di 21 avvocati.

L'obiettivo della Giornata internazionale dell'avvocato in pericolo è di richiamare l'attenzione della società civile e delle autorità pubbliche sulla situazione degli avvocati in un determinato paese, al fine di sensibilizzare l'opinione pubblica sulle minacce cui sono esposti gli avvocati nell'esercizio della loro professione.

#### CONTATTI CNF NEWS

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**The Law Society**  
of England and Wales

# Invitation

## Seminar - Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020

In 2020, the Day of the Endangered Lawyer focuses on Pakistan. At this seminar, a lawyer will discuss his personal experiences of litigating human rights cases in Pakistan, specifically the well-known case of Asia Bibi (in which a Christian Pakistani woman was sentenced to death for blasphemy). Her conviction was eventually overturned by the Supreme Court. We will also discuss the legal system and legislation in Pakistan, especially blasphemy laws. In addition, the role that the military and religion play in Pakistan's society will be addressed and how this impacts on the adoption of legislation and its application in practice.

### Speakers:

Welcome: David Greene, Vice-President, Law Society

- Saif ul-Malook (Lawyer, Pakistan)
- Azam Nazeer Tarar (lawyer, Pakistan)
- Dr. Ayesha Siddiq (Research Associate, SOAS South Asia Institute)

Moderated by: Dr. Marina Brilman, International Human Rights adviser, Law Society.

**Date: Thursday 22 January 2020, 17.30 – 19.30**

Venue: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London

**Please register here:** <https://bit.ly/2OuAAv1>

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## Law Society hosts Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020 event

23 January 2020

On 22 January 2020, the Law Society marked the Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020 by organising a series of activities to raise awareness about the situation of lawyers at risk in Pakistan, which included a panel seminar with the participation of renowned lawyer Saif ul-Malook and author and academic Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi. Mr. ul-Malook legally represented Asia Bibi – a Christian woman from a rural community who was accused of blasphemy – before Pakistan's Supreme Court. Dr Ayesha Siddiqi is an associate researcher at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS (School for Oriental and African Studies).

Mr ul-Malook focused his intervention on the impact of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, stating that due to his work as a lawyer "my friends don't even dare to travel with me in my car because they say that one day I am going to get killed". He also said: "It is also a sad state of affairs when our own Bar Association does not even release a statement to support our work as lawyers". He went on to say that the blasphemy laws embolden certain sectors of the Pakistani population, which has led to mobs burning police stations and intimidating lawyers. The latter has had serious consequences for access to justice and due process for those accused of committing blasphemous acts. In many instances, the evidence brought by complainants in blasphemy cases is highly deficient or non-existent. Mr. ul-Malook also said that the blasphemy laws are being used to settle personal scores and, for example, property disputes.

Dr Siddiqi shared that since the promulgation of the blasphemy laws, there have been approximately 1500 cases, which are not only affecting minority groups but everyone in Pakistani society. "Blasphemy Laws are not going to go away and are not open for review in spite of potential miscarriages of justice" she reflected. "Since religious discourse is being abused to exert fear, it is of vital importance for lawyers and judges from around the world to keep monitoring the situation in Pakistan as well as putting pressure of Pakistani judges to remain objective and independent", she said.

Blasphemy laws carry a mandatory death sentence for anyone who insults a prophet or religious prophet. Critics say they have been used to persecute members of religious minorities in the country. The offences relating to religion were first codified by India's British rulers in 1860 and were expanded in 1927. Pakistan inherited these laws when it came into existence after the partition of India in 1947.

Between 1980 and 1986, several clauses were added to the blasphemy laws by the military government of General Zia-ul Haq who wanted to "Islamicise" legislation and separate the Ahmadi community, declared non-Muslim in 1973, from the rest of Pakistan's mainly Muslim population. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has been documenting blasphemy cases for decades. According to its statistics, Muslims constitute the majority of those accused under these laws, closely followed by the Ahmadi community.

Data provided by the National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP) shows a total of 776 Muslims, 505 Ahmadi, 229 Christians and 30 Hindus have been accused under various clauses of the blasphemy law from 1987 until 2018.

Both speakers concurred that although amending blasphemy laws has been on the agenda of secular parties, no progress has been made, mainly because of the sensitivities regarding religious issues and because no party wants to antagonise powerful religious groups.

Sue Willman, Chair of the Law Society's Human Rights Committee, said: "The Day of the Endangered Lawyer shines a light on lawyers like Saif Ul-M who, like others, has the courage to risk their lives to enable their clients access to justice. The Law Society sends a message of support to all our fellow lawyers across the globe who defend human rights in face of daily threats and intimidation."

The Law Society will continue to monitor the situation of lawyers in Pakistan closely.



## **NASRIN SOTOUDEH, UNA VITA PER DIFENDERE**

**LE PAROLE DELL'AVVOCATA IRANIANA IN CARCERE PER LA TUTELA DEI DIRITTI UMANI**

Idea drammaturgica selezione e montaggio dei testi di **GAETANO PACCHI**



Lettere dal carcere di Evin interpretate da  
**PATRIZIA DE LUCA e GRAZIA DONI**

Commento e voce del giudice di  
**GAETANO PACCHI**

Brani musicali interpretati da  
**FRANCO BONSIGNORI**

Intervengono  
**MARIA FEDERICA GIULIANI**  
**ANDREA VANNUCCI**  
**CINZIA COLZI**

**24 gennaio 2020 ore 17.30**

**PALAZZO VECCHIO - Sala d'Arme - FIRENZE**



**GIORNATA INTERNAZIONALE DELL'AVVOCATO PERSEGUITATO**

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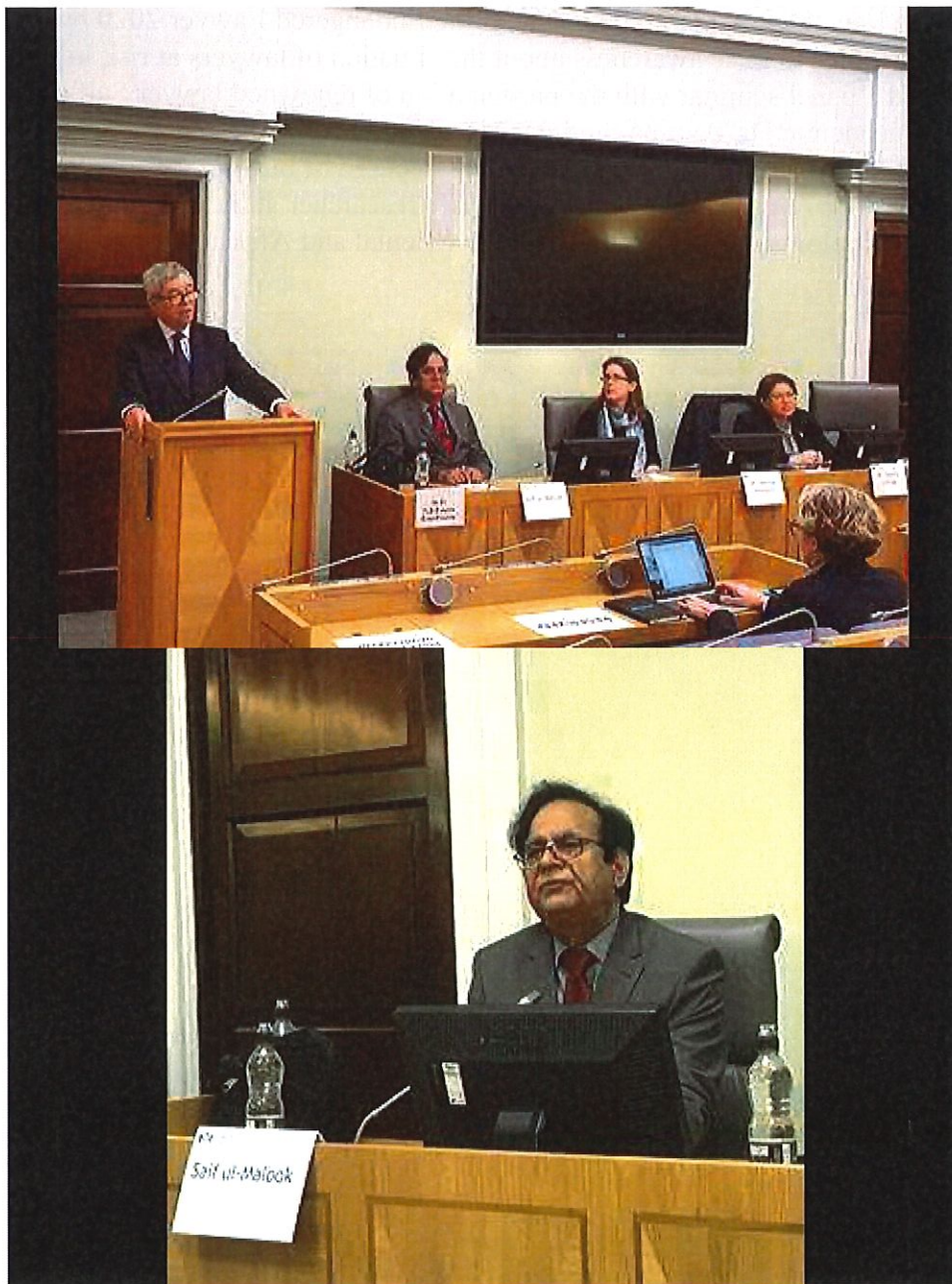


[Lawyers at Risk](#)

# Law Society hosts Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2020 event

23 January 2020

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Invitation

**Day of the Endangered Lawyer – Expert Discussion on the alarming situation of lawyers in Turkey and Iran**  
hosted by Amnesty International and Deutscher Anwaltverein

Date: Friday 24 January 2020

10.00am – 12.00pm

Venue: Robert-Havemann-Saal, Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte,  
Greifswalder Str. 4, 10405 Berlin (S-/U-Station Alexanderplatz, Tramstation "Am Friedrichshain")

The Day of the Endangered Lawyer on 24 January is a day on which we call for the attention to lawyers all over the world who are facing harassment, threats, persecution or even torture and whose work is therefore made increasingly difficult.

Turkey has arrested hundreds of lawyers since the military coup failed in July 2016. The legal profession is one of the main target groups of the Turkish authorities' attack on the right to a fair trial and the administration of justice. The Human Rights Watch report "Lawyers on Trial: Abusive Prosecutions and Erosion of Fair Trial Rights in Turkey" published in 2019, examines in detail how lawyers are prosecuted, for example by associating them with their clients' alleged crimes.

Further sad news for the legal profession came from Iran in 2019. The latest sentencing of Iranian human rights lawyer and women's rights activist Nasrin Sotoudeh to 33 years of imprisonment and 148 lashes shows the danger that Iranian human rights lawyers are putting themselves in. Nasrin Sotoudeh is paying an incredibly high price for her devotion for justice and the rule of law.

Amnesty International and the German Bar Association (DAV) invite all interested to join us for the panel discussion on the situation in Turkey and Iran, with three renowned human rights experts:

**Emma Sinclair-Webb**, Turkey Director at Human Rights Watch and co-author of the Report "Lawyers on Trial – Abusive Prosecutions and Erosion of Fair Trial Rights in Turkey"

**Stefan von Raumer**, lawyer, co-editor of an ECHR commentary and chair of the Human Rights Committee of DAV, Chair of the CCBE Human Rights Committee

**N.N.**, human rights activist from Iran

*"Day of the Endangered Lawyer"*

*On 24.01.1977 four Spanish trade union lawyers and an employee in their office in Madrid were murdered by neo-fascists. A few years ago, European lawyers associations chose this sad occasion to establish the "Day of the Endangered Lawyer". (<http://dayoftheendangeredlawyer.eu/>).*