

1 PETITIONS BEFORE THE UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION

2 Petitioner: Human Rights Foundation • Impact Litigation

3

4 Opinions won in 2026, detention found arbitrary:

5

6 a) Owen Chow Hong Kong

7 b) Victoire Ingabire Rwanda

8 c) Sopon Surariddhidhamrong Thailand

9 d) Koet Saray Cambodia

10 e) Anacleto Micha Ndong Nlang Equatorial Guinea

11 f) Umar Khalid India

12

13 Finding: detention arbitrary,
14 in violation of international law.

15 Counsel: pro bono • cost to family: \$0



HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION • PROGRAM 03 OF 03

IMPACT LITIGATION

UN DETENTION PETITIONS
UPR SUBMISSIONS
FREE TO EVERY CLIENT

Legal firepower for the world's bravest dissidents.

WHAT WE DO

When a dictatorship jails a person for speaking, HRF answers in court.

HRF's international attorneys take pro bono cases for peaceful activists, journalists and artists — litigating before the United Nations when domestic courts offer no justice.

Our main arena is the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Its opinion is a formal international finding that a detention is arbitrary — a document diplomats cite, journalists quote and governments act on.

§ 1

THE RECORD

A top global practitioner before the UN Working Group, by volume of opinions received.

§ 2

NINE AT ONCE

One HRF petition for nine Rwandan dissidents produced a 2024 opinion condemning all nine detentions as arbitrary.

§ 3

BEYOND THE UN

HRF also brings cases before regional human rights mechanisms, not only the United Nations.

25+

UN Working Group decisions on HRF cases — every one in our clients' favor

8–12

new petitions filed in a typical year

62

Universal Periodic Review submissions to date

\$0

cost to prisoners or their families

OUTCOMES

2026: rulings won, prisoners released.

RELEASED IN 2026



PASTOR EZRA JIN MINGRI

CHINA

Freed in July after nearly nine months of arbitrary detention. HRF petitioned the UN in May for him and fellow pastors Gao Yingjia and Wang Lin.



LUIS MANUEL OTERO ALCÁNTARA

CUBA

Released July 18 after serving his full five-year sentence — and forced into exile. HRF's petition won a UN opinion in 2022.

RULED ARBITRARY BY THE UN WORKING GROUP, 2026

Umar Khalid photo: Mukul Dube, CC BY-SA 4.0



OWEN CHOW

HONG KONG

Member of the "Hong Kong 47." Release and compensation demanded.



VICTOIRE INGABIRE

RWANDA

Rwanda's historic opposition leader.



SOPON "GET" SURARIDDHIDHAMRONG

THAILAND

Pro-democracy activist.



KOET SARAY

CAMBODIA

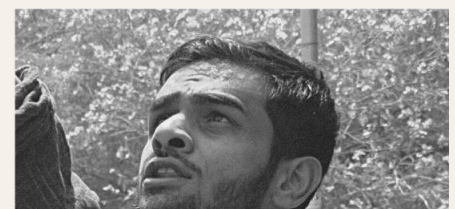
Student activist.



ANACLETO MICHA NDONG NLANG

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Lawyer.



UMAR KHALID

INDIA

Indian activist. HRF's first favorable ruling concerning India.

HOW IT WORKS

Built to win. Built to be heard.

01

SELECT

Each case is chosen for its legal merit and its power to advance freedom.

02

PETITION

Our attorneys file with the UN Working Group, pro bono.

03

RULING

The Working Group finds the detention arbitrary and calls for release.

04

PRESSURE

The ruling fuels press coverage, diplomacy and sanctions advocacy.

WHY IT MATTERS

Every opinion strips a dictatorship of the fiction that its prisoners are criminals. Litigation turns silent injustices into formal findings that dictators cannot delete.

NOW BEFORE THE UN

**RUTH LÓPEZ &
ENRIQUE ANAYA**

EL SALVADOR

GAO ZHEN

CHINA

MAHRANG BALOCH

PAKISTAN

Petitions filed
June–August 2026.

◇ SUPPORT IMPACT LITIGATION

Every case is funded by donors. A small circle of supporters makes each one possible.

HRF.ORG

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