



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Human rights defenders

Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/64

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998 by which the Assembly adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, annexed to that resolution,

Reiterating the importance of this Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

Emphasizing the important role that individuals, non-governmental organizations and groups play in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 2000/61 of 26 April 2000,

Noting with deep concern that, in many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms are facing threats, harassment and insecurity as a result of those activities,

Welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative to report on the situation of human rights defenders in all parts of the world and on possible means to enhance their protection in full compliance with the Declaration,

Noting with deep concern the considerable number of communications received by the Special Representative that, together with the reports submitted by some of the special procedure mechanisms, indicate the serious nature of the risks faced by human rights defenders,

Welcoming the cooperation between the Special Representative and other special procedures of the Commission,

Recalling that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights rests with the State, and noting with deep concern that the activities of non-State actors pose a major threat to the security of human rights defenders,

Emphasizing the need for strong and effective measures for the protection of human rights defenders,

1. *Calls upon* all States to promote and give full effect to the Declaration;
2. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/2001/94);
3. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Representative in the performance of her tasks and to furnish all information requested;
4. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations within their mandates to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Representative in the implementation of her programme of activities;
5. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders;

6. *Decides* to consider this question at its fifty-eighth session, under the same agenda item.

*77th meeting
25 April 2001*

[Adopted without a vote.]