

Joint Statement
Informal Hearing for Civil Society – February 26, 2013
Intergovernmental Process on Treaty Body Strengthening

Check against delivery

The following statement is delivered by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), and also enjoys the support of 14 other NGOs.

We would like to express our deep concern about the continued exclusion from this important consultation process of the Geneva based NGO Alkarama, and the lack of transparency by which this decision has been made. Alkarama is a regular and respected contributor to UN treaty bodies. Alkarama not only regularly engages on treaty bodies but also recently completed two visits to Morocco and Kuwait to assess the implementation of the recommendations made in 2011 by the Committee Against Torture and the Human Rights Committee, respectively.

That an NGO that does such work not be allowed to participate in this important process because of an unspecified objection to their participation in this meeting by a Member State is a matter of great concern to all of us. This non-transparent manner of restricting NGO participation in this process is in total contradiction to the important contribution that this NGO has made to the work of the human rights treaty bodies and contradicts the aims and working methods of the treaty bodies themselves.

We strongly urge the facilitators and UN member states to move forward in this process with a stronger commitment to enabling independent civil society to contribute without the kind of unjustified interference that has prevented Alkarama from participating in today's consultation.

+++

Signatory NGOs

1. Amnesty International
2. ARC International
3. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
4. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
5. Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)
6. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)
7. Human Rights Foundation of Aotearoa New Zealand
8. Human Rights Watch (HRW)

9. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
10. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
11. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP)
12. Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC)
13. NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
14. Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT)
15. The Advocates for Human Rights