

Denouncing Iran's Oppressive Judiciary

Safeguarding Fundamental Rights of Dissidents in Europe

On 29 July 2023, Tehran's Criminal Court issued a public announcement publishing 104 names of individuals affiliated with the opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI or MEK), most of whom left Iran more than four decades ago, calling on them to appoint a lawyer as they have been "charged."

Given the Iranian regime's history of arbitrary judgments, executions, and lack of due process of law, we are deeply troubled by this announcement. Our concern is further heightened by past public statements made by Iran's officials, declaring all affiliates of this organization as *mohareb* (enemies of God) and subject to execution.

According to International human rights organizations over the past four decades, tens of thousands of MEK members and supporters have been executed in Iran on baseless charges such as *Moharebeh*.

In 1988, Iran's Supreme Leader issued a fatwa calling for the execution of all political prisoners who remained steadfast in their support for the organization. This has been well-documented by human rights organizations and judicial investigations in Europe. Ebrahim Raisi, the current president of Iran, was a key member of Tehran's "death commission" that sent several thousand prisoners to death in a matter of few weeks. Many more were executed across the country, during the 1988 massacre for refusing to disavow their political affiliation.

The Iranian judiciary, known for politically motivated executions and imprisoning lawyers representing dissidents, intends to use this bogus legal maneuver to amplify repression within Iran and extend its crackdown on its opponents beyond its borders. State-controlled media has indicated that the objective is to exploit INTERPOL to extradite members of this opposition group who are currently outside Iran.

In previous similar attempts, several complaints had been filed in France by affiliates of the Iranian regime against members of the opposition, but after several years of investigations, they were dismissed due to a lack of evidence.

Iran's disregard for international law was evident during the trial of one of its serving diplomats in Belgium on terrorism charges. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison for bringing a bomb in a diplomatic pouch to be detonated at the NCRI opposition rally in the suburbs of Paris in June 2018.

In light of these events, specially bearing in mind that most of the 104 are currently refugees in Albania, we express our deep concern that on June 20, 2023, based on allegations provided by the Iranian regime, the police in Albania raided Ashraf-3, home to thousands of members of the MEK.

As jurists, lawyers, law professors, and professionals in the field of law, we condemn the Iranian regime's blatant disregard for international laws and human rights.

We urge relevant authorities within democratic countries in Europe and elsewhere to:

1. Publicly condemn the Iranian regime's repressive actions - disguised as judicial measures - against MEK members and ensure that Iranian dissidents enjoy their full human rights in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

2. Take action to hold Iranian officials accountable for their role in crimes against humanity, specifically the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, the majority of whom were MEK members and sympathizers.
3. Safeguard the fundamental human and political rights of MEK refugees in Ashraf-3, Albania, as outlined in the 1951 Geneva Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other applicable international laws. This includes guaranteeing their freedom of speech and assembly, as underscored by the Prime Minister of Albania in a 2016 letter to a Vice President of the European Parliament, which will also foster Albania's EU integration.

This is to uphold our own values and the rule of law.

Partial list of signatories:

- **Organizations:**



International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)



Global Human Rights Group, Geneva, Switzerland



Geneva Bar Association

- **Individuals:**

Full name	Position	Country
Prof. José Luís da Cruz Vilaça	President of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities (1989-1995); Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union (2012-2018); Professor of EU Law; Attorney at law	Portugal
Sir Nicholas Forwood KC	Judge of the General, Court of Justice of the EU, 1999-2015	UK
Prof. Martti Koskenniemi	Professor of International Law at the University of Helsinki and Director of the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights; Member of the Finnish diplomatic service (1978-1994); Judge with the Administrative Tribunal of the Asian Development Bank (1997- 2002); Member of the UN International Law Commission (2002-2006)	Finland
Prof. Robert K. Goldman	President, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); Former President and member, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); Former UN Independent Expert on the protection of human rights and fundamental	USA

To join the signatories, contact: info@apa-ice.org

	freedoms while countering terrorism; Professor of Law & Louis C James Scholar, Washington College of Law, American University	
Prof. Christian Tomuschat	President of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (2013-2019); Member and Chairman of the UN International Law Commission (1985-1996); Member of the UN Human Rights Committee (1977-1986); Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission on the human rights situation in Guatemala (1990-1993); Coordinator, Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH), Guatemala (1997-1999); Professor em. Humboldt University Berlin	Germany
Hon. Michael D Kirby	Justice of the High Court of Australia and Chair of the UN HRC Commission of Inquiry on North Korea. Chairman Australian Law Reform Commission 1975-84. Deputy President Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission 1975-83. Judge Federal Court of Australia 1983-84. President New South Wales Court of Appeal 1984-96. President Solomon Islands Court of Appeal 1995-96. UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia 1993-96. President International Commission of Jurists 1995-98.	Australia
Prof. Stefan Trechsel	Judge, UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (2006-2013); President of the European Commission of Human Rights (1995–1999)	Switzerland
Stanislav Pavlovski	Judge, European Court of Human Rights (2001-2008); Minister of Justice of Moldova (2019)	Moldova
Prof. Giovanni Grasso	Former International Judge of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina; former Judge of the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy
Amb. Stephen J. Rapp	US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice (2009-2015); Prosecutor of the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) (2007-2009); Senior Fellow at Center for the Prevention of Genocide of US Holocaust Memorial Museum and at Center for Ethics, Law & Armed Conflict (ELAC) of Oxford University	USA
Prof. David M. Crane	Founding Chief Prosecutor, UN Special Court for Sierra Leone; Founder, Global Accountability Network	USA
Sareta Ashraph	Barrister at Garden Court Chambers, International Criminal Lawyer; Chair of the International Bar Association's War Crimes Committee; Visiting Fellow with the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict at the Blavatnik School; former Senior Analyst on the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh; Chief Legal Analyst on the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria (2012-2016); Legal Adviser to the ICC's Defence Office (2010-2011)	UK/Trinidad and Tobago
Prof. Dr. Christoph Degenhart	Professor of constitutional and administrative law and media law. Former Judge at the Constitutional Court of the Free State of Saxony	Germany
Prof. Shin-ichi Ago	Prof. Emer. at Kyushu University, former Judge at the Administrative Tribunal of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), former Director of the Kyoto Museum for World Peace of Ritsumeikan University, current member of the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.	Japan
Prof. Brice Dickson	Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (1999-2005); Professor of International and Comparative Law, Queen's University Belfast (QUB)	UK
Prof. Jean-Michel Blanquer	Minister of Education, Youth and Sport (2017- May 2022), Professor of public law (University of Paris II, Panthéon-Assas), Member of the Paris Bar (Earth avocats),	France
Anand Grover	UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health (2008-2014); Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law Center, Georgetown University, Washington; Member, Global Commission on Drug Policy; Director, Lawyers Collective	India
Sir Geoffrey Bindman KC (Hon)	Founder of the human rights law firm Bindman & Partners and Chair of the British Institute of Human Rights since 2005	UK
Prof. Sara Chandler KC (Hon)	Secretary to the Human Rights Commission of the European Bars Federation (Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe- FBE) and Former President of the FBE; Former Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Law Society of England & Wales	UK
Christina Blacklaws	Former President of the Law Society of England and Wales	UK

Robert Seabrook KC	Former Chair of the Bar of England and Wales	UK
Matthias Kelly KC SC	Former Chair of the Bar of England and Wales	UK
Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC	Prominent member of the House of Lords and KC CBE	UK
Dato' Shyamala Alagendra	Advocate & Solicitor, International Criminal Lawyer	Malaysia
Prof. Reto M. Hilty	Director, Max-Planck-Institut für Innovation und Wettbewerb (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition)	Germany
Puan Sri N. Saraswathy Devi	Former President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)	Malaysia
Prof. Ray Murphy	Professor, Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, University of Galway	Ireland
Prof. Pearl Eliadis	Law Office of Pearl Eliadis (practice in human rights); Associate Professor (Professional), McGill University	Canada
Prof. Juan Carlos Manriquez	Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC); Professor of Criminal Law, Criminal Proceedings and International Criminal Law	Chile
Prof. Ariel E. Dulitzky	Director of the Human Rights Clinic of the School of Law at University of Texas at Austin; Former Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)	Argentina
Mikołaj Pietrzak	Former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association; Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	Poland
Dr. Paulo Ilich Bacca	Deputy Director, Center for Law, Justice and Society, Dejusticia; Lecturer in Legal Theory, Javeriana University	Colombia
Prof. Felipe Gómez Isa	Professor of International Law; Researcher at the Institute of Human Rights of the University of Deusto; Vice-Dean for International Relations, Deusto Law School	Spain
Dr. Prof. Jan Klabbers	Professor of Faculty of Law in University of Helsinki	Finland
Prof. Dr. Anne van Aaken	Alexander von Humboldt Professor for Law and Economics. Legal Theory. Public International Law and European Law Director, Institute of Law and Economics, University of Hamburg	Germany
Prof. Errol P. Mendes	President, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Canadian Section; Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa; Editor-in-Chief, National Journal of Constitutional Law; Latest Book: Peace and Justice at the International Criminal Court, 2020	Canada
Dr. Carmen Márquez Carrasco	Professor of Public International Law and International Relations, University of Sevilla	Spain
Prof. Dr. Markus Kotzur	LL.M. (Duke Univ.), University of Hamburg, President of the europa-Kolleg Hamburg	Germany
Prof. Eric Heinze	Executive Director, Centre for Law, Democracy, and Society (CLDS), Queen Mary University of London; Professor of Law & Humanities, School of Law, Queen Mary University of London	UK
Prof. Dr. Nele Matz-Lück	LL.M. professor at the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel and co-director of the Walther Schücking Institute for International Law since October 2011	Germany
Prof. Sanna Wolk	Union President/Professor, The Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers (SULF)	Sweden
The Hon. Dr Jocelyne A. Scutt	Barrister and Human Rights Lawyer	Australia
Prof. Siobhan Wills	Director, Transitional Justice Institute (TJI), Ulster University; Professor of Law, School of Law, Ulster University	UK
Alfred de Zayas	Lawyer in the field of Human Rights and International law. The first UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order.	USA
Prof. Nicholas Grief	Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Kent and Honorary Associate Tenant, Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Dr. Melanie O'Brien	Associate Professor of International Law, University of Western Australia	Australia

Al Kilani Almotassim	Human rights and international criminal law legal expert	France
Prof. Rebecca Cook	Professor Emerita, Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto	Canada
Ahmet Cemil Yildirim	Associate Professor of Comparative Law, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Faculty Member ICA-Agenzia, Visiting Research Fellow University of Cambridge (2023), Visiting Professor University of Franche-Comté (2019) and University of Cologne (2014, 2017-2018), Former Chair of Department of Private Law, Altinbas University (2011-2016), Independent Arbitrator	Kuwait
Elise Groulx	Founding President of the International Criminal Bar for the International Criminal Court, International human rights lawyer, Paris Bar and Door Tenant at 9 Bedford Row	USA
Steven Kay KC	Head of 9BR Chambers	UK
Toby Cadman	Joint Head of Guernica 37 Chambers	UK
Almudena Bernabeu	Joint Head of Guernica 37 Chambers	UK
Lord John Henty KC	Barrister at Old Square Chambers	UK
Stephanie Barwise KC	Barrister at Atkin Chambers	UK
Lexa Hilliard KC	Barrister at Wilberforce Chambers	UK
Joe Middleton KC	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers; Chair of the Human Rights Law Association	UK
Tom Allen KC	Barrister at Cloth Fair Chambers	UK
Malcolm Fowler	Solicitor and Higher Court Advocate, member of JVMI, and formerly of the Council and Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales	UK
Sophie Caseley	Barrister, Garden Court Chambers	UK
Amos Waldman	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers; Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	UK
Masoud Zabeti	Financial Services Lawyer, Litigation Chair for Europe at Greenberg Trauing	UK
Azadeh Zabeti	International human rights lawyer, Co-President of the Committee of Anglo-Iranian Lawyers (CAIL)	UK
David Carter	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, specialized in housing, local government, human rights, discrimination and public law.	UK
Antonia Benfield	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers; specialized in immigration and public law specialist with particular expertise in asylum, immigration, community care and trafficking claims.	UK
Zimran Samuel MBE	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers; member of the Executive Committee of the Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC), also serves as a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics.	UK
Peter Rowlands	Barrister, Garden Court Chambers	UK
Theo Huckle	Counsel General for Wales 2011-2016; Visiting Professor of Law, King's College London	UK
Mary Westcott	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Thom Dyke	Barrister at Deka Chambers; Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	UK
Sadakat Kadri	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Paul Clark	Barrister, Garden Court Chambers	UK
Omar Soliman	Barrister at Guernica 37 Chambers	UK
Jack Sproson	Barrister at Guernica 37 Chambers	UK
David Matas	Human rights lawyer and Co-Founder of International Coalition To End Transplant Abuse In China	Canada

To join the signatories, contact: info@apa-ice.org

Roberto Durrieu	Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	Argentina
Greg Boos	Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	USA
Achille Campagna	Member of the List of Counsel for the International Criminal Court (ICC)	San Marino
Olexiy Yasyunetsky	Lawyer	Ukraine
Anna Mantini	Avvocato	Italy
Paola Arcidiacono	Avvocato Civilista	Italy
Maurizio Paoletti	Avvocato- Mayor	Italy
Enrica Giordano	Avvocato Civilista	Italy
Darragh Mackin	Director, Phoenix Law Human Rights Lawyers; Lecturer, Public Law, Ulster University	Ireland
Peter Lichtenbaum	US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration (2003-2006); Partner, Covington & Burling	USA
Uzoma Aneto	Lawyer, Diversity and Inclusion Officer Human Rights Law Committee at IBA (International Bar Association)	Nigeria
Ife Thompson	Barrister	UK
Kameh Alhesani	Head of the National Center for legal Studies and Research and Judiciary of Iraq	Iraq
Mohammad Almsoori	President of the Arab Lawyers' Guild	Yemen
Dr.Raheb Saleh	Manager of the International Rafedain Center for Iraq Justice and Human Right	Iraq
Abdolrahman Berman	Lawyer and legal advisor; manager of the American Center for Justice	Yemen
Dr.Mohammad Almokhtar melyel	Professor of Law, lawyer	Mauritania
Shadi Talaat	General director of the Organization of Lawyers' Union for legal and democratic studies	Egypt
Dr Francis E A Owakah	Lecturer, University of Nairobi	Kenya
Elisabeth Dekker	Lawyer, Jurist	Netherlands
Hanif Mahoutchian	Provincial attorney	Germany
Elahe Frouzandeh	Lawyer	Norway
Mahan Taraj	Jurist	France
Sarah Nouri-Meshkati	Lawyer	France
Kian Kiani	LL.M., Senior Legal Counsel	Sweden
Mitra Bigham	Avocat au Barreau de Bruxelles	Belgium
Hamid Yazdanpanah	(Esq) Lawyer, L.A.	USA
Sandrien Rodrigues	Lawyer	France
Natacha Fauveau Ivanovic	Lawyer	France
Abhinav Mehrotra	Assistant Professor & Assistant Director at Jindal Global Law School, LL.M. International Human Rights (University of Leeds U.K.)	India
Charlie Thompson	Barrister at Charlie Keatingchambers	UK
David Strupek	Attorney at Law, Human Rights lawyer	Czech Republic
Mourad Belhadj	Lawyer in immigration law, asylum law, administrative litigation	France

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Tomislav Toshkov, LL.M.	Lawyer/Secretary General of the Attorneys' Training Center to the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria & HELP Info Point and Member of the Consultative Board of the HELP Programme of the Council of Europe and ELF. Mediator & Tutor	Bulgaria
Mohammad Oliyaeifard	Attorney / Member of the international Bar Association	Canada
Farzaneh Hosseini	Lawyer	UK
Alastair Logan OBE	Prominent lawyer and member of Council of the Law Society of England and Wales	UK
Carolyne Zabeti	Lawyer	UK
Carolina Marin Pedreno	Lawyer, partner at Dawson Cornwell	UK
Bahareh Gazani	Lawyer, The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority	Sweden
Shahin Momenian	Lawyer	USA
Giselle Matin	Lawyer	Canada
Anda Abiculesi	Lawyer	Romania
Fratiman Carmen	Lawyer	Romania
Toporascu Carmen	Lawyer	Romania
Anahita Sami	Legal Analyst MHM Law GroUP , APLC	USA
Shahin Bimori	Hlaw Group	USA
Nima Haddadi	Lawyer	USA
VLAD DURUS	Lawyer	Romania
Mr. Jason Poblete, Esq	Lawyer, President, Global Liberty Alliance	USA
Dr. Charles A Adeogun-Phillips	Lawyer, Partner at Charles Anthony	UK
Mikolaj Pjietrzak	Associate Tenant, Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Jean Flamme	Attorney at Law (Gent and ICC)	Belgium
Ibrahim Maleki	lawyer, Member of the Defense Committee for Prisoners of Conscience in Syria	Switzerland
Mamoun Juma	Founding member of the Bar Association branch in Demascus Member of the Committee for Representing Syrian Refugee Affairs in Lebanon. Human rights Activist	Germany
Ziyad Beirut	Former Counselor Judge at the Court of Cassation in Syria	Germany
Claire Mahon Linkdin	Executive Director of the Global Human Rights Group, Geneva	Switzerland
Michael Bowman SC,	LL.B., LL.M., DBS, Member of the Inner Bar	Ireland
Tomas Kevin Manguel	International Lawyer and Academic / Expertise in international criminal law, criminal law and human rights, Professor, Universidad de Buenos Aires	Argentina
Izuchukwu Temilade Nwagbara	Nigerian legal practitioner, Canadian Institute for International Law Expertise (CIFILE). Member, British Nigeria Law Forum	Nigeria
Nicoletta Montefusco	International Lawyer & Researcher in Human Rights and Gender Equality. Member of the List of Counsels for the International Criminal Court (ICC), United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).	Italy
Dr. Peter Koenig	Four decards of experience in international trade regulation, US Customs, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), World Trade Organization (WTO) and trade policy.	USA
Geneviève Zingg	International Criminal and Human Rights Lawyer	Ukraine

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Alberto Alemanno	Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law at HEC Paris Founder, The Good Lobby Young Global Leader, World Economic Forum	France
Sara Elizabeth Dill	Partner, Anethum Global, ACAMS Certified Global Sanctions Specialist	UK
Terry O'Connell B.L.	BCL, A.M, Commercial/Chancery, Family Law, General Common Law, General Practice	Ireland
Emanuel Kamura	Lawyer, Master II graduate in European and international law	Luxemburg
Andrei Golubenko	International Human Rights Lawyer, partner of a law firm "European Center for Human Rights"	Russia
Yuri Parkhomenko	Partner International Litigation and Arbitration FOLEY HOAG LLP	USA
Jan Lehký	Counsel, Advokát	Czech Republic
Camille Gosson	Lawyer at WJ Avocats, specialized in international criminal justice and Common Law.	France
RIMA HASSAN	Laywer, Présidente-Fondatrice de l'Observatoire des Camps de Réfugiés	France
Thelma Godel-Rouschmeyer	Public law and human rights lawyer	France
Garret Flynn	Barrister practicing at the Bar of Ireland in Dublin	Ireland
Nick Brown	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Julien MARTIN	President of the Human Rights Commission at Strassburg Bar Association	France
Sarah Steinhardt	Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers	UK
Dr. Javier S. Eskauriatza	Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, University of Nottingham	UK
Miguel Oural,	chairman of the Geneva Bar Association	Switzerland
Dr. Anna Adamska-Gallanat	former judge, Head of Judiciary Component of EU Pravo Justice Ukraine; attorney, expert in criminal law, international humanitarian law, human rights and rule of law;	Poland
Sarah SAMEUR DEMAIN	Cabinet d'Avocats, Avocate au Barreau de Paris	France
Di Marco, Valentina	Lawyer at Rossi e Associati, Gianni & Origoni	Italy
Filippo Cesaris	Partner at Advant-NCTM, Studio Legale Associato	Italy
Massimiliano Macaione	Partner at Gianni & Origoni- Responsible for the Hospitality Industry in the M&A Group	Italy
Rosie Scott	Barrister at 39 Essex Chambers	UK
Clas Rosdahl	Managing Partner, Örebro	Sweden
David Hand	Barrister at The Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Peter D. Williamson	Lawyer at Chamberlain Hrdlicka, former President of AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION	USA
Prof. Nico Krisch	PROFESSOR, INTERNATIONAL LAW, FACULTY ASSOCIATE, former co-director of the GLOBAL GOVERNANCE CENTRE, FACULTY ASSOCIATE, ALBERT HIRSCHMAN CENTRE ON DEMOCRACY, GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE	Switzerland
JEFFREY M. POLLOCK, ESQ.	Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, As a Civil Trial Lawyer, Fox Rothschild, LLP	USA
Hussein Hamadeh	Judge, former advisor to the former Syrian Court of Cassation. President of the Supreme Judicial Authority of the Free Syrian Judicial Council. Head of the Syrian Center for Strategic Studies for Human Rights	Syria
Jamie Presland	One Pump Court Chambers	UK
Prof. Art Hinshaw	Clinical Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Instructional Professional, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute	USA
Paul Erdunast	Barrister at Temple Garden Chambers, London	UK

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Oleksandr Humirov	Member of War Crimes Committee at International Bar Association	Ukraine
Gareth Rhys	Barrister at 1 Crown Office Row, London	UK
Daniele Vecchi	Partner at Gianni & Origoni	Italy
Gaurang Naik	Barrister at Deka Chambers	UK
Jonathan Jacobson	Senior of Counsel at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati	USA
Prof. Marie Fox	Professor of Law, Queen Victoria Chair of Law at University of Liverpool, Project Manager at Criminal Information Bureau	UK
Nicholas Purnell KC	Former Deputy High Court Judge, Barrister at Cloth Fair Chambers	UK
Edwin Glasgow KC	Barrister at 39 Essex Chambers, Arbitrator and Mediator	UK
Prof. Josef Drexl LL.M. (UC Berkeley)	Director, Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Intellectual Property and Competition Law. Honorary Professor at the University of Munich	Germany
Thomas F. Creed S.C.	Member of the Inner Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Matteo Pignocchi	Lawyer- Ph.D. Candidate in Law and Innovation, Department of Legal Sciences Alma Mater Studiorum- Università di Bologna	Italy
Patrick Lynch	Chief Operating Officer in Kinstellar Law firm	Czech Republic
Alexander Caffrey BL	LLB, BL, AM at The Bar of Ireland, specialised in Constitutional Law, European Law, Extradition Law, Human Rights, Immigration & Asylum Law	Ireland
Garvan Corkery SC	Senior Counsel, Member of the Inner Bar, Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Charles Adeogun-Phillips	Barrister at Guernica 37 Chambers	UK
John Foy KC	Barrister at Deka Chambers	UK
Prof. Dr. h.c. Rudolf Mellinghoff	Former Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany, Former President of the Federal Finance Court of Germany	Germany
Prof. Roberto Gargarella	Full Professor of Elements of Constitutional Law, Department of Public Law I	Argentina
Dmitry Gurin	Human Rights Lawyer	Russia
Amy Strecker	Associate Professor of Cultural Heritage Law at the Sutherland School of Law, Dublin	Ireland
Samantha Knights KC	Barrister at Matrix Chambers Ltd	UK
Alberto Mata Rodriguez	Chair of the IBA Young Lawyers' Committee	USA
Sandro Assogna	Qualified Tax Lawyer at Paris Bar and Senior Manager	France
John Balouziyeh	International Criminal and Human Rights Lawyer; Officer of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Law and War Crimes Committees; Senior International Humanitarian Law Instructor at the American Red Cross; former Human Rights Officer of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	USA
Raggi Kotak	Human Rights Barrister at 1 Pump Court Chambers	UK
Gabriela Kubicova	LLL.M., Attorney at Law	Slovakia
Colm Smyth SC	Inner Bar Ireland	Ireland
Pádraig J. Cullinane.B.L.	Barrister at Law, Lecturer in Ethics and Medical Law	Ireland
Roddy Dunlop KC	Barrister at Axiom Advocates and Pump Court, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar), Part time Chairman, Police Appeals Tribunal, Standing Junior Counsel to the Scottish Government (2008-2010)	Scotland
Dara Foynes SC	Member of the Inner Bar of Ireland, BCL, Accredited Mediator(CEDR), Member Law Library Criminal and State Bar Committee	Ireland

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Prof. MARIA Neus Torbisco-Casals	Professor at Geneva Graduate Institute, Senior research fellow at ALBERT HIRSCHMAN Center on Democracy	Switzerland
Prof. Dr. Heinz Schöch	Professor for Criminal Law Criminology and Penology at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	Germany
Bianka Kovacs	Associate at Kinstellar, Budapest	Hungary
Václav Kment	Advokát Managing Associate at Kinstellar, Prague	Czech Republic
Martin Hutchings KC	Barrister at Wilberforce Chambers	UK
Edward Low	Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright (Asia) LLP	Japan
James Goudie KC	Barrister at 11KBW Chambers	UK
John Kelsey-Fry	Cloth Fair Chambers	UK
Justice Richard Goldstone	Lawyer and former judge, served on the Transvaal Supreme Court from 1980 to 1989 and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa from 1990 to 1994, MacArthur Award for International Justice in 2009	South Africa
Michael F. Collins SC	Member of The Inner Bar	Ireland
Erik Hammerstein	Senior Counsel at bureau Brandeis	Netherlands
Hannah Brown KC	Barrister at One Essex Court, London	UK
Edie Hofmeister	Senior Chair, International Bar Association Business and Human Rights Committee	USA
Tamilla Imanova	Human rights lawyer at Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre (Nobel Peace Prize 2022)	Russia
Estelle Marie C. EWOLE LOBE	Droits des Peuples Autochtones-Protection des Forêts-Justice Climatique, Co-fondatrice de l'Action pour la Protection en Afrique des Déplacés Internes et des Migrants Environnementaux (APADIME)	Cameroon
Dr Simon Foote KC	Barrister at Bankside Chambers, New Zealand and Singapore	New Zealand
Prof. Emi Sugawara	Professor of Osaka University of Economics and Law	Japan
Eithne R. O'Doherty	M.A., B.Comm.(Hons), Dip. in Ed., Dip. in Dev. Planning (NUIG), Accredited Mediator, Arbitrator, Member of The Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Niamh Harnett BL	Barrister-at-Law, Member of The Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Prof. Asim A. Sheikh BL	Assistant Professor in Legal Medicine, UCD School of Medicine, Practising Barrister, Member of the Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Vincent Heneghan S.C.	Barrister at Four Courts, Member of the Bar of Ireland	Ireland
SAM CAREY	BARRISTER at BANKSIDE CHAMBERS	New Zealand
Sean Jones	Barrister at 11KBW Chambers	UK
Jallow Baba G	Fellow in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Lecturer of Law at Harvard Law School, former Executive Secretary of The Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC).	USA/Gambia
Aaron Fellmeth	Dennis S. Karjala Professor of Law, Science & Technology, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University	USA
William Penrose	B.Agr.Sc, M.Econ.Sc.(Agr), Member of the Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Liam M. Nolan	LIAM M. NOLAN, MA, BCL, LLB, DIP. ARB., DIP. INT. ARB, BARRISTER-AT-LAW, FOUR COURTS Chambers	Ireland
Prof. Kenneth Graham	Professor of Law (Emeritus), UCLA Law School, Author: The Uniform Contemtemtible Practices Act	USA
Alex Coomber	Practice Clerk at 25 Bedford Row, London	UK
Jonathan Arkush OBE	Barrister at Enterprise Chambers	UK

Eoin McGonigal SC	Member of the Inner Bar, Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Andrew Lenon KC	Barrister at One Essex Court Temple	Ireland
Andrew Caldecott KC	Barrister at 5RB	UK
Jesus Alfaro Aguilar	Professor of Commercial Law since 1995, Member of the Illustrious Bar Association of Madrid	Spain
Francesca Quint	Barrister at Radcliffe Chambers	UK
Neil Kitchener KC	Barrister at One Essex Court	UK
Yann Aguila	Avocat à la Cour, Member of the Paris Bar	France
Dr. Ralph Kogge	Attorney at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Partner Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater PartG mbB	Germany
Mark Harty SC	Member of the Inner Bar of the Bar of Ireland	Ireland
Poppy Henderson	Barrister at 33 Bedford Row Chambers	UK