FRONT LINE DEFENDERS AWARD

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK











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About FRONT LINE DEFENDERS

Front Line Defenders is an international human rights organisation founded in Dublin in 2001, with the specific aim of protecting human rights defenders at risk (HRDs).

Front Line Defenders works to improve the security and protection of human rights defenders and organisations around the world at risk for their peaceful and legitimate human rights work. As identified by human rights defenders themselves, the organisation responds to protection and security needs by providing support through grants, capacity building, visibility, networking, and advocacy, at the international, regional and local levels. Front Line Defenders has been awarded the 2018 United Nations Human Rights Prize.

Front Line Defenders maintains its headquarters in Dublin, an EU Office in Brussels, and regionally-based field staff in the Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe & Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa.

About The Front Line Defenders Award

The annual Front Line Defenders Award was established in 2005 to honour the work of human rights defenders who are courageously making outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of the human rights of others, often at great personal risk to themselves.

The Award focuses international attention on the work and struggles of HRDs. This provides them with a greater national and international platform to speak about and advocate

for the human rights issues they are defending, while also contributing to their personal security.

Up until 2018, Front Line Defenders named one Global Laureate each year. Since 2018, Front Line Defenders began honouring five Regional Award Winners, with the Irish jury selecting one among them as the Global Laureate. In 2021, Front Line Defenders began recognising all regional winners as Laureates.





Luc Expedit Zinsou Agblakou

HIRONDELLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Luc Agblakou is a human rights defender who founded Hirondelle Club International, an organisation that has become a beacon of hope and solidarity for the LGBTIQ+ community in Benin, Africa. Born in 1984 in Cotonou, Benin's economic capital, Luc has dedicated his life to building a society where every person, regardless of their identity or sexual orientation, can live with dignity, safety, and equality.

The fifth of nine siblings and a self-made activist, Luc grew up in a bustling yet conservative society where discrimination, exclusion, and silence shaped the experience of LGBTIQ+communities. From a young age, he was deeply moved by injustice around him, and had a natural affiliation toward fostering peace and non-violence. Luc credits his parents for their openness, which fostered his early organising for LGBTIQ+ people in his father's living room, while many others had to hide from their families. He fondly remembers hosting his first community meetings and discussions in the living room accompanied by his mother's delicious coffee. With

the trust and support of his family, Luc built a safe space for LGBTIQ+ people that eventually grew into a national movement.

A MISSION BORN IN GRIEF

The murder of a friend in 2010, when Luc was 26 years old, would become a defining moment for him as an activist. His friend was murdered by his own father simply because of his sexual orientation in a society that rejected him. While dealing with the grief of losing his dear friend, Luc decided that he could not sit by and watch anyone else die. He wanted to prevent this from happening to others. This prompted him to take his activism to the next level. No longer satisfied with holding meetings in his living room, he officially created Hirondelle Club in 2013. It is a grassroots organisation responding to the urgent need for protection, support, and visibility of LGBTIO+ people.

Today, Hirondelle Club International, under Luc's leadership, is the only LGBTIQ+ led organisation in Benin that has compelled the government to recognise and engage with the realities of LGBTIQ+ people in its public health and human rights frameworks and policies.

Since 2015, his advocacy ensured that LGBTIQ+ people were included in Benin's national strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS. By promoting inclusive prevention, access to healthcare, and community engagement, he challenged long-held prejudices and reshaped national narratives around health and equality, which was an instrumental achievement in a conservative society such as Benin, and gives hope to others in similar contexts.

Luc also engages directly in legal advocacy. Since 2021, his organisation has achieved three landmark court victories for LGBTIQ+ people facing violence and discrimination. One example is a powerful case involving three gender non-conforming individuals whose rights had been gravely violated when they were attacked, stripped and beaten at a party, and images of them were subsequently shared on social media. Luc supported the victims throughout a lengthy trial by educating magistrates on concepts of gender identity, ensuring respectful treatment of the individuals, and successfully advocating for the conviction of the perpetrators. Despite winning the case in court, the individuals still felt unsafe, and Luc helped relocate them to Côte d'Ivoire in hopes of better protection, continuing his mission to protect lives across borders. Tragically, one of the survivors was later killed because of to their gender identity: a tragic reminder of the constant threats faced by the community, even across borders.

A SOURCE OF SOLIDARITY, EMPATHY AND HOPE

Luc's approach to his work is holistic. His organisation offers peer-led therapy, psychosocial assistance, nutritional support, and empowerment workshops for young LGBTIQ+ people. In











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a context where many are rejected by their families and left without guidance, Hirondelle Club provides structure, solidarity, and hope. An initiative that Luc is particularly proud of is one that involves working with parents who have difficulty accepting their children. When he manages to win parents over through dialogue and mediation, he also brings them in to support other families in fostering acceptance and understanding, paying it forward.

This model was inspired by one particular event. During a community dialogue session, a mother in the audience began to cry uncontrollably. She had thrown her son out of the house years earlier after learning about his sexual orientation. "If I had known what I know now," she told Luc, "I would have never done that. Where were you all this time?" That moment, for Luc, was a powerful reminder of the importance of his work, how awareness and empathy can lead to reconciliation, and why education is central to changing mindsets.

Internationally, Luc has built bridges of solidarity. In 2018, he participated in a study visit to Montpellier, France, to observe best practices at Le Refuge, a centre supporting LGBTIO+ youth. Inspired by this, Luc adapted approaches in Benin, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when isolation and stigma worsened. He later marched at Paris Pride and in 2024 visited the European Parliament to share his experiences and call for stronger international protections. He also met with France's LGBTIQ+ Rights Ambassador, Jean-Marc Berthon, to strengthen global collaboration. In 2022, Luc co-authored a civil society report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Benin, submitted to the UN. As a result, in 2023, Benin accepted two key recommendations: to ensure protection for LGBTIQ+ people from HIV and to prosecute acts of violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. These were historic steps, made possible through Luc's documentation work, coalition-building, and unwavering commitment to accountability.

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Human rights are not just principles, they require knowledge and commitment to build a just and inclusive world.

CHALLENGES

Luc's work has come with challenging consequences, in a context where there are few legal safeguards for LGBTIQ+ people and defenders. He has faced regular defamation of his character, and faced serious threats and intimidation from both community members and state actors. He has been followed, harassed, and publicly threatened by officials. He is sometimes physically approached and told to his face that he will "disappear". Suspicious drones occasionally fly over his home and the headquarters of Hirondelle. He is followed by unknown cars that try to run him over. Even when trying to relax in a bar, it is common for him to be verbally assaulted and sometimes even physically attacked. He eventually decided not to be out late at night. Luc has even been poisoned once in the past, and now his food has to be strictly monitored. Due to all of this, for his safety, he has had to relocate, more than once, and reduce his visibility in public spaces. His family has also been impacted, facing break-ins at their home late at night, and having their dogs killed as a warning. He faces hard sacrifices and no longer attends family gatherings or frequents public spaces in fear of harassment. He moves with extreme caution and relies on a small, trusted circle - primarily within Hirondelle Club.

CONCLUSION

Despite these dangers, Luc's motivation remains strong. While many others may give up in the face of such challenges, where a normal life and freedom of movement seems impossible, his courage, resilience, and dedication make him a powerful force for change, in Benin and beyond.

His greatest joy is hearing LGBTIQ+ youth say they finally feel seen, safe, and supported. From Benin's still-conservative society to the broader context, looking to neighbouring countries where LGBTIQ+ people are being persecuted even more intensely, this is a huge achievement for him. He always remembers his friend that he lost – through his work he may have saved many other lives.











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Luc Expedit Zinsou Agblakou

HIRONDELLE CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Bénin, Afrique

"Les droits de l'homme ne sont pas que des principes, ils nécessitent la reconnaissance et la volonté de construire un monde juste et inclusif".

CONTEXTE

Luc Agblakou est un défenseur des droits humains qui a fondé Hirondelle Club International, une organisation qui est devenue une lueur d'espoir et de solidarité pour la communauté LGBTIQ+ au Bénin en Afrique. Né en 1984 à Cotonou, la capitale économique du Bénin, Luc consacre sa vie à construire une société où chaque personne, quelle que soit son identité ou son orientation sexuelle, peut vivre dans la dignité, la sécurité et l'égalité.

Cinquième d'une fratrie de neuf enfants et militant autodidacte, Luc a grandi dans une société animée mais conservatrice où la discrimination, l'exclusion et le silence façonnaient l'expérience des communautés LGBTQ+. Dès son plus jeune âge, il était profondément touché par l'injustice qui l'entourait et avait un penchant naturel pour promouvoir la paix et la non-violence. Luc remercie ses parents pour leur ouverture d'esprit, qui lui a permis de s'organiser et d'œuvrer très tôt pour les personnes LGBTIQ+ dans le salon de son père, tandis que beaucoup d'autres devaient se cacher de leur famille. Il se souvient avec émotion d'avoir organisé ses premières réunions et discussions communautaires dans le salon, accompagnées du délicieux café de sa mère. Avec la confiance et le soutien de sa famille, Luc a créé un espace sûr pour les personnes LGBTIQ+, qui s'est ensuite transformé en un mouvement national.

UNE MISSION NÉE DE LA DOULEUR

Le meurtre d'un ami en 2010, alors que Luc avait 26 ans, a été un moment décisif pour lui en tant qu'activiste. Son ami a été assassiné par son propre père simplement en raison de son orientation sexuelle dans une société qui le rejetait. Alors qu'il doit faire face au deuil de la perte de son cher ami, Luc décide qu'il ne peut pas rester sans rien faire et voir quelqu'un d'autre mourir. Il voulait éviter que cette tragédie n'arrive à d'autres. Cela l'a incité à passer

à l'étape suivante de son activisme. Ne se contentant plus d'organiser des réunions dans son salon, il crée officiellement l'Hirondelle Club en 2013. Il s'agit d'une organisation populaire qui répond au besoin urgent de protection, de soutien et de visibilité des personnes LGBTIQ+.

Aujourd'hui, l'Hirondelle Club International, sous la direction de Luc, est la seule organisation LGBTIQ+ au Bénin qui a contraint le gouvernement à reconnaître et à prendre en compte les réalités des personnes LGBTIQ+ dans ses cadres et politiques en matière de santé publique et de droits humains.

Depuis 2015, son plaidoyer a permis d'inclure les personnes LGBTIQ+ dans le plan stratégique du Bénin pour la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA. En promouvant la prévention inclusive, l'accès aux soins de santé et l'engagement communautaire, il a remis en question des préjugés de longue date et remodelé les récits nationaux sur la santé et l'égalité, ce qui est une réussite déterminante dans une société conservatrice comme le Bénin, et donne de l'espoir à d'autres personnes dans des contextes similaires.

Luc participe également directement au plaidover juridique. Depuis 2021, son organisation a remporté trois victoires judiciaires historiques pour les personnes LGBTIO+ confrontées à la violence et à la discrimination. L'une de ces affaires marquantes concerne trois personnes de genre non-conforme dont les droits ont été gravement bafoués lorsqu'elles ont été attaquées, déshabillées et battues lors d'une fête, et que des images d'elles ont ensuite été diffusées sur les réseaux sociaux. Luc a soutenu les victimes tout au long d'un long procès, en sensibilisant les magistrats aux concepts d'identité de genre, en veillant à ce que les personnes soient traitées avec respect et en plaidant avec succès pour la condamnation des auteurs. Bien qu'ils aient obtenu gain de cause devant le tribunal, ces personnes ne se sentaient toujours pas en sécurité et Luc les a aidé à se réinstaller en Côte d'Ivoire dans l'espoir d'une meilleure protection, poursuivant ainsi sa mission qui consiste à protéger des vies au-delà des frontières. Malheureusement, l'un des survivants a ensuite été tué en raison de son identité de genre : un rappel tragique des menaces constantes auxquelles la communauté est confrontée, même audelà des frontières.

UNE SOURCE DE SOLIDARITÉ, D'EMPATHIE ET D'ESPOIR

Luc a une approche holistique de son travail. Son organisation propose des

thérapies menées par des pairs, une assistance psychosociale, un soutien nutritionnel et des ateliers d'autonomisation pour les jeunes LGBTIQ+. Dans un contexte où beaucoup sont rejetés par leur famille et laissés sans repères, l'Hirondelle Club apporte structure, solidarité et espoir. Luc est particulièrement fier d'une initiative qui consiste à travailler avec des parents qui ont du mal à accepter leurs enfants. Lorsqu'il parvient à convaincre les parents par le dialogue et la médiation, il les amène également à soutenir d'autres familles en favorisant l'acceptation et la compréhension.

Ce modèle lui a été inspiré par un événement particulier. Au cours d'une séance de dialogue communautaire, une mère présente dans le public s'est mise à pleurer de façon incontrôlée. Elle avait mis son fils à la porte des années plus tôt après avoir appris son orientation sexuelle. « Si j'avais su ce que je sais maintenant », a-t-elle dit à Luc, « je n'aurais jamais fait ça. Où étiezvous tout ce temps là? » Ce moment-là, pour Luc, a été un rappel puissant de l'importance de son travail, de la façon dont la sensibilisation et l'empathie peuvent conduire à la réconciliation, et de la raison pour laquelle l'éducation est essentielle pour changer les mentalités.

Luc a construit des ponts de solidarité au niveau international. En 2018, il a participé à une visite d'étude à Montpellier, en France, pour observer les meilleures pratiques au Refuge, un centre qui soutient les jeunes LGBTIQ+. Inspiré par cette expérience, Luc a adapté ces approches au Bénin, en particulier pendant la pandémie de COVID-19, lorsque l'isolement et la stigmatisation se sont aggrayés. Il a ensuite défilé à la Marche des fiertés à Paris et, en 2024, il s'est rendu au Parlement européen pour faire part de son expérience et demander un renforcement des protections internationales. Il a également rencontré l'ambassadeur français pour les droits des personnes LGBTIO+, Jean-Marc Berthon, afin de renforcer la collaboration mondiale. En 2022, Luc a co-rédigé un rapport de la société civile pour l'Examen Périodique Universel (EPU) du Bénin, présenté aux Nations Unies. Suite à cela, en 2023, le Bénin a accepté deux recommandations clés : assurer la protection des personnes LGBTIO+ contre le VIH et intenter des poursuites en cas d'actes de violence fondés sur l'orientation sexuelle ou l'identité de genre. Ces étapes historiques ont été rendues possibles grâce au travail de documentation de Luc, à la constitution de coalitions et à son engagement inébranlable en faveur de la responsabilité.

DES DÉFIS

Le travail de Luc a eu des conséquences difficiles, dans un contexte où il existe peu de garanties juridiques pour les personnes et les défenseurs LGBTIO+. Il est régulièrement victime de diffamation et fait l'objet de graves menaces et intimidations de la part de membres de la communauté et d'acteurs étatiques. Il est suivi, harcelé et menacé en public par des fonctionnaires. Parfois des gens l'abordent et lui disent en face gu'il va « disparaître ». Des drones suspects ont plusieurs fois survolé sa maison et le siège d'Hirondelles. Il est suivi par des voitures inconnues qui tentent de l'écraser. Même lorsqu'il essaie de se détendre dans un bar, il est fréquent qu'il soit agressé verbalement et parfois même physiquement. Il a fini par décider de ne plus sortir tard le soir. Luc a déià été empoisonné une fois, et désormais il doit faire strictement attention à ce qu'il mange. En raison de tout cela, il a dû, pour sa sécurité, déménager plusieurs fois et réduire sa visibilité dans l'espace public. Sa famille est également touchée : elle a été victime d'effractions à son domicile tard dans la nuit et ses chiens ont été tués en quise d'avertissement. Il doit faire de durs sacrifices et n'assiste plus aux réunions de famille ou ne fréquente plus les lieux publics par crainte d'être harcelé. Il se déplace avec la plus grande prudence et ne s'appuie que sur un petit cercle de confiance, principalement au sein de l'Hirondelle Club.

CONCLUSION

Malgré ces dangers, Luc reste très motivé. Alors que beaucoup d'autres pourraient abandonner face à de tels défis, et bien qu'une vie normale et la liberté de mouvement semblent impossibles, son courage, sa résilience et son dévouement font de lui une force puissante pour le changement, au Bénin et au-delà.

Sa plus grande joie est d'entendre de jeunes LGBTIQ+ dire qu'ils se sentent enfin vus, en sécurité et soutenus. Il s'agit pour lui d'une grande réussite, que ce soit dans la société béninoise encore conservatrice ou dans le contexte plus large des pays voisins où les personnes LGBTIQ+ sont persécutées de manière encore plus intense. Il se souvient toujours de l'ami qu'il a perdu mais grâce à son travail il en a peut-être sauvé beaucoup d'autres.





El Movimiento por los Derechos Humanos, la Paz y la Justicia Global (MONDHA)

THE MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND GLOBAL JUSTICE (MONDHA)

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

To date, MONDHA has helped more than 10,000 vulnerable Haitian people obtain their identity documents in the Dominican Republic: the first step towards accessing rights in the neighbouring Caribbean country. Founded by Haitian migrants in 2005, The Movement for Human Rights, Peace and Global Justice (MONDHA) was created in response to the context of structural discrimination and racism towards the Haitian migrant population and Dominicans of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic.

From teaching an 80-year-old woman to read and write in three months, to monitoring raids and deportations of migrants in detention centres and border areas between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, MONDHA paves a way and provides opportunities for the people they support to live a normal

life. Their work has supported peasant workers, construction workers, informal traders, Haitian women working on sugar cane fields, and more. They are more than an administrative support centre, they are a centre of empowerment and transformation.

With a particular focus on women and young people, MONDHA was founded two decades ago aimed at contributing to a just, intercultural and solidarity-based society. From its offices in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti and Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, they offer a space for accompaniment, action and social reflection through the empowerment of people in vulnerable situations in both countries.

RESPONDING TO INJUSTICE

Haiti is a neighbouring country of the Dominican Republic.





As in many parts of the world, people on the move face discrimination in many forms. Many Haitians cross the border seeking better work opportunities due to the poor conditions and rampant violence in their own country. However, they are discriminated against economically, racially, and structurally. In an attempt to restrict these communities' access to rights, the Dominican Republic's constitutional court has stripped the nationality of Dominican-born people with Haitian ancestry through Constitutional Court Ruling 168-13, which has had serious consequences for the nationality of thousands of people of Haitian descent. Authorities have also denied immigration status to those Haitians living in the country.

MONDHA has actively supported those affected by these legal rulings by providing legal and social support.

MONDHA does not fight only for rights, but "for a world where living with dignity is not a privilege, but a guarantee."

MONDHA offers training programmes in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, to increase literacy and integration to schools and the workforce. The organisation also offers craft workshops and a diploma course in human rights for Haitian children, youth and women. By participating in civil society spaces and promoting dialogue for democracy and human rights, MONDHA also raises awareness and educates society about the importance of these issues in both countries.

MONDHA has hundreds of volunteer doctors who graduated in the Dominican Republic, who currently support migrants who do not have access to healthcare in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Their ultimate goal is to have a health center in northern Haiti for Haitian women (maternity and pediatrics). "If we don't, who will? Addressing the situation in Haiti has to start with Haitians themselves. As migrants in the Dominican Republic, we understood that something had to change and that the problems had to be addressed by integrating, connecting, and speaking up," says MONDHA's President, Wendy Osirus.

CHALLENGES

However, MONDHA's relentless defence of human rights comes at a price. In the Dominican Republic, the organisation's members face multiple layers of risk. First, the risk of detention and deportation due to their immigration status as Haitians - if they were declared personae non gratae (unwelcome people in







Defending human rights means believing that a more just world is not only possible, but necessary.

the country) and deported to Haiti, where corruption and lack of governance has become the reality, they are at risk of losing their lives or being forcibly disappeared due to their human rights work. But even if they remain in the Dominican Republic, some face constant fear and stress. Some of MONDHA's members, like the people they support, face prolonged waits for their residency permits to be granted. They endure racial discrimination which is often heightened when it is known that they are human rights defenders working to protect Haitians. This carries into the online space, where they face defamation and smear campaigns painting them as "subversive".

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The organisation itself is also at risk of having its institutional status questioned and discredited by Dominican authorities. It has had to close its doors for a period of time due to significant threats which MONDHA members received.

The psychological burden of their work, having to often witness the Dominican government order bulldozers to destroy the houses of the people they support, is something that weighs heavy on them. Sometimes, they have to watch entire families be deported. Sometimes, they have to watch how migrant women who just gave birth are persecuted and deported. Nonetheless, they keep helping others with a smile and continue their work in the hopes of reducing the likelihood of these horrible situations recurring for others.

Despite their active and visible work leading to smear campaigns against them by media outlets, MONDHA has become a beacon of light for migrant rights and nationality issues, urging the Dominican Republic government to guarantee the protection of rights of all migrants on an equal footing. The power of a legal identity in a world filled with many stateless people cannot be understated.

Their strong emphasis on migration regularisation - through birth certificates, identity cards and passports - has become a source of hope, and more importantly, empowerment, for many Haitians, allowing them to live with dignity. As MONDHA believes, "Peace is born when respect for human dignity becomes non-negotiable."













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EMPOWER ONE, EMPOWER A THOUSAND.

The impact of MONDHA's work is widespread, having the impact of a movement. Several of the people MONDHA supported are now human rights defenders themselves, demonstrating their abiliity to not only support others but empower them to become leaders themselves. One group of migrant women they supported now leads its own work to promote human rights through evangelical churches in the country.

MONDHA's human rights training has also introduced new spaces to talk about diversity, inclusive language, and the LGBTIQ+ community openly, even in churches. They are inspired by the people they support and who have decided to join their cause.

MONDHA highlights that there are more similarities between Haitians and Dominicans than differences: they share similar food, music, and even some voodoo traditions. Through intercultural understanding and respect, MONDHA hopes to strengthen the friendship between the two countries for the benefit of their populations.

Looking to the future, MONDHA wants to see an autonomous space for critical thought in Haiti, oriented towards sustainable







development and the self-determination of the Haitian people. While they denounce the bad practices of the Haitian state and propose solutions, they want to empower Hatian people by reducing dependence on international humanitarian aid through local initiatives that strengthen the economy, education, and citizen participation. They believe that strengthening from the ground up can lay the foundations for lasting peace and true justice.

Despite the constant risk they face and the emotional impact their work entails, MONDHA has been working for 20 years – and continues to do so – for their greatest inspiration to continue their human rights work: the people they support. As MONDHA's leadership says, "Global justice is not a favour, it is a right that is built with every voice that refuses to be silenced."



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El Movimiento por los Derechos Humanos, la Paz y la Justicia Global (MONDHA)

República Dominicana/Haití

"Defender los derechos humanos significa creer que un mundo más justo no sólo es posible, sino necesario".

CONTEXTO

Hasta la fecha, MONDHA ha ayudado a más de 10.000 personas haitianas en situación de vulnerabilidad a obtener sus documentos de identidad en la República Dominicana: el primer paso para acceder a derechos en su vecino país caribeño. Fundado por migrantes haitianos y haitianas en 2005, el Movimiento por los Derechos Humanos, la Paz y la Justicia Global (MONDHA) se creó en respuesta al contexto de discriminación estructural y racismo hacia la población migrante haitiana y las personas dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana en la República Dominicana.

Desde enseñar a leer y escribir a una adulta mayor de 80 años en tres meses, hasta vigilar las redadas y deportaciones de inmigrantes en centros de detención y zonas fronterizas entre Haití y la República Dominicana, MONDHA abre camino y ofrece oportunidades para que las personas a las que apoyan puedan llevar una vida digna. Su trabajo apoya los derechos laborales de las personas campesinas, trabajadoras de la construcción y comerciantes informales, con enfoque en las mujeres haitianas y los bateyes de cañaverales. Son más que un centro de apoyo administrativo, son un centro de empoderamiento y transformación.

Con especial atención a las mujeres y jóvenes, MONDHA fue fundada hace dos décadas con el objetivo de contribuir a una sociedad justa, intercultural y solidaria. Desde sus oficinas en Cabo Haitiano, en Haití, y Santiago de los Caballeros, en República Dominicana, ofrecen un espacio de acompañamiento, acción y reflexión social a través del empoderamiento de personas en situación de vulnerabilidad en ambos países.

RESPONDER A LA INJUSTICIA

Haití es el país vecino de la República Dominicana. Como en muchas partes del mundo, las personas migrantes sufren discriminación de varias formas. Un gran número de personas haitianas cruzan la frontera en busca de mejores oportunidades de trabajo debido a las difíciles condiciones y la creciente violencia en su propio país. Sin embargo, sufren discriminación económica, racial y estructural. En un intento de restringir el acceso a los derechos de estas comunidades, el Tribunal Constitucional de la República Dominicana ha retirado la nacionalidad a las y los dominicanos con ascendencia haitiana a través de la Sentencia 168-13 del Tribunal Constitucional, la cual ha tenido graves consecuencias sobre la nacionalidad de miles de personas de ascendencia haitiana. Las autoridades además han negado el estatus migratorio a las personas haitianas que viven en el país. MONDHA ha acompañado de manera activa a las personas afectadas por medio de apoyo legal y social.

Más allá de apoyo jurídico y administrativo, MONDHA se creó para mejorar las condiciones de vida de estas comunidades, promover una vida digna para ellos en la República Dominicana y abogar por la mejora de las relaciones entre Haití y la Republica Dominicana a través de actividades interculturales, cursos de idiomas, e intercambios entre institutos y universidades, entre otros. Las personas defensoras de MONDHA participan activamente en los espacios de diálogos sobre temas de derechos humanos con una visión binacional.

MONDHA no lucha sólo por los derechos, sino "por un mundo en el que vivir con dignidad no sea un privilegio, sino una garantía".

MONDHA ofrece programas de formación en la República Dominicana y Haití, para aumentar la alfabetización y la integración escolar y laboral de quienes apoyan. La organización también ofrece talleres de manualidades y un diplomado en derechos humanos para niñas, niños, jóvenes y mujeres haitianas. Al participar en espacios de la sociedad civil y promover el diálogo por la democracia y los derechos humanos, MONDHA también sensibiliza y educa a la sociedad sobre la importancia de estas cuestiones en ambos países.

MONDHA cuenta con cientos de médicos voluntarios graduados en República Dominicana que están actualmente apoyando a Las personas migrantes que no tienen acceso a la salud en Haití y República Dominicana, cumpliendo siempre con las leyes locales. La gran meta es tener un Centro de Salud en la zona norte de Haití para mujeres haitianas para que reciban atención de maternidad y pediatría.

"Si no lo hacemos nosotros, ¿quién lo hará? Para abordar la situación de Haití hay que empezar por los propios haitianos. Como migrantes en la República Dominicana, entendimos que algo tenía que cambiar y que había que abordar los problemas integrándonos, conectándonos y alzando la voz", afirma Wendy Osirus, Presidente de MONDHA.

DESAFÍOS

Sin embargo, la implacable defensa de derechos humanos por parte de MONDHA tiene un precio. En la República Dominicana, las y los integrantes de la organización se enfrentan a múltiples niveles de riesgo. En primer lugar, afrontan un riesgo de detención y deportación debido a su condición como personas migrantes haitianas: si son declaradas personae non gratae (personas no gratas en el país) y deportadas a Haití, donde la corrupción y la falta de gobernanza se han convertido en la realidad, corren el riesgo de perder la vida o de ser víctimas de desaparición forzada debido a su trabajo en favor de derechos humanos. Pero incluso si permanecen en la República Dominicana, algunas y algunos se enfrentan a miedo y estrés constante Algunas y algunos integrantes de MONDHA, al igual que las personas a las que apoyan, se enfrentan a prolongadas esperas para que se les conceda el permiso de residencia. Sufren discriminación racial, que a menudo se acentúa cuando se sabe que son personas defensoras de derechos humanos que trabajan para proteger a las personas haitianas. Esto se traslada al espacio en línea, donde se enfrentan a campañas de difamación y desprestigio que las y los pintan como "subversivos".

La propia organización también corre el riesgo de que las autoridades dominicanas cuestionen y desacrediten su estatus institucional, y ha tenido que cerrar sus puertas durante un tiempo debido a las graves amenazas recibidas por los miembros de MONDHA.

La carga psicológica de su trabajo, al tener que presenciar a menudo cómo el gobierno dominicano ordena a las excavadoras que destruyan las casas de las personas a las que ayudan, es una carga psicológica pesada que deben sobrellevar. A veces las y los integrantes de MONDHA tienen que ver cómo deportan a familias enteras que apoyan, o ver cómo mujeres migrantes que acaban de dar a luz son perseguidas y deportadas. Sin embargo, siguen ayudando a las y los demás con una sonrisa y continúan su trabajo con la esperanza de reducir la probabilidad de que estas horribles situaciones se repitan para otras personas.

A pesar de que su trabajo activo y visible ha dado lugar a campañas de desprestigio en su contra por parte de los medios de comunicación, MONDHA se ha convertido en un faro de luz para los derechos de las personas migrantes y las cuestiones de nacionalidad, instando al gobierno de la República Dominicana a garantizar la protección de los derechos de todos las personas migrantes en igualdad de condiciones. El poder de una identidad legal en un mundo lleno de apátridas no se puede subestimar.

Su fuerte énfasis en la regularización migratoria -a través de certificados de nacimiento, documentos de identidad y pasaportes- se ha convertido en una fuente de esperanza y, más importante aún, de empoderamiento para muchas y muchos haitianos, permitiéndoles vivir con dignidad. Como dice MONDHA, "La paz nace cuando el respeto por la dignidad humana se vuelve innegociable"..

EMPODERA A UNO, EMPODERA A MIL.

El impacto de la labor de MONDHA es extenso, teniendo la repercusión de un movimiento. Varias de las personas a las que MONDHA prestó apoyo son ahora personas defensoras de derechos humanos, lo que demuestra su capacidad, no sólo para apoyar a otras personas, sino también para capacitarlas para que se conviertan ellas mismas en líderes.

La formación en derechos humanos de MONDHA también ha introducido nuevos espacios para hablar abiertamente sobre diversidad, lenguaje inclusivo y la comunidad LGBTIQ+, incluso en las iglesias. Les inspiran las personas a las que apoyan y que han decidido unirse a su causa.

MONDHA destaca que entre personas haitianas y dominicanas hay más similitudes que diferencias: comparten la gastronomía, música e incluso algunas tradiciones vudú. A través de la comprensión y el respeto intercultural, MONDHA espera reforzar la amistad entre ambos países en beneficio de sus poblaciones.

Mirando hacia el futuro, MONDHA impulsa la creación de un espacio de pensamiento autónomo en Haití, orientado al desarrollo sostenible y a la autodeterminación del pueblo haitiano. Este plan tiene como objetivo reducir la dependencia de la ayuda humanitaria internacional mediante iniciativas locales que fortalezcan la economía, la educación y la participación ciudadana. Creemos que solo a través del fortalecimiento interno se podrán construir las bases para una paz duradera y una justicia verdaderamente global.

A pesar del riesgo constante al que se enfrentan y del impacto emocional que conlleva su trabajo, MONDHA lleva 20 años trabajando -y sigue haciéndolopor su mayor inspiración para continuar su labor de defensa de derechos humanos: las personas a las que apoyan.

Como dicen las y los dirigentes de MONDHA, "la justicia global no es un favor, es un derecho que se construye con cada voz que se niega a ser silenciada".





Arnon Nampa

อานนท์ นำภา - THAI LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Arnon Nampa is an imprisoned human rights lawyer and activist, highly regarded for his deep commitment to social justice and pro-democracy work in Thailand.

Despite what Arnon has endured, the bars of a prison cell do not contain his inimitable and inexorable drive to vindicate the rights of others. While wearing shackles and a prison uniform, he continues to act as a lawyer defending victims of lèse-majesté (a law which criminalises anyone who defames, insults, or threatens the Thai royal family) prosecution by being given permission to represent his clients in court, and returning to prison thereafter. Despite the limitations of the bare jail cell and stifling prison environment, he continues to <u>publish letters and poems</u> that inspire those beyond the prison walls.

In spite of his political persecution, the potential of a lifetime behind bars and proposed penalties of disbarment from the profession to which he has dedicated his life, he has never wavered in offering himself in service of others and his country. With steadfast courage and resolve, for the last two

decades Arnon has played the roles of an activist, a storyteller, a justice-oriented lawyer, and a human rights defender.

The movement he helped galvanise and the organisations he co-founded from scratch continue to operate fully even as he is incarcerated; his impact burgeons in tandem with the increasing efforts to silence him. Those who have worked with him and continue his legacy, speak with tears in their eyes of his courage, spirit and bravery that inspires them to continue pushing for freedom and democracy in Thailand.

AN UPBRINGING DEEPLY ROOTED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Arnon grew up in a rural province of Thailand, surrounded by rice fields. He studied at a provincial school where he was exposed to children from different walks of life and first cultivated his leadership skills through school and social activities.

Arnon's commitment to political activism and social justice started early. In high school, he witnessed his grandparents fighting against government-constructed concrete irrigation









canals on land his family needed to cultivate, stirring something in him as a teenager. During this time, he keenly studied the history of activists in Thailand and their various movements, including through poetry and protest songs, and remains an avid poetry and creative enthusiast, which we see throughout his journey as a human rights defender.

His roots in Thailand's Northeast region also profoundly influenced his life's mission. The region is historically known for its strong support of the "red shirt" movement which emerged to protest the military coup in 2006 that toppled the elected government of then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Arnon regards this movement as "his family" and credits them for giving him a palpable understanding of the struggles Thai people face in striving for democracy and equality.

GIVING LIFE TO THE LAW

His lived experiences, combined with his intellectual interests, affirmed Arnon in his belief that he too must stand firm against injustice. This insight led him to pursue a law degree, receiving his legal licence in 2007. Throughout the changing seasons of Thailand's political regimes and leadership, his determination to use his law degree to redress injustice is evident throughout his career.

His inspiring legal philosophy is characterised by a nuanced understanding of the law's role in society. To Arnon, the law must not be a set of abstract rules; rather, it should give life to the liberties enshrined in domestic and international legislation.

"

In moments when life is gripped by crisis, we humans are called to be courageous. It is a courage born of necessity—profound and indispensable—and we come to truly recognize it only once it rises within us. We might utter the word courage hundreds or thousands of times, but it is only when we stand face to face with darkness and despair, when crisis truly arrives, that we begin to understand the difference between a voice that speaks from the mouth and one that speaks from the heart. They are not the same kind of courage.

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STANDING UP TO FEAR

A decisive turning point in his career occurred in 2009 when he began taking on cases under Section 112 of the Thai Criminal Code, the draconian lèse majesté provision that punishes alleged violators with three to 15 years in prison. Successive governments have abused and weaponised this law. In 2009, under the government of Abhisit Vejjajiva, there was a massive increase in its abuse.

Arnon remembers seeing activists being arrested or forcibly disappeared on TV with wide eyes thinking, "Is there nothing

we can do?" At a tipping point, Arnon found the guilt of not speaking out for those who died far surpassed any fears of retribution, stating that, "Fear is no longer a limitation...the worst that can happen to me is just death. Many activists died. The worst is just that."

While taking on cases of people affected by this atrocious law, Arnon and other lawyers formed the Human Rights Lawyers Association of Thailand (HRLA) which boldly and publicly denounced the 2006 military coup and called for the repeal of the lèse majesté and computer crimes laws (digital, cyber and internet laws).

ASSISTING THE MOST MARGINALISED

In 2010, with another changing political season, many protested against the then-oppressive government of Abhisit Vejjajiva following the military coup. When there was violent state suppression of the "red shirt" protests, many local villagers and activists faced politically motivated charges and unjust persecution. Arnon then established the Ratsadornprasong Law Office to provide essential pro bono legal assistance and advice to them. Notably, he also played a key role in the highly publicised legal defence of Amphon Tangnoppakul, an older man known as "Ah Kong," sentenced to an outrageous

20-year prison term for allegedly sending SMS messages that violated lèse majesté. Sadly, he was repeatedly denied bail and tragically died in prison.

UNITING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In the aftermath of another military coup in 2014, Arnon emerged as a leading and unwavering voice of dissent against the military regime. It was then that he co-founded Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR), an organisation that has since become a leading force in meticulously documenting widespread human rights violations and providing essential

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legal representation to individuals targeted by the military junta and subsequent governments.

Beyond his legal practice, Arnon co-founded "Resistant Citizen," a group known for its innovative and often satirical forms of protest designed to challenge the legitimacy of the 2014 coup. Throughout the junta's rule, he consistently called to restore democratic elections and played a pivotal role in the "People Who Want an Election" movement, which organised widespread protests across Thailand.

CHALLENGES

Arnon's courageous and unwavering advocacy for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law comes at an immense and devastating personal cost. On 7 August 2020, Arnon was arrested from his home in Bangkok, after he took part in a peaceful pro-democracy gathering on 18 July 2020. He spent no fewer than 300 days in prison before the court found him guilty of lèse majesté in the first of 14 such cases and sentenced him to four years in prison on 26 September 2023. Imprisoned since then, Arnon has been subjected to relentless judicial harassment and persecution, facing a barrage of politically motivated charges designed to silence his voice and suppress his activism. At present, he has been convicted in seven Section 112 cases, resulting in a cumulative and shocking prison sentence of 22 years, 1 month, and 20 days. He continues to face prosecution in several ongoing cases, all of which stem solely from his public speeches at peaceful demonstrations. Arnon was convicted of contempt of court in a secret verdict hearing, a process that denied him basic due

process rights, after he protested for his fundamental fair trial rights by removing his shirt when the judge refused to issue subpoenas for documents crucial to his defence.

These are only the most concrete challenges. Arnon faces separation from family and friends, tough conditions in prison, and no certainty on whether, or when, he will be free again. What is clear from Arnon's journey as a human rights defender is that no matter the changing tides of his country, his resolve and purpose remain the same: to protect the human rights of those around him. His morale remains high, and his resolve keeps others motivated to continue his powerful work.









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อานนท์ นำภา

กลุ่มนักกฎหมายเพื่อสิทธิมนุษยชน

ประเทศไทย

"ในห้วงเวลาที่ชีวิตเผชิญกับวิกฤติ มนุษย์เรามีความจำเป็นต้องกล้าหาญ เป็นความกล้า หาญที่จำเป็นอย่างยิ่งและเราย่อมตระหนักรู้ได้เมื่อบังเกิดความกล้าหาญนั้นแล้ว เรา อาจพร่ำป่นคำว่ากล้าหาญได้เป็นร้อยเป็นพันครั้ง แต่เมื่อเผชิญหน้ากับความมืดมน อนธการ เผชิญกับวิกฤติ เราจึงอาจรู้ว่าระหว่างเสียงที่เปล่งออกมาจากปากกับเสียงที่ เปล่งออกมาจากหัวใจ มันเป็นความกล้าหาญคนละอย่างกัน

บริบทและภูมิหลัง

อานนท์ นำภา เป็นทนายความด้านสิทธิมนุษยชนและนักเคลื่อนไหวที่ถูกคุมขัง ซึ่งได้รับ การยกย่องอย่างสูงจากความมุ่งมั่นอันแรงกล้าต่อความยุติธรรมทางสังคมและการทำงาน เพื่อประชาธิบไตยในประเทศไทย

แม้ว่าอานนท์จะต้องเผชิญกับลิ่งเลวร้ายเพียงใด กำแพงของห้องขังในเรือนจำก็ไม่อาจ กักขังแรงผลักดันอันทรงพลังและไม่ย่อท้อของเขาในการปกป้องสิทธิของผู้อื่นได้ แม้ต้อง สวมโช่ตรวนและชุดนักโทษ เขายังคงปฏิบัติหน้าที่ในฐานะทนายความเพื่อปกป้องเหยื่อ ของการดำเนินคดีตามกฎหมายหมิ่นประมาทกษัตริย์ (กฎหมายที่เอาผิดผู้ใดก็ตามที่ดูหมิ่น หมิ่นประมาท หรืออาฆาตมาดร้ายพระมหากษัตริย์ไทย) โดยได้รับอนุญาตให้ว่าความใน ศาล และกลับเข้าสู่เรือนจำหลังจากเสร็จลิ้นภารกิจ แม้ต้องอยู่ในห้องชังที่ว่างเปล่าและ เผชิญกับสภาพแวดล้อมในเรือนจำที่กดดัน เขายังคงเขียนจดหมายและบทกวีที่เปี่ยมด้วย แรงบันดาลใจ ส่งต่อพลังให้แก่ผู้คนที่อยู่นอกกำแพงเรือนจำอย่างต่อเนื่อง แม้ต้องเผชิญกับการถูกกลั่นแกล้งทางการเมือง ความเป็นไปได้ที่จะต้องใช้ชีวิตทั้งชีวิตอยู่ หลังลูกกรง และโทษที่อาจนำไปสู่การถูกเพิกถอนใบอนุญาตจากวิชาชีพที่เขาอุทิศตนมา ตลอดสองทศวรรษที่ผ่านมา อานนท์ได้ทำหน้าที่ทั้งในฐานะนักเคลื่อนไหว นักเล่าเรื่อง ทนายความผู้ยืดมั่นในความยุติธรรม และนักปกป้องสิทธิมนุษยชน ด้วยความกล้าหาญ และความมุ่งมั่นอย่างไม่ลั่นคลอน

ขบวนการที่เขามีบทบาทในการผลักคัน และองค์กรที่เขาร่วมก่อตั้งจากศูนย์ ยังคงคำเนิน งานอย่างเต็มที่แม้ในขณะที่เขาถูกคุมขัง อิทธิพลของเขายังคงขยายตัวควบคู่ไปกับความ พยายามที่เพิ่มขึ้นในการปิดปากเขา ผู้ที่เคยทำงานร่วมกับเขาและอังคงสานต่อเจตนารมณ์ ของเขา ต่างพูดถึงความกล้าหาญ จิตวิญญาณ และความไม่ย่อท้อของเขาด้วยน้ำตา ในดวงตา สิ่งเหล่านี้เป็นแรงบันดาลใจให้พวกเขายังคงเดินหน้าผลักดันเสรีภาพและ ประชาธิบไตยใบประเทศไทยต่อไป

การเติบโตที่หยั่งรากลึกในความยุติธรรมทางสังคม

อานนท์เติบโตในจังหวัดชนบทของประเทศไทย ท่ามกลางทุ่งนาที่รายล้อม เขาเรียนใน โรงเรียนระดับจังหวัด ซึ่งเปิดโอกาสให้เขาได้พบเจอกับเพื่อนนักเรียนจากหลากหลายพื้นเพ และเริ่มพัฒนาทักษะความเป็นผู้นำผ่านกิจกรรมในโรงเรียนและกิจกรรมทางสังคมตั้งแต่ ช่วงแรก ๆ

ความมุ่งมั่นของอานนท์ต่อการเคลื่อนไหวทางการเมืองและความยุติธรรมทางสังคมเริ่ม ต้นตั้งแต่ช่วงวัยเยาว์ ในช่วงมัธยมปลาย เขาได้เห็นคุณปู่คุณย่าของเขาต่อสู้กับโครงการ สร้างคลองส่งน้ำคอนกรีตของรัฐบาลบนที่ดินซึ่งครอบครัวของเขาจำเป็นต้องใช้เพาะปลูก เหตุการณ์นั้นได้ปลุกบางสิ่งในใจเขาในฐานะวัยรุ่น ในช่วงเวลานั้น เขาศึกษาประวัติศาสตร์ ของนักเคลื่อนไหวในประเทศไทยและขบวนการต่าง ๆ อย่างจริงจัง รวมถึงผ่านบทกวีและ เพลงประท้วง และเขายังคงเป็นผู้ที่หลงใหลในบทกวีและงานสร้างสรรค์อย่างลึกซึ้ง ซึ่ง สะท้อนให้เห็นตลอดเล้นทางการเป็นนักปกป้องสิทธิมนุษยชนของเขา

รากเหล้าของเขาในภูมิภาคตะวันออกเฉียงเหนือของประเทศไทยยังมีอิทธิพลอย่างลึกซึ้ง ต่อภารกิจในชีวิตของเขาอีกด้วย ภูมิภาคนี้เป็นที่รู้จักในทางประวัติศาสตร์จากการสบับสนุน อย่างแข็งแกร่งต่อขบวนการ "เลื้อแดง" ซึ่งเกิดขึ้นเพื่อต่อต้านการรัฐประหารของกอง ทัพในปี พ.ศ. 2549 ที่โค่นล้มรัฐบาลที่มาจากการเลือกตั้งของนายกรัฐมนตรีทักษิณ ชิน วัตรในขณะนั้น อานนท์มองว่าขบวนการนี้เป็น "ครอบครัวของเขา" และยกย่องว่าพวก เขาเป็นผู้ที่ทำให้เขาเข้าใจอย่างลึกซึ้งถึงการต่อลู้ที่ประชาชนไทยต้องเผชิญในการแสวงหา ประชาธิปไตยและความเท่าเทียม

มอบชีวิตให้กับกฎหมาย

ประสบการณ์ชีวิตที่เขาเผชิญร่วมกับความสนใจในด้านวิชาการ ได้ย้ำเตือนให้อานนท์มั่นใจ ว่าเขาเองก็ต้องยืนหยัดต่อสู้กับความอยุติธรรมเช่นกัน แนวคิดนี้ได้นำพาเขาให้เดินหน้า เรียนด้านกฎหมาย จนได้รับใบอนุญาตว่าความในปี พ.ศ. 2550 ท่ามกลางการเปลี่ยน ผ่านของระบอบการเมืองและผู้นำในประเทศไทย ความมุ่งมั่นของเขาในการใช้ความรู้ด้าน กฎหมายเพื่อต่อสู้ความอยุติธรรมยังคงปรากฏชัดตลอดเล้นทางอาชีพของเขา

ปรัชญาทางกฎหมายที่เปี่ยมแรงบันดาลใจของเขาโดดเด่นด้วยความเข้าใจอย่างลึกซึ้งถึง บทบาทของกฎหมายในลังคม สำหรับอานนท์ กฎหมายไม่ควรเป็นเพียงชุดของกฎเกณฑ์ ที่เป็นนามธรรม หากแต่ควรเป็นเครื่องมือที่มอบชีวิตให้กับเสรีภาพที่ได้รับการรับรองไว้ใน กฎหมายทั้งในประเทศและระดับสากล

ยืนหยัดต่อความกลัว

จุดเปลี่ยนสำคัญในอาชีพของเขาเกิดขึ้นในปี พ.ศ. 2552 เมื่อเขาเริ่มรับว่าความในคดีตาม มาตรา 112 แห่งประมวลกฎหมายอาญาของไทย ซึ่งเป็นกฎหมายหมิ่นประมาทกษัตริย์ที่มี บทลงโทษรุนแรง โดยผู้ที่ถูกตัดสินว่ากระทำผิดสามารถถูกจำคุกตั้งแต่ 3 ถึง 15 ปี รัฐบาล หลายชุดได้ใช้กฎหมายฉบับนี้ในทางที่ผิดและเปลี่ยนให้เป็นเครื่องมือทางการเมือง ในปี พ.ศ. 2552 ภายใต้รัฐบาลของอภิสิทธิ์ เวชชาชีวะ มีการใช้กฎหมายฉบับนี้ในทางที่ผิดเพิ่ม ขึ้นอย่างมหาศาล

อานนท์จำได้ว่าเคยเห็นนักเคลื่อนไหวถูกจับกุมหรือถูกบังคับให้หายตัวไปทางโทรทัศน์ด้วย ความตกตะลึงในสายตา พร้อมกับความคิดในใจว่า "เราไม่มีทางทำอะไรได้เลยหรือ?" เมื่อ ถึงจุดเปลี่ยน อานนท์พบว่าความรู้สึกผิดจากการไม่ออกมาพูดแทนผู้ที่เสียชีวิตนั้นมีน้ำหนัก มากกว่าความกลัวต่อการถูกตอบโต้ใด ๆ โดยเขากล่าวว่า "ความกลัวไม่ใช่อุปสรรคอีกต่อ ไป...สิ่งเลวร้ายที่สุดที่อาจเกิดขึ้นกับผม ก็แค่ความตาย นักเคลื่อนไหวจำนวนมากต้องจบ ชีวิตลง แย่ที่สุดก็แค่นั้น"

ในขณะที่อานนท์รับว่าความให้กับผู้ที่ได้รับผลกระทบจากกฎหมายอันโหดร้ายนี้ เขาและ กลุ่มทนายความคนอื่น ๆ ได้ร่วมกันก่อตั้งสมาคมนักกฎหมายสิทธิมนุษยชน (HRLA) ซึ่ง ออกมาแสดงจุดยืนอย่างกล้าหาญและเปิดเผยในการประณามการรัฐประหารในปี พ.ศ. 2549 และเรียกร้องให้มีการยกเลิกกฎหมายหมิ่นประมาทกษัตริย์รวมถึงกฎหมายว่าด้วย อาชญากรรมทางคอมพิวเตอร์ (กฎหมายดิจิทัล ไซเบอร์ และอินเทอร์เน็ต)

ช่วยเหลือผู้ที่ถูกกีดกันมากที่สุดในสังคม

ในปี พ.ศ. 2553 ท่ามกลางการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางการเมืองอีกครั้ง มีประชาชนจำนวนมาก ออกมาชุมนุมประท้วงต่อต้านรัฐบาลเผด็จการของอภิสิทธิ์ เวชชาชีวะ ซึ่งขึ้นสู่อำนาจหลัง การรัฐประหาร เมื่อมีการปราบปรามอย่างรุนแรงจากรัฐต่อการชุมนุมของกลุ่ม "เลื้อแดง" ชาวบ้านในท้องถิ่นและนักเคลื่อนไหวจำนวนมากต้องเผชิญกับข้อหาทางการเมืองและการ ดำเนินคดีอย่างไม่เป็นธรรม อานนท์จึงก่อตั้งสำนักงานกฎหมายราษฎรประสงค์ขึ้น เพื่อ ให้ความช่วยเหลือและคำปรึกษาทางกฎหมายโดยไม่คิดค่าใช้จ่ายแก่ผู้ที่ได้รับผลกระทบ เหล่านั้น สิ่งที่น่าสังเกตคือ เขายังมีบทบาทสำคัญในการให้ความช่วยเหลือทางกฎหมายใน คดีของอำพล ตั้งนพกุล ผู้ชายสูงอายุที่รู้จักกันในชื่อ "อากง" ซึ่งถูกตัดสินโทษจำคุก 20 ปี จากข้อกล่าวหาว่าเป็นผู้ส่งข้อความ SMS ที่ละเมิดกฎหมายหมิ่นประมาทกษัตริย์ เขาถูก ปภิเสธการประกันตัวหลายครั้ง และเสียชีวิตในเรือนจำอย่างน่าเคร้า

การรวมตัวเพื่อสิทธิมนุษยชน

หลังจากการรัฐประหารอีกครั้งในปี พ.ศ. 2557 อานนท์ได้กลายเป็นเสียงแนวหน้าและไม่ ย่อท้อในการคัดค้านระบอบเผด็จการทหาร ในช่วงนั้นเขาได้ร่วมก่อตั้งศูนย์ทนายความเพื่อ สิทธิมนุษยชน (TLHR) ซึ่งองค์กรนี้ได้กลายเป็นแรงผลักดันสำคัญในการบันทึกการละเมิด สิทธิมนุษยชนที่แพร่หลายอย่างรอบคอบ และให้ความช่วยเหลือทางกฎหมายแก่บุคคลที่ ถูกรัฐบาลทหารและรัฐบาลที่ตามมาดำเนินคดี

นอกเหนือจากการทำงานด้านกฎหมายแล้ว อานนท์ยังได้ร่วมก่อตั้ง "พลเมืองโต้กลับ" ซึ่งเป็นกลุ่มที่รู้จักกันดีในรูปแบบการประท้วงที่สร้างสรรค์และมักมีลักษณะการวิจารณ์ เชิงเสียดสี เพื่อท้าทายความชอบธรรมของการรัฐประหารในปี พ.ศ. 2557 ตลอดการ ปกครองของคณะรัฐประหาร เขายังคงเรียกร้องให้มีการเลือกตั้งตามระบอบประชาธิปไตย และมีบทบาทสำคัญในขบวนการ "คนอยากเลือกตั้ง" ซึ่งได้จัดการประท้วงขยายไปทั่ว ประเทศไทย

ความท้าทาย

การสนับสนุนอย่างกล้าหาญและไม่ย่อท้อของอานนท์ในด้านสิทธิมนุษยชน ประชาธิปไตย และการปกครองโดยกฎหมายได้มาพร้อมกับราคาอันมหาศาลต่อตัวเขา เมื่อวันที่ 7 สิงหาคม พ.ศ. 2563 อานนท์ถูกจับกุมจากบ้านของเขาในกรุงเทพ หลังจากที่เข้าร่วมในการ ชุมนุมเพื่อประชาธิปไตยอย่างสงบเมื่อวันที่ 18 กรกฎาคม พ.ศ. 2563 อานนท์ทุกคุมขัง ในเรือนจำระหว่างพิจารณาคดีกว่า 300 วัน ก่อนที่ศาลมีคำพิพากษาลงโทษจำคุก 4 ปี ใน วันที่ 26 กันยายน พ.ศ. 2566 ซึ่งเป็นคำพิพากษาในคดีมาตรา 112 คดีแรกจากทั้งหมด 14 คดี

ตั้งแต่ถูกคุมขังในขณะนั้น อานนท์ได้ถูกคุกคามในชั้นศาลอย่างต่อเนื่องและเผชิญกับข้อหาที่มีแรงจูงใจทางการเมืองมากมาย ซึ่งถูกตั้งขึ้นเพื่อปิดปากเสียงของเขาและปราบปรามการ เคลื่อนไหวของเขา ปัจจุบัน เขาถูกตัดสินลงโทษในคดีตามมาตรา 112 จำนวน 7 คดี ส่งผล ให้เขาต้องรับโทษจำคุกรวมกันเป็นระยะเวลา 22 ปี 1 เดือน 20 วัน ซึ่งเป็นระยะเวลาที่น่า ตกใจ เขายังคงเผชิญกับการดำเนินคดีในหลายคดีที่ยังดำเนินอยู่ ซึ่งทั้งหมดเกิดขึ้นจากการ ปราศรัยสาธารณะของเขาในการชุมนุมอย่างสงบ อานนท์ถูกตัดสินลงโทษในข้อหาละเมิด อำนาจศาลผ่านกระบวนการการอ่านคำพิพากษาที่ปิดลับ ซึ่งกระบวนการนี้ปฏิเสธสิทธิขั้น พื้นฐานของเขา หลังจากที่เขาเรียกร้องสิทธิในการได้รับการพิจารณาคดีอย่างเป็นธรรมโดย การถอดเสื้อเมื่อผู้พิพากษาปฏิเสธที่จะออกหมายเรียกพยานหลักฐานที่สำคัญต่อการพิสูจน์ ความบริสทธิ์ของเขา

นี่เป็นเพียงแค่ความท้าทายที่ชัดเจนที่สุดเท่านั้น อานนท์ยังต้องเผชิญกับการแยกจาก ครอบครัวและเพื่อนฝูง สภาพแวดล้อมที่ยากลำบากในเรือนจำ และไม่มีความแน่นอนว่า เขาจะได้รับอิสรภาพอีกครั้งเมื่อไหร่ สิ่งที่ชัดเจนจากเส้นทางของอานนท์ในฐานะนักปกป้อง สิทธิมนุษยชนคือ ไม่ว่าเหตุการณ์ในประเทศจะเปลี่ยนแปลงไปอย่างไร ความมุ่งมั่นและเป้า หมายของเขายังคงเหมือนเดิม นั่นคือเพื่อปกป้องสิทธิมนุษยชนของผู้คนรอบข้างเขา จิตใจ ของเขายังคงหมั่นคง และความมุ่งมั่นของเขาก็ยังคงเป็นแรงบันดาลใจให้ผู้อื่นเดินหน้าต่อไป ในการทำงานอันทรงพลังของเขา





Sharifakhon Madrakhimova

Шарифа Мадрахимова

A YOUNG CHANGEMAKER

Sharifa Madrakhimova Murodovna, an Uzbekistani woman human rights defender and journalist, grew up in a rural village in the Uchkuprik district of Fergana Region, in a conservative society. When she was in 6th grade at the local district school, as a keen reader and young intellectual, she decided to send a letter to the district newspaper to complain about a local educational magazine that had not been delivered to her school in several months. The letter from Sharifa surprisingly led to the issue being resolved. After this, people in the community started coming to her house to ask for help to write articles, letters of complaint and petitions about various community issues.

She grew up to be a respected community leader and later, inspired by her talent for writing, made a name for herself through her work as an independent journalist writing about issues impacting her community. This ranges from civil and political rights, and environmental rights and accountability, to the rights of women, farmers and people with disabilities. Through her work, Sharifa advocates for social change in the region, striving to promote justice and equitable decisionmaking by authorities.

Sharifa went on to study journalism at the National University of Uzbekistan in the capital city of Tashkent. She later worked as a journalist for the newspaper "Ma'rifat" (Education) from 1999 to 2020, and in 2020 she started working as a correspondent in the district newspaper "Buvayda kuzgusi" (Mirror of Buvayda) in Fergana Region. In November 2023, Sharifa was fired from Mirror of Buvayda after she spoke out against forced subscription (government enforced obligatory paid subscription) to the newspaper.

PAVING THE WAY FOR PROGRESS

In the past, Uzbekistan was a very isolated and conservative country with restrictions on individual freedoms. In Uzbekistan, at the time Sharifa completed school, it was still common for parents to refrain from sending their daughters to obtain higher education, and instead to marry them off. However, her father, a secretary of the "kolkhoz" (collective farm) Komsomol and later a cotton brigade leader at a "sovkhoz" (state farm), consistently supported her pursuit of education. He was an advocate for equal rights and girls receiving an education, which gave Sharifa the space to flourish.

The death of President Islam Karimov in 2016 paved the way for improved transparency and freedom of speech in Uzbekistan. In particular, people began to express their opinions more freely on social media. Sharifa took advantage of this and did not limit herself to solely writing articles in the newspaper she worked for, but began commenting and posting on various social media networks, as a voice for the people. She became active in public service journalism, as her journalistic work naturally evolved into human rights work.

As a highly trusted voice by vulnerable people, she was increasingly approached by people asking her to write about their issues; such as forced labour, disability rights, and abuses by district and regional officials. Her work was having impact. Over the years, people and government officials came to know about Sharifa, not only as a sought-after blogger, but as a voice to raise social issues.

RESISTANCE TO THE TRUTH

While freedom of expression has improved under the new political leadership, Sharifa has still faced a range of obstacles to her journalistic and public activities, but has stayed strong and resisted through it all. The people who want to silence her resort to spreading lies about her through social media. They also threaten her family and children. Her brother was fired from his job because of his association with her.

Smear campaigns and intimidation tactics like these are particularly harmful for independent journalists like Sharifa, because the defamation besmirches her reputation, making it















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Fear does not extend life, while courage does not shorten it.

hard for her to find work. In November 2023, Sharifa was fired from Mirror of Buvayda after she spoke out against forced subscription to the newspaper.

In April 2024, Sharifa and another Uzbek woman human rights defender were attacked outside her home by a pro-government blogger and another unidentified man. Sharifa reported the attack to the police, naming the blogger as one of the perpetrators. However, law enforcement concluded that they found no wrongdoing on the blogger's part. Two days later, the blogger published a defamatory video on YouTube about her.

Earlier this year (2025) the police summoned Sharifa to the station for questioning after she published a story about the destruction of farmers' land by district officials.

Facing these constant threats is not the only burden she bears. Listening to and telling the stories of the people she writes about weighs heavily on her shoulders. She feels the community's hopelessness and shares their distrust of state organisations.

KEEPING THE CANDLE LIT

Despite the challenges, Sharifa derives deep satisfaction from her work, engaging directly with individuals, sharing their stories and making a positive impact on people's lives. Among her greatest successes are when justice is delivered in the cases of individuals on whose behalf she advocates.

"I consider my activity important and necessary for society and I intend to continue it, because if everyone keeps silent then there will be no development," Sharifa said.

When Sharifa first decided to become a journalist, her mother was not supportive of her pursuit of higher education and career choice. But today, having witnessed the impact of her work on the community, how she has empowered others, , and the success she has achieved, her mother fully supports her. She has shifted mindsets, from her mother to broader society, about the ideas and roles of women in society – having not only a tangible impact, but an ideological one too.

It is Sharifa's driven mindset, courage and honesty that give her the ability to continue her work, alongside her profound love for her profession and her unwavering dedication to helping others. She says, "I consider my activity important and necessary for society and I intend to continue it, because if everyone keeps silent then there will be no development".

She has been an inspiration and an example for other young women in her society to break through the glass ceiling and pursue their dreams. Sharifa Madrakhimova's journey from a rural village in Uzbekistan to becoming a prominent community leader and journalist demonstrates her commitment and resilience to the cause of human rights.

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Sharifakhon Madrakhimova

O'zbekiston

"Jasorat umrni qisqartirmaganidek, qoʻrquv ham umrni uzaytirmaydi."

YOSH O'ZGARISHLAR YO'LBOSHCHISI

Sharifakhon Madrakhimova Murodovna, oʻzbekistonlik inson huquqlari himoyachisi va jurnalist,

Fargʻona viloyati Uchkoʻprik tumanidagi qishloqda konservativ jamiyatda oʻsgan. Koʻp oʻqiydigan va yosh ziyoli oʻquvchi mahalliy tuman maktabining 6-sinfida oʻqib yurganida, mahalliy ta'lim jurnali bir necha oydan beri maktabiga olib kelinmaganligi uchun shikoyat qilib, tuman gazetasiga xat yuborishga qaror qiladi. Sharifaning xati hayratlanarli darajada muammoning hal qilinishiga olib keladi. Shundan soʻng mahalla ahli uning uyiga kelib, mahalla hayotidagi turli masalalar boʻyicha maqolalar, shikoyatlar va arizalar yozishda yordam soʻray boshlaydi.

U ulgʻayib, obroʻli jamoat arbobiga aylandi, keyinchalik yozuvchilik iste'dodidan ilhomlanib, jamiyatni tashvishga solayotgan muammolar haqida yozadigan mustaqil jurnalist sifatidagi faoliyati bilan nom qozondi. Ya'ni uning yozganlari fuqarolik, siyosiy, ekologik huquqlar va mas'uliyat, ayollar, fermerlar va nogironlar huquqlari haqida edi. Sharifakhon oʻz faoliyati orqali mintaqada ijtimoiy oʻzgarishlar tarafdori, adolat va hokimiyat tomonidan adolatli qarorlar qabul qilishni targʻib qilishga intiladi.

Sharifakhon poytaxt Toshkentdagi Oʻzbekiston Milliy universitetida jurnalistika boʻyicha oʻqishni davom ettirdi. 1999-2020-yillarda "Ma'rifat" gazetasida jurnalist lavozimida ishlagan va 2020-yildan Fargʻona viloyati "Buvayda koʻzgusi" tuman gazetasida muxbir lavozimida ish boshlagan. 2023-yil noyabr oyida Sharifakhon gazetaga majburiy obunaga qarshi chiqqani uchun "Buvayda koʻzgusi" qazetasidan ishdan boʻshatildi.

TARAQQIYOT SARI YO'L

Ilgari Oʻzbekiston shaxsiy erkinliklar cheklangan, juda yopiq va konservativ mamlakat edi. Oʻzbekistonda Sharifa maktabni tugatgan paytlari ota-onalar qizlarini oliy ma'lumot olish uchun oʻqishga yubormay, turmushga berishlari odatiy hol edi. Biroq otasi, avval "kolxoz" (jamoaviy xoʻjalik) kotibi, keyinchalik "sovxoz" (sovet xoʻjaligi) paxta brigadasi boshligʻi, uning ta'limga intilishini doimiy ravishda qoʻllab-quvvatlagan. U qizlarning teng huquqli boʻlishi va ta'lim olishi tarafdori edi, bu esa Sharifakhonga oʻsish imkoniyatini berdi.

Prezident Islom Karimovning 2016-yilda vafot etishi Oʻzbekistonda shaffoflik va soʻz erkinligini oshirishga yoʻl ochdi. Xususan, odamlar ijtimoiy tarmoqlarda oʻz fikrlarini erkin ifoda etishni boshladi. Sharifakhon bundan foydalanib, oʻzi ishlayotgan gazetada maqolalar yozish bilan cheklanib qolmadi, balki turli ijtimoiy tarmoqlarda izohlar va postlar qoldirib, xalq jarchisi sifatida faoliyat yurita boshladi. U jamoatchilik jurnalistikasi bilan faol shugʻullana boshladi, chunki uning jurnalistik faoliyati tabiiy ravishda inson huquqlarini himoya qilish faoliyatiga aylandi.

Unga aholining zaif qatlamlari ishonchiga sazovor boʻlgan shaxs sifatida majburiy mehnat, nogironlar huquqlari, tuman va viloyat amaldorlarining suiiste'molliklari kabi muammolar haqida yozishni soʻrab murojaat qiluvchilar koʻpayib bordi. Uning ishi samara bermay qolmadi. Yillar davomida odamlar va hukumat rasmiylari Sharifakhonni nafaqat talabchan bloger, balki ijtimoiy muammolarni koʻtarib chiquvchi xalq vakili sifatida ham taniy boshladi.

HAQIQATGA QARSHILIK

Yangi siyosiy rahbariyat davrida soʻz erkinligi yaxshilangan boʻlsa-da, Sharifa oʻzining jurnalistik va ijtimoiy faoliyati yoʻlida baribir bir qator toʻsiqlarga duch keldi, ammo kuchi va bardoshi oshib boraverdi. Uning ovozini oʻchirishni istaganlar ijtimoiy tarmoqlar orqali u haqida yolgʻon xabarlar tarqatishga urinadi. Shuningdek, uning oilasi va bolalariga tahdid soladi. U bilan aloqasi tufayli uning akasini ishdan olishgan.

Bunday igʻvogarlik va qoʻrqitish usullari ayniqsa Sharifakhon kabi mustaqil fikrli jurnalistlar uchun zararli, chunki igʻvo uning obroʻsiga putur yetkazib, ish topishini qiyinlashtiradi. 2023-yil noyabr oyida majburiy obunaga qarshi qapirganidan keyin Buvayda koʻzqusi qazetasidan ishdan olindi.

2024-yil aprel oyida Sharifakhon va yana bir oʻzbekistonlik ayol, inson huquqlari himoyachisiga oʻz uyi yaqinida hukumat tarafdori boʻlgan bloger va boshqa bir noma'lum erkak tomonidan hujum qildi. Sharifakhon hujum haqida politsiyaga xabar berib, blogerni jinoyatchilardan biri deb atagan. Biroq, huquqni muhofaza qilish idoralari bloger hech qanday qonunbuzarlik qilmagan deb topdi. Oradan ikki kun oʻtib, bloger uni nufuziga zarar yetkazadigan videoni YouTubeʻda joyladi.

Joriy yil avvalida (2025-yil) Sharifakhon tuman mutasaddilari tomonidan fermer yerlarining yoʻq qilingani haqidagi maqolani chop qilganidan soʻng, politsiya uni soʻroq qilish uchun mahkamaga chaqirgan.

Doimiy tahdidlarga duch kelish uning zimmasidagi yagona yuk emas. U qalamga olgan insonlarning hikoyalarini tinglab, soʻzlab berishning oʻzi ham oson emas. Jamoatchilikning umidsizligini his qilib, ularning davlat tashkilotlariga boʻlgan ishonchsizligiga ham hamdard boʻladi.

BARDAVOMLIK

Qiyinchiliklarga qaramay, Sharifakhon oʻz ishidan juda mamnun, odamlar bilan bevosita muloqot qiladi, ularning hikoyalarini xalqqa ulashadi va odamlar hayotiga ijobiy ta'sir koʻrsatadi. Muammolarini koʻtarib chiqayotgan odamlarning ishlari ijobiy hal boʻlishini uning eng katta muvaffaqiyatlari qatoriqa kiritish mumkin.

"Men oʻz faoliyatimni jamiyat uchun muhim va kerakli deb hisoblayman va uni davom ettirish niyatidaman, chunki hamma jim tursa, hech qanday rivojlanish boʻlmaydi," - deydi Sharifakhon.

Sharifakhon ilk marta jurnalist boʻlishga qaror qilganida, onasi uning oliy ma'lumot olish va karyera qilishini qoʻllab-quvvatlamagan. Ammo bugungi kunda, uning faoliyatining jamiyatga ta'siri, boshqalarga qanday imkoniyat bergani va erishgan yutuqlariga guvoh boʻlib, onasi uni toʻliq qoʻllab-quvvatlaydi. U onasidan tortib, butun jamiyatning ayolning jamiyatdagi oʻrni haqidagi tasavvurlarini oʻzgartirdi, bu nafaqat sezilarli ta'sir koʻrsatdi, balki mafkuraviy ahamiyat ham kasb etdi.

Sharifakhonning aynan qat'iyati, jasorati va halolligi, shuningdek, uning o'z kasbiga chuqur muhabbati va boshqalarga yordam berishga astoydil intilishi unga o'z ishini davom ettirish imkonini beradi. U shunday deydi: "Men o'z faoliyatimni jamiyat uchun muhim va kerakli deb hisoblayman va uni davom ettirish niyatidaman, chunki hamma jim tursa, rivojlanish bo'lmaydi."

U oʻz jamiyatidagi ayollarning karyera qilishi yoqlanmaydigan muhitni yengib oʻtib, orzulariga erishmoqchi boʻlgan boshqa yosh ayollarni ilhomlantirdi va ularga oʻrnak boʻldi. Sharifakhon Madrakhimovaning Oʻzbekistondagi oddiy bir qishloqdan taniqli jamoatchilik yetakchisi va jurnalist darajasigacha koʻtarilishi uning inson huquqlarini himoya qilishdagi fidoyiligi va matonatini koʻrsatadi.





Mhamed Hali

امحمد حالي

A BEACON OF LIGHT IN DARK TIMES

Mhamed Hali is a Sahrawi human rights defender living and working in the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

To be a human rights defender in Western Sahara means that you have chosen a life of danger and hardship, which extends to your family. However, despite all the pains, difficulties and dangers, Mhamed Hali reflects that the humanity of this work makes him and others capable of enduring these difficulties.

In 1975, Morocco annexed the territory of Western Sahara through a military invasion. Since then, Sahrawis have lived under oppressive rule in their own lands, subjected to discrimination, violence, and severe limitations on their civil and political rights, often likened to Apartheid.

It is an extremely dangerous space for human rights defenders to work, as anyone who speaks out about the occupation faces immediate backlash.

Mhamed says that the most meaningful part of his work is when he sees a smile on the faces of victims of human rights

violations and their families. This is when he feels the deep impact of his human rights work - that he has done his duty towards his people, because they deserve to live with dignity.

In a world where information is at our fingertips, Mhamed is aware of the power of making people's stories heard, how it can inspire and motivate us to keep working for a better future even in the darkest times. He says that "the forgotten experiences of the Sahrawi struggle are a source of true inspiration, a candles that illuminates the dark and perilous tunnel of our march."

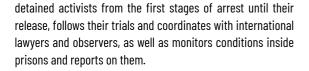
AMPLIFYING SAHRAWI VOICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Mhamed himself and the organisation he belongs to are a beacon of light for Sahrawi political prisoners.

The League for the Protection of Sahrawi Prisoners in Moroccan Prisons monitors reports on and follows up on the situation of Sahrawi political prisoners. The organisation accompanies







When the anxious families of these political prisoners find themselves hopeless, he and his colleagues bring them support and comfort, providing desperately-sought information about their loved ones. Since its inception, the organisation's work has been invaluable in shining a light on the situation of Sahrawi political prisoners on the international stage.

Mhamed credits this as one of the major successes of his human rights work. Furthermore, he sees the additional international awareness about the under-reported situation in Western Sahara as one of the biggest victories of his and the organisation's work.

He has worked with other comrades to make use of international human rights mechanisms aimed at strengthening advocacy for victims and the Sahrawi cause. This includes filing complaints

with UN special rapporteurs, drafting several Universal Periodic Review submissions and interacting with international organisations, all contributing to spreading the message of the Sahrawi cause.

THE COURAGE TO FACE REPRESSION

The challenges of being a human rights defender in Occupied Western Sahara are many, ranging from arrest, abduction, violent attacks, illegal prosecution, defamation, economic restrictions and more.

Unfortunately, the cost of Mhamed Hali's human rights work has been high. He has been detained many times in Moroccan police stations. However, in 2007, in response to his student activism and human rights work, he was forcibly disappeared by Moroccan intelligence services, and detained for eight days without being brought to trial He was subjected to various cruel types of torture, the horrific memories of which he says are still with him now.









He has also been subjected to violence many times. Peaceful protest is banned in the occupied territories, and as a result, when Sahrawis demonstrate, they are subject to harsh violence which, in some instances, has resulted in life-threatening injuries and even death.

Mhamed himself has suffered violent, life-threatening attacks aimed at silencing him. On two occasions, in 2009 and 2012, groups of masked attackers beat him with sharp instruments, They threatened to close his organisation if he did not stop his human rights work and student activism. While a student in Rabat, he was attacked again front of the university's dormitory, resulting in severe injuries.

Most recently, in 2019, Mhamed Hali applied for and passed the exam to enter the legal profession and practise as a lawyer. Despite having met all the requirements. the Agadir Bar Association rejected his application, claiming that it had received a secret report from the Moroccan security services that he was a known activist, "member of an organisation (ASVDH) that denies Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara" and that "the concerned candidate is well known for his separatist and anti-territorial integrity attitudes". He challenged this before the court, which only reaffirmed his rejection. He was also prevented from accessing a range of jobs, even in the private sector, as Moroccan companies are pressured to discourage them from hiring him. This is a clear case of retaliation and reprisal, just one example of a practice faced by many other defenders.

Lastly, he faces vicious defamation campaigns facilitated by the Moroccan government. After his rejection from the Bar, Moroccan authorities immediately publicised the decision, which created a wave of violent reactions against him by Moroccans who threatened to kill him. Mhamed Hali reflects that these challenges have deep psychological consequences for Sahrawi defenders, despite their determination and belief in the cause.

How does Mhamed keep going in the face of all these threats? Why does he risk his life to defend human rights? From a young age, he has felt a strong urge to speak out about the injustice he saw happening around him.

A JOURNEY THAT STARTED AT A YOUNG AGE

Mhamed Hali's own lived experience as a Sahrawi under occupation pushed him to pursue the field of human rights. He was born in the largest occupied city of Laayoune/El Aiun, in 1987, into a family of eight. He grew up with stories of the grave violations Moroccan authorities committed against his family, which he eventually came to experience himself,

from a young age. Despite this, Mhamed Hali and many other Sahrawi defenders, stand proud in defence of their culture and their land, enduring whatever is put in front of them.

The forgotten experiences of the Sahrawi struggle are a source of true inspiration, a candle that illuminates the dark and perilous tunnel of our march.

As a Sahrawi, the options for higher education are extremely limited and subject to the discretion of the government. So, when it came to pursuing university studies, he had to move away from his family, to the Moroccan cities of Marrakech and Rabat. He studied international relations and eventually obtained a doctorate in international humanitarian law. He credits his education for solidifying his ideas of the need for human rights and gaining international recognition of human rights causes such as that of the Sahrawis.

He also credits his time as a university student in 2005 with laying the foundation for the inspiring human rights work he does now. Sahrawi students experience high levels of discrimination in Moroccan universities, and Mhamed Hali was a key organiser in mobilising Sahrawi students to defend their rights within universities, as well as for concurrent violations that were taking place at the same time in the occupied territories.









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In 2004, Moroccan authorities had intensified arrests and detentions of human rights defenders and activists, which sparked an uprising. It was during this crucial time that Mhamed Hali worked with fellow activists to establish the League for the Protection of Sahrawi Prisoners in Moroccan Prisons, responding to the grave conditions of political detentions that Sahrawis were facing.

SPEAKING UP AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

"With the political momentum associated with the conflict in Western Sahara, there is an undeniable human rights imperative for the world to speak up for those suffering from the cruelty of the conflict, if we truly seek peace and justice."

Mhamed does this work because he wants the world to see the struggle and hear the voices of the Sahrawi people.

"The truth is that throughout this ongoing experience until now, despite the fact that this challenge means a direct confrontation with the Moroccan authorities who master the policy of revenge, my main motivation has been the need push accountability of the Moroccan regime for the repeated violation of rights to which my people are exposed, especially in light of the weak human rights awareness in the region."

No matter how many more arrests, beatings, defamation or other challenges Mhamed faces, he will continue to shine a light on the dozens of Sahrawi political detainees, as well as the Moroccan state's continued policy of political detention in retaliation against Sahrawi activists and human rights defenders.











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.الاختفاء القسري ردًا على نشاطهِ الطلائي وعمله الحقوقي. حيث اختجز ثمانية أيام دون محاكمة. وخلالَ تلك الفترة تقرّض لأنواع قاسية من التعذيب، ما زالث ذكرياثها الشرؤعة -كما يقول- عالقة بذهنهِ حتى اليوم

. كما تعرض للعنف مرات عديدة. فالاحتجاج السلمي محظور في الأراضي المحتلة ونتيجة لذلك. يتعرض الصحراويون والصحراويات. عندما يتظاهرون. لعنف شديد أدى في بعض الحالات إلى إصّابات بالغة تهذد حياتهم وتؤدي إلى الوفاة تعرض امحمد لهجمات عنيفة تهدد حياته بهدف إسكاته. فتي مناسبين. في عامي 2009 و2002 اعتدت عليه مجموعات من المهاجمين الملثمين بالضرب بأدوات حادة. وهددوا بإغلاق منظمته إذا لريتوقف عن عمله في مجال حقوق .الإنسان ونشاطه الطلابي. أثناء دراسته في الوباط. تعرض لاعتداء آخرامام السكن الجامع، مما أسفرعن إصابته بجروح بالفة

مؤخرا. في عام 2019، تقدم امحمد حالي بطلبلمزاولة مهنة المحاماة. ورغر استيفانه جميع الشروط، وفضت هيئة المحامين باكادير طلبه، مُذعبة تلقيها تقريّرا سيامن الأجهزة الأمنية المغربية بيّد بأنه ناشط معروف ايننيي إلى الجمعية لا تقرّف بسيادة المغرب على الضحراء الغربية وأن المرشخ المعني معروف بمواقفه الانفصائية والمعادية لوحدة التراب الوطني ». (ASVDH) الصحراوية اضحايا الانتهاكات الجسيمة لحقوق الإنسان المرتكبة من طرف الدولة المغربية طونة من المحكمة إلا أن أكدث قرارالوض، كما خرة من فرص العمل في مجالاتٍ شيخ، حتى لدئ مؤتسات القطاع الخاص، إذ تخضع الشركات المغربية لضغوط تمنها من تشغيله. ولعن هذه الحالة تمثل مثالاً جيلًا على سياسة الردع والعقاب، وفي واحدة من سلسلة طويلة من الاتهاكات التي يواجهها نشطاء حقوق الإنسان في الضحراء الغزية

ومؤهرا. يواجه امحمد حالي َحملات تثهيرشرسة تُنهلها الحكومة النغرية. فبعد رفضه من هيئة المحامين. سارعت السلطات المغربية إلى نشر القرار مما أثار موجة من ردود الفعل العنيفة ضده من قبل العغاربة الذين هددوا بقتله. ويرى .امحمد حالي أن لهذه التحديات عواقب نفسية عميقة على المدافعين/ات الصحراويين/ات، رغر إصرارهر وإيمانهم بالقضية

.كيف يواصل امحند حالي مسيرته في مواجهة كل هذه التهديدات؟ لماذا يخاطر يحياته دفاتًا عن حقوق الإنسان؟ منذ صغره، شعر برغبة عارمة تدفعه إلى الحديث عن الظلر الذي يراه يحدث من حوله

رحلة بدأت في سنّ مبكّرة

دفعث تجربة امحند حالي الشخصية. كصحراوي يعيش تحت الاحتلال. إلى خوض غمارالعمل الحقوقي. ولد عام 1987 في العيون. أكبرمدن الصحراء المحتلة. في أسرةٍ مكونة من ثمانية أفراد. نشأ على حكايات الانتهاكات الجسيمة التي ارتكبتها السلطات المغربية بحق عائلته. والتي ما لبث أن عايشها بنفسه منذ صغوه. ومع ذلك. يقف امحتد حالي مع العديد من المدافعين /ات الصحراويين/ات صامدين/ات دفاعاً عن ثقافتهم وأرضهم. متحملين كل ما قد يعترض طريقهم

بالنسبة للصحراويين. تبقن الخياراتُ محدودةُ للغاية الالتحاق بالتعليم العالي، كما تخضع لتقديرات الحكومة. لذا اضطرلمغادرة عائلته والانتقال إلى مدينتي مراكش والرباط المغريتين لاستكمال دراسته الجامعية. تخصص في العلاقات -الدولية وحصل في النهاية على درجة الدكتوراه في القانون الدولي

ويعتبرأن الفضل يعود لتحصيله العليي في تعزيُر قناعته بالحاجة الملخة لحقوق الإنسان ولضرورة الاعتراف الدولي بالقضايا الحقوقية كالقضية الضحراوية

كما يُرجع الفضل في عمله الحقوقي الملهم اليوم إلى فترة دراسته الجامعية عام 2005. إذ يعاني الطلاب الصحراويين للدفاع عن .حقوقهم داخل الجامعات، وكذلك ضد الاتهاكات التي كانت تحدث في نفس الوقت في الأراضي المحتلة

في عام 2004. كثنت السلطات المغربية حملات اعتقال المدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان والنشطاء الضحراويين. مما أدى إلى اندلاع انتفاضة. وفي هذا التوقيت الحرج. عمل امحمد حالي مع زملانه النشطاء على تأسيس «رابطة حماية «السجناء الصحراويين في السجن المغربية». رداً على الظروف التاسية للرعتقالات السياسية التي كان يواجهها الصحراويون

إعلاء الصّوت ضدّ التّمييز

«مع الزخر السياسي المصاحب للنزاع في الصحراء الغربية. ثمة ضرورة لا يمكن إنكارها في مجال حقوق الإنسان. إذ يجب على العالر أن يدافع عن أولنك الذين يعانون من قسوة هذا النزاع. إذا كنا نسعى حقا إلى السلام والعدالة» . يقور امحمد بهذا العمل لأنه يريد أن يري العالم نضال الشعب الصحراوي ويسمع صوته

الحقيقة هي أنه طوال هذه التجربة المستمرة حتى الآن. ورغر أن هذا التحدي يغني مواجهة مباشرة مع السلطات المغربية التي تُتَق سياسة الانتقام. إلا أن دافعي الزئيسي كان الحاجة إلى محاسبة النظام المغربي على الانتهاكات المتكررة» «للحقوق التي يتعرض لها شعبي، لا سيما في ظل ضعف الوعي بحقوق الإنسان في المنطقة

مهما كثرت الاعتقالات والضرب والتشهيرأوغيرها من الاتهاكات التي يواجهها امحمد. فإنه سيواصل تسليط الضوء على عشرات المعتقلين/ات السياسيين/ات الصحراويين/ات، وعلى استمرارالدولة المغربية في سياسة الاعتقال .السياسي انتقامًا من النشطاء/ات والمدافعين/ات عن حقوق الإنسان الصحراويين/ات

امحمد حالي الصحراء الغربية

الصحراء العربيه الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

"اقتباس: " إن التجارب المنسية للنضال الصحراوي مصدر إلهام حقيقي. وشموع تُنيرنفق مسيرتنا المظلم والمحفوف بالمخاطر

منارة في زمن مظلم

أن تكون مدافقا/ة عن حقوق الإنسان في الضحراء الغزية هواختيار يحمل في طياته حياة ملينة بالتحديات والمخاطر لا تقتصر على الفرد وحده، بل تمتذ لتشمل العانلة بأكملها. ومع ذلك، ورغر ما يرافق هذا النصّال من آلام وعقباتٍ رواخطار، يؤمن امحند حالي أن سموالهدف الإنساني كفيلٌ بمنحه وزملانه القوة والثبات لمواجهة تلك الضعوبات

في عام 1975. ضرّ المغرب اقليم الصحراء الغربية عبرغزو عسكري. ومنذ ذلك الحين. يعيش الصحراويون والصحراويات تحت حكرقمني على أراضهم. حيثيتعرضون للتمييزوالمنف وأين تفرض على حقوقهم المدنية والسياسية قيود صارمة. . (في مشهد يشبه نظام الغصري (الأبارتيد

. إنه فضاءً بالغ الخطورة لنشطاء حقوق الإنسان. حيث يواجه كل من يجهر يرفض الاحتلال ردود فعل عنيفة فورية

. يؤكّد «امحمد» أن أجمل لحظات عمله هي تلك التي يلمح فيها ابتسامة تعلو وجوه ضحايا اتهاكات حقوق الإنسان وأسرهر. حينها فقط، يلمس الأثر العميق لعمله الحقوقي. وشعربأنه أذى واجبه نحوشعبه. الذي يستحق العيش بكرامة

في عالمرصارت المعلومات في متناول اليد. يدرك امحمّد بخيدًا قوّة الكامنة في إعلاء صوت قصص الناس. وقدرتها على أن تلهمنا وتحفّزنا لمواصلة العمل من أجل مستقبل أفضل حتى في أحلك الأوقات. يقول إن «التجارب المنسية للنضال «الصّحراوي مصدرالهام حقيقي، وشموع تُنيرنفق مسيرتنا المظلم والمحفوف بالمخاطر

إعلاء صوتّ الصّحراويّين والصّحراويات في الجتمع الدولي

ريئل امحمّد والمنظمة التي يننمي إليها، منارة للأمل لدى المعتقلين السياسيين الضحراويين

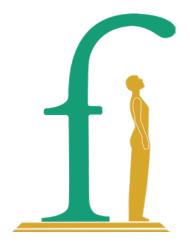
ترصد رابطة حماية السجناء الصحاويين بالسجون المغربية أوضاع المعتقلين الشياسيين الصحراويين وثبلغ عنها وتنابعها. ثرافق الجمعية النشطاء والناشطات المعتقلين/ات من المراحل الأولى للاعتقال حتى إطلاق سراحهم، وتُتابع . .محاكماتهم، وتُتسق مع المحامين والمراقبين الدوليين. كما تحاول رصد الأوضاع داخل السجون وثبلغ عنها

.عندما يتمكّن القلق بعائلات المعتقلين التياسيين. يبادر هو ووفاقه إلى مذيد العون. ويهبون العائلات ما يشفي غليله من أخبار أحبائه مر، وقد ظل عملُ المنظمة منذ تأسيسها. يسلط الشوء على أوضاع السجناء الصحراويين في المحافل الدولية .وهذا ما يعتبره امحند من أهر النحاحات لما يبذله من جهود حقوقية. كما يرى أن زيادة الاحتمار الدولي بالوضع في الضحراء ألغزية - الذي نادراً ما يحظى بالتخطية الإعلامية. من أهر نجاحاته ونجاحات الحركة الحقوق الإنسان لدعر الشحايا والدفاع عن القضية الضحراوية. عبر تقدير شكاوئ للمقزين الخاضين بالأمر المتحدة. وإعداد تقارير للاستعراض الدوري الشامل، والنفاعل مع المنظمات الدولية. مما ساهر في التعريف بالقضية الصحراوية عالمياً

الشَّجاعة في مواجهة القمع

.تتعدد تحديات المدافعين/ات عن حقوق الإنسان في الصحراء الغربية المحتلة. بدءًا من الاعتقال والاختطاف والهجمات العنيفة والملاحقة القانونية والتشهيروالقيود الاقتصادية. وغيرها

وما انفك المدافع عن حقوق الإنسان امحمّد حالي يدفع ضريبة نضاله الحقوقي غاليا. إذا عُتقلَ مراراً عدّة في مراكز الشرطة المغرّية. غيرأن الأمريلغ ذروة الخطورة عامَ 2007. حيّ اختُطُعيلي يدِ أجهزة الاستخباراتِ المغربية وتعرّض إلى



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