



Téléfax: (41-22)-917 90 06
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléc: 41 29 62
Téléphone : (41-22) 917 92 93/93 88
Internet : www.ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

Letter of endorsement on behalf of the Human Rights House Network

In the context of my work as Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders I have received reports on the most serious and widespread human rights violations committed against human rights defenders around the world, including killings, disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention and violations of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Fortunately, I also receive reports of progress in implementing the Declaration on human rights defenders. In particular, it has been encouraging to learn of positive examples of action taken by States and human rights defenders themselves. In this context, I have been extremely impressed by the work of the Human Rights House Network. Contributions by the Network to the establishment of 'human rights houses' provides very practical and much needed support to individual human rights defender organisations and also to networks of defenders. The 'human rights house' concept strengthens cooperation and coordination between defenders, improves the sharing of information, heightens defenders' visibility and provides them with a cost efficient framework within which to work. Most importantly, it helps to provide them with a measure of protection from the violations I mentioned above.

The professionalism, efficiency and commitment of the Human Rights House Network's staff, and their understanding of the practical issues confronting defenders, are a credit to them. I believe that this sort of work is of great benefit to human rights defenders and to strengthened implementation of the Declaration. I warmly support the work of the Human Rights House Network.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hina Jilani".

Hina Jilani
Special Representative of the Secretary General
on the situation of human rights defenders