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**UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its 93rd session with the adoption of 38 opinions, and celebrated its 30th anniversary**

GENEVA (13 April 2022) –The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its 93rd session from 30 March to 8 April 2022.

During the session, the Working Group adopted 38 opinions concerning deprivation of liberty of 61 individuals in 30 countries. The advance edited versions of the opinions will be made available on the website of the Working Group. ([OHCHR | Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-arbitrary-detention))

The Working Group elected Ms. Miriam Estrada-Castillo (Ecuador) as its Chair-Rapporteur and Mr. Mumba Malila (Zambia) as its Vice-Chair.The session was preceded, on 29 March 2022, by a commemoration of the Working Group’s 30th anniversary at which the Working Group and the Permanent Mission of France co-hosted a well-attended virtual event. With the [key-note address](https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/bachelet-marks-30-years-working-group-arbitrary-detention) from the High Commissioner, this was an opportunity to reflect on the challenges posed by arbitrary detention of human rights defenders and the role of the latter in the fight against this phenomenon.

The Working Group has a mandate to investigate allegations of individuals being deprived of their liberty in an arbitrary way or inconsistently with international human rights standards, and to recommend remedies such as release from detention and compensation, when appropriate.

ENDS

The [*Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/WGADIndex.aspx) is comprised of five independent expert members from around the world, **Ms. Miriam Estrada-Castillo** (Ecuador), Chair-Rapporteur, **Mr. Mumba Malila** (Zambia), Vice-Chair, **Ms. Elina Steinerte** (Latvia), **Ms. Leigh Toomey** (Australia), and **Ms. Priya Gopalan** (Malaysia).

*The Working Groups are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.*

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