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**UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its 90th session and adopted 21 opinions**

GENEVA (27 May 2021) –The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention held its 90th session from 3 to 12 May 2021.

The meeting which was held virtually on an exceptional basis in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed the Working Group to continue considering and adopting individual cases, in accordance with its mandate.

During the session, the Working Group adopted 21 opinions concerning deprivation of liberty of 68 individuals in 21 countries. The advance edited versions of the opinions will be made available on the website of the Group. (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Detention/Pages/WGADIndex.aspx>)

During the session, the Working Group also adopted Deliberation No. 12 on women deprived of their liberty.

To facilitate outreach and information sharing, the Working Group held a virtual meeting with the non-governmental organizations.

In March 2021, the UN Human Rights Council appointed Ms. Priya Gopalan (Malaysia) who participated in the session.

The Working Group elected Ms. Elina Steinerte (Latvia) as its Chair-Rapporteur and Ms. Miriam Estrada-Castillo (Ecuador) as its Vice-Chair on Communications.

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. Elina Steinerte** (Latvia), Chair-Rapporteur, **Ms. Miriam Estrada-Castillo** (Ecuador), Vice-Chair on Communications, **Ms. Leigh Toomey** (Australia), **Mr. Mumba Malila** (Zambia), 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.*

*For more information, please contact Lucie Viersma (+41 22 928 9380 / lviersma@ohchr.org).*

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