***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 29 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/741841*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/741841)*)   
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc52*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc52)*)*
* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or additional reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants will receive an acknowledgment email when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by the Secretariat.*
* *Applications will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Candidates eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/regional-groups) *for which specific vacancies have been advertised.*
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts)*.*
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** MENDRAS | **5. Year of birth:** 1957 |
| **2. First (given) name:** MARIE | **6. Place of birth:** Neuilly, France |
| **3. Other name, if any:** ROSDAHL (married name, not used in my professional activities) | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** French |
| **4. Gender:** F | **8. Any other nationality:** |

**II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words limit)

**Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; and good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).**

As an academic and engaged European citizen, I have built a strong experience and good reputation in Europe, North America, and Russia, in the field of Russian and post-Soviet studies. My Russian colleagues trust me. I know how to manage a small team, do research, investigate, talk to people, analyze, write, and speak. I have always combined my academic work with consulting for governments, European Institutions, and NGOs, in the field of Russian politics and Human Rights violations.

My mothertongue is French, I am perfectly fluent in English and Russian, fluent in Italian. I write in English, French, and Russian. I teach since my graduate years, and give talks and keynote lectures (academic and public) on Russia, Ukraine, and Human Rights issues. From 2004 to 2016, I chaired the Observatoire de la Russie at CERI (the Center for International Research at Sciences po) where I invited members of government, parliamentarians, as well as scholars, experts, journalists, and civil rights activists from Russia. Until late 2021, I maintained good working relations with colleagues at the Russian Council on Foreign Relations, the Institute of International Relations and World Economy (IMEMOAcademy of Sciences), the European University in Saint Petersburg, the Institute for Law and Public Policy in Moscow.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles (please state how this was acquired). Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate (please state how this was acquired).**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate (please state years of experience).**

I teach and publish in both the field of International Relations and the study of authoritarian regimes. I have built competence and experience in Russia's foreign policy, European and American external policies, as well as in domestic politics in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, with special emphasis on law, civil society, and Human Rights. I have conducted over 100 missions in provinces of the federation of Russia: field work, election monitoring, teaching, and meetings with state as well as civil society representatives. I was Vladimir Putin's guest at the Valdai group in the 2000s.

I have contributed to research groups in Russia, and inEurope.

When a graduate student at Harvard University Russian Research Center, I did interviews at the UN in New York, about attitudes toward the USSR, and since then have developed a deep interest in multinational organisations and HR advocacy. Also, I have worked with associations devoted to rule of law and civil rights in Russia and Ukraine, e.g. Memorial in Russia, the Center for Civil Liberties,Kiev(Nobel Prize recipients). I have working relations with the European Parliament, e.g. the sub-committee on Human Rights commissionned a report to me in 2008: "Les citoyens en danger en Russie" (published in English and Russian). Today, I am a member of the Experts Group on Russia and Ukraine, chaired by the Chair of the Foreign Affairs committee of the Parliament.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words limit)

**Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights (please explain how such competence was acquired).**

Since the late 1980s, my academic work has focused on post-Soviet societies and regimes. Research, teaching, public talks, research projects with Russian and Ukrainian colleagues, joint enterprises with other academics and experts from Europe and North American, were driven by one key question: How could the Federation of Russia become a democratic and just rule-of-law state, seeking social equality and individual security, prone to consolidate good neighborly relations with former Soviet republics and engage in promising multilateral policies?

I have put my academic skills and intellectual engagement to the service of Human Rights causes, from the defense of journalists and civic activists in Russia, to the observation of elections and reports on political repression. In recent years, I have cooperated with

Amnesty International France, FIDH France, Reporters sans frontières,

Association Russie-Libertés, Golos (Russian election monitoring organization).

In May 2021, I founded the "Comité Europe-Russie" in Paris, together with the editorial board of French intellectual journal "Esprit". I published and edited many publications on the defense of civil liberties and human rights, and wrote the foreword to edited books, e.g. "Ils font vivre le journalisme en Russie. Portraits de journalistes indépendants", Les Petits matins, Paris, 2021.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events in which the candidate has participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** Russian Politics. The Paradox of a Weak State (book)

**Journal/Publisher:**  Hurst Publishers, London, and Columbia University Press, NY

**Date of publication:** 2012

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** “Russian Elites Worry: The Unpredictability of Putinism”, Transatlantic Academy 2015-2016 Paper Series No. 9, Washington, DC, juin 2016.

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:** 2016

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** "Le citoyen en danger. Droits de l'Homme et libertés dans la Russie poutinienne", Etudes du Parlement européen, PE.385.539, novembre 2007 (30 pages).

**Journal/Publisher:**

**Date of publication:**

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200 words limit):

My publications list contains more than 250 items, books, chapters in books, articles, reports, conference papers. I also publish on foreign policy, looking for the domestic causes of Moscow's actions, e.g.

“The Rising Cost of Russia’s Authoritarian Foreign Policy”, in Margot Light & David Cadier, eds., Russia’s Foreign Policy: Ideas, domestic politics and external relations, Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2015, pp. 81-96.

Recent publications: “En Ukraine et en Russie, le temps de la guerre”, Esprit, April 2022, “Permanent War: Putin’s Final Strategy”, CIDOB Yearbook 2022.

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in with respect to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

1. **Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:**

Tribute to Anna Politkovskaya, reporter and author

**Event organizer:** Amnesty International, Reporters without Borders, Mairie de Paris

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 10 Oct. 2006, Parvis de Notre-Dame, Paris.

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Hearing

**Event organizer:** European Parliament

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 22 November, 2018

**Web link, if available:** Subject: Europe's response to Russian violations of Human Rights

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Hearing/Audition

**Event organizer:** Assemblée Nationale Française

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 23 January, 2013

**Web link, if available:** Subject: Russian's authoritarian rule, and possible consequences for Ukraine and Europe.

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200 words limit):In the course of 30 years, I wrote and pronounced many public lectures and statements on the defense of citizens' rights in Russia and other post-Soviet republics.

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200 words limit)

**to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York; travelling on two country visits per year; drafting reports according to established deadlines; organizing and participating in consultations and meetings; addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned; providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to the mandate; and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

The academic year at Sciences Po Paris ends early April. I will not undertake any other mission from April 2023 on. In September-November 2023, I will teach only one course (visio is possible) to devote most of my time to the mission of Special Rapporteur.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

**Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**Governments**

**Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**

**International organizations or their offices**

**Non-governmental organizations**

**National human rights institutions**

**Other human rights bodies**

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

This is a self-nomination, encouraged by civil society representatives and Human Rights organizations.

**III. Motivation Letter, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below; cannot be sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be written by the candidates themselves even if nominated by another entity.)

Since my student years in England, France, Italy and the U.S., I have devoted my work to the study of the USSR, Russia, Ukraine and other post-Soviet republics. My first invitation by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR dates back to 1986. As of 1989, I started to travel extensively across the Baltic states, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, and in more than twenty provinces of the Russian Federation. With Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, a whole new world opened before me. I could actually work with Russian and Ukrainian colleagues, interview parlamentarians, ministers, governors, as well as non officials, teach in provincial universities, and serve as election observer in Russia, Ukraine and Armenia. I have acquired a rich experience that led me to provide an original analysis of the great difficulties on the path to economic, social and political reforms. From the start, I was very vigilant about Human Rights and liberties. I contributed to the activities of the Institute for Law and Public Policy in Moscow. I have been working closely with the Council on Human Rights, founded by the Russian presidency in the 1990s, and the Constitutional Court, and I cooperate with the best specialists, lawyers and HR advocates, and key organisations, like Memorial (there is a Memorial center in Paris); even from exile, all engaged citizens continue to defend their country and the rights of their compatriots.

In Europe and the U.S., I have engaged in a fruitful cooperation with Amnesty International, FIDH, Russie-Libertés, Reporters sans frontières, Etudiants sans frontières. I also learned a lot from my work with the European Parliament, EU Commission, French government, Lithuanian, Polish, British governments, as well as NGOs, universities and think tanks.

I am fascinated with the power of multilateral diplomacy and policies, and a great supporter of the United Nations engagement in Human Rights and peace. I also believe in the capacity of the European Union. After Russia was expelled from the Council of Europe, the UNHRC's role has risen.

In 2004-2016, I chaired the Observatoire de la Russie at Sciences Po, organized seminars with Russian government representatives as well as scholars, experts, Human Rights activists from Russia, and other East European countries. Seminar papers and reports were published in the Cahiers Russie/Russia Papers series. I also contributed to the creation of a Human Rights major at SciencesPo.

Since 2014, I follow very closely developments in the Russia-Ukraine relationship, conflicts in Crimea and Donbas, and war in 2022. With Sciences Po, the PAUSE programme (inter-university support programme) and Association Russie Libertés, we offer as much help as we can to Russian and Ukrainian students and academics.

I provide analysis on developments inside Russia, in particular the attitudes of professional elites in various regions of the federaton, and I am in constant contact with the "temporary diaspora" in Europe, the US and Canada, and also Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. Most Russian exiles want to go back home.

The Special Rapporteur will carry an important mission: to analyse in depth the political and social situation in the Federation of Russia from a Human Rights perspective; to take stock of the rapid deterioration of law, legislation, public institutions (Parliament, elected assemblies, government, judiciary, elections, media), leaving the individual deprived of protection against arbitrary decisions. Given this dramatic degradation, international organisations will be facing a big challenge in coming years: to support Russian-led efforts to review public institutions at all levels (federal, republican/regional, local), so that they fully integrate law and Human Rights, building responsibility and accountability. The Rapporteur's report on HR will matter.

My motivation to serve as Special Rapporteur is very, very strong. I know that I can fulfill this essential mission successfully, and will devote my time and energy to this urgent enterprise.

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **French**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

**Arabic:** Yes or no: **NO** If yes,

**Read:** Easily orNot easily: **easily**  
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or Not easily: **easily**

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **NO** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **easily**

**English:** Yes or no: **YES** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **easily**

**French:** Yes or no: **YES** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Russian:** Yes or no: **YES** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **easily**

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **NO** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**V. EDUCATION**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Degree obtained** (please indicate YES or NO): | **Place and country:** |
| PhD, Doctorate, Department of Political science, Sciences Po Paris, part-time | 2009-2012 | YES | Paris, France |
| Master in Soviet and Russian studies,  Harvard University Russian Research Center (full Harvard scholarship, full-time) | 1980-82 | YES | Cambridge, Mass. USA |
| Diploma of the Bologna Center, graduate program in International Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University(scholarship recipient) full-time. | 1979-80 | YES | Bologna, Italy |
| B.A. Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris  (Sciences Po), major in Political science and International Relations, full-time | 1976-79 | YES | Paris, France |
| B.A. Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Russian language and civilization, full-time. YES OBTAINED  First year in Social Studies at the University of Essex, UK, 1975-76. (ACCEPTED IN SECOND YEAR, BUT PASSED SCIENCES PO EXAM) | 1976-79 | YES | Paris, France |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (or most recent) occupation.** **Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full- or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005;  for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, researcher, full-time | 1983-present | Paris, France |
| Sciences Po university, lecturer, and professor, part-time | 1983-present | Paris, France |
| Policy Planning Staff, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes, Paris, director, full-time | 2010 | Paris |
| London School of Economics and Political Science, professor, full-time | 2008-2009 | London, UK |
| Sabbatical in Washington D.C.:  Georgetown University, visiting scholar, 2015-16, part-time.  Kennan Institute, Wilson Center for International scholars, visiting expert, FAll 2016- March 2017, part-time. | Fall 2015- March 2017 |  |
| Hong Kong Baptist University, visiting scholar, full-time. | Janurary-May 2019 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. Does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

NO

**2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

NO

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

NO

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (please answer YES if the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does not comply, together with an explanation).**

***Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.***

***Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.***

YES

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures that the candidate will take.**

No conflict of interest.

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
email (**[**ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org**](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

**Please review the application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Marie Mendras

**Date:** 5 December 2022

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1. The short **online survey** is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity. The same name, gender and nationality must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). The application form should be completed in English or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)