

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

**Call for input – democratic and equitable international order: challenges to international peace and security**

Dear Friends,

Maintaining international peaceful and security is one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations, as stipulated in the UN Charter in its article 1. It is also the bedrock of a democratic and equitable international order, which requires the realization of, inter alia, the right of all peoples to peace and the shared responsibility of the nations of the world for addressing threats to international peace and security, that should be exercised multilaterally (Human Rights Council resolution 48/8 and General Assembly resolution 76/165, paragraphs 6(d) and 6(o)).

FIRST, This input is in regards to the main challenges to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security at the global level, for instance in relation to needed structural reforms of United Nations organs, global disarmament, the realization of the right to peace, accountability, etc.?

SECOND, There are solutions, but they absolutely require major structural reforms within the UN-WHO-WEF Global Security Apparatus because there is a clear

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

appearance of conflicts of interest. The WHO “managing” those conflicts of interest does not instill confidence, only discord.

THIRD, Global disarmament is a goal of U.N. that is not in harmony with the current legal system because it would usurp the sovereign legislation and constitutional law of the member states. Its a concept that if acted upon would create such upheaval that it is tantamount to a declaration of war on mans inherent right to self defense, and it would cause the circumstances of the largest imbalance of power the world has ever experienced and the opposite of peace would be achieved. El Salvador has recently been very tough on violent crime and they have shown that when there are large pockets of gangs and violence, national tactics are very capable of making changes, negating any necessity of global disarmament. In our opinion global disarmament is so contentious that it would require a democratic vote.

FOURTH, What we have observed however is the U.N. is not interested in providing voting or participatory processes, they have an agenda and are engaging with leaders but not the people to ensure that agenda passes in each nation, one overly compliant public officer at a time is making U.N. WHO policy into national law. It is at the expense of peace and democracy, despite all the slogans to the contrary

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

FIFTH, There is an inherent structural defect or vice of absolute nullity in the ICCPR Article 19 & 20, which, because they are being easily misapplied by the U.N. and WHO, et al are apparently the source of a great deal of oppression, angst, discord and lack of peace and lack of democracy. On its face the words of Article 20, 21 of ICCPR appear at first glance to be productive and beneficial. However, as applied under the U.N. & WHO Trusted News Initiative, Program to Combat Misinformation And Rumors, (as well as other U.N. derived programs involving the global health security architecture of big tech, Artificial Intelligence, bio-surveillance, and media on a global scale) the intent of the treaty has shown to be diminished and at the mercy of those with unfettered discretion to make, interpret and apply the “rules”. In this case U.N. and WHO-WEF are clearly being weaponized to create a super power of sorts that has the evident and manifest capability to censor and use AI to instantly de-platform all opponents globally, through the merger with WEF and public -private monopolization, unconstitutional private-public policy with the force of law and more money than many nations combined.

Thus, in reality and as applied, the issue of “public health” has been used by the U.N. and WEF partnership with 1000 multinational to persecute, censor, oppress, de-platform, tortiously interfere with peoples livelihoods for holding an opinion

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

contrary to the WHO that they dare expressed. WHY? Because the profit is coming before the people and its good for business to silence your competition.

If the business health is penetrated by WHO's private funders, and it is, then who monitors the monitors in U.N.?

The experts, the scientists, the CSO's like Interest of Justice do this work to bring the counter narrative in health, the dialogue, the debate of facts and data. Yet since covid-19 was declared this freedom of association, speech and free opinion has been criminalized and punished by U.N., WHO and WEF like a health mafia.

This monopolization of health, creating a literal global industry, hoping to create a yearly vaccine schedule using a gene editing technology, pursued relentlessly by billionaires who stand to gain from the policies created in U.N. WHO is the single most largest threat to humanity, to rule of law and to democracy.

This bears repeating 100 times until it sinks in: This monopolization of health, creating a literal global industry, hoping to create a yearly vaccine schedule using a gene editing technology, pursued relentlessly by billionaires who stand to gain from the policies created in U.N. WHO is the single most largest threat to humanity, to rule of law and to democracy.

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

Under UDHR Article 21

- 1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
  
- 2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.*
  
- 3. The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:*
  - (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others;*
  
  - (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.*

**Article 20**

- 1. Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.*
  
- 2. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.*

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

**There is a lack of effective protection against the brutal attacks of the censorship and de-platforming method of punishment for “misinformation”. It’s deployed against humanity by the U.N. and WHO through the WEF, big tech, media, AI and state partnership.**

Protections in these times for dissenters of the WHO’s science and policy are wholly illusory due to the imbalance of power with WHO’s merger with WEF and PPP’s.

The WHO is not respecting human rights law or Siracusa Principles in its declaration of pandemic, or its technical or scientific guidance. States relying on the WHO are inadvertently violating the IHR Article 3 and the states own legislative definitions and intent for national health policy by supplanting definition of pandemic, herd immunity and vaccine with WHO’s “more broad” definition.

This supplanting of law and violations of IHR Article 3 (1) in turn negates the reason for WHO’s existence and is cause to abolish or completely reform the WHO to be responsive to the needs of the people and scientific community begging to be heard about their data and safety signals, but are instead marginalized and censored by WHO. WHO admits they are directly telling Youtube, Facebook, social media and nations to silence the dissenting expert

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

opinions of science if they dare say anything out of line with the WHO's official stance on science or policy.

*According to law, All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.*

The right not to be subject to discrimination is especially important in health care and public health. Since health services are so fundamental to human well-being, they must be allocated fairly among all persons and that includes the right to hear from different medical views and data, not just the WHO's evolving science, which is in violation of the legal order by not adhering to the unequivocal rules of science.

The WHO and their alliance of media, social media, pharmaceutical and financial monopolies are currently persecuting and censoring medical experts through the 'Trusted News Initiative', with no due process or warning. This is shocking and not only concerning its outrageous and imperative the WHO originating censorship is prevented immediately to preserve peace and democracy in the world.

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

Good people including a majority of world class top medical experts (that far outnumber the WHO's conflicted experts) and citizen journalists are even having their entire social media platforms and payment gateways removed, simply for the "crime" of exercising freedom of speech that contradicts WHO's official positions. This is not in dispute by the WHO and fact.

The WHO has claimed moral authority to save the world by combatting misinformation *It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (order public), or of public health or morals.*

A new term called 'cancel culture' has arisen from the UN-WHO policies, which any thinking man will see is a crime against humanity under Rome Statute Article 7 persecution and completely antithetical to the UN's alleged purpose of protecting human rights, peace and democracy in a free world.

It cannot be overstated that the 'Trusted News Initiative' and UN's 'program to combat misinformation and rumors' are not in conformity with law and as applied ubiquitously worldwide, is a clear overreach and violation of the UN charter and international Human Rights norms and a clear threat to peace and democracy.



CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

The use of the term “in conformity with the law” in Article 21 of the ICCPR, should not be interpreted to imply any lower standard of legality for limitations on the right of peaceful assembly than other limitations within the ICCPR. It should be the same standard that applies to interpreting the language of “provided by law” within Article 19 of the ICCPR, as elaborated in the Committee’s General Comment No. 34:[1] *“For the purposes of paragraph 3, a norm, to be characterized as a “law”, must be formulated with sufficient precision to enable an individual to regulate his or her conduct accordingly and it must be made accessible to the public. A law may not confer unfettered discretion for the restriction of freedom of expression on those charged with its execution. Laws must provide sufficient guidance to those charged with their execution to enable them to ascertain what sorts of expression are properly restricted and what sorts are not.”*

The law of misinformation or (or more accurately U.N./WHO policy or rules regarding the assessment and punishment of “misinformation” and “disinformation”) of WHO’s censorship policy is now entrenched and extended to the States using U.N./WHO framework and guidances creating an international security threat, greatest challenge in our lifetimes and is potentially the most easily solved threat to peace by declaring the practice of punishing misinformation an illegal policy, unless the law and exact misinformation is clearly defined (ie: this

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

exact brand new science of X is false after due process and local legislation, and therefore must not be discussed).

This overreach of the WHO into the private domain of legislator, judge and executive punishment all rolled into one is an illegal exercise of *unfettered discretion for the restriction of freedom of expression on those charged with its execution*.

*The U.N., WEF and the WHO announced in 2017 they were working together.*

Since then the WHO has flip flopped on their “evolving science and facts”, while championing social media to take care of the “problem” of misinformation (as defined by the WHO). The worlds top experts are being fired, persecuted as if their truthful data is false (with no review) and its not coming from the states, its coming from the U.N., WHO and WEF with all their entourage of “stakeholders” that encompass the worlds top 1000 largest companies.

Aldous Huxley warned that “there is no natural end to a scientific dictatorship”, and that is the international security threat we face today, especially serious in the era of “under the skin bio-surveillance” being an admitted goal of the WEF’s partnership of governments and private sector interests, according to Yuval Harari, the WEF top advisor who explained all tyrants and governments always wanted to

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

control people and free will. see <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/yuval-harari-sapiens-60-minutes-2021-10-29/>. ***Yuval Harari warns humans will be "hacked" if artificial intelligence is not globally regulated*** *The future could see the world's human data, delivered through the rising power and reach of artificial intelligence, in the hands of a powerful few - a recipe for a dystopian tomorrow populated by "hacked humans," says Yuval Noah Harari. The world-renowned author tells Anderson Cooper nations must begin cooperating to prevent this by regulating artificial intelligence and the collection of data across all nations.*

***Harari says the countries and companies that control the most data will control the world.***

*"The world is increasingly kind of cut up into spheres of data collection, of data harvesting. In the Cold War, you had the Iron Curtain. Now we have the Silicon Curtain, that the world is increasingly divided between the USA and China," Harari tells Cooper. "Does your data go to California or does it go to Shenzhen and to Shanghai and to Beijing?"*

*He has been warning people of a not-so-distant future of incredible change, saying the artificial intelligence at work today through algorithms will only strengthen its grip on humans.*

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

*"Netflix tells us what to watch and Amazon tells us what to buy. Eventually within 10 or 20 or 30 years such algorithms could also tell you what to study at college and where to work and whom to marry and even whom to vote for," says Harari.*

*And he points out, the pandemic has opened the door to even more intrusive collection of our data.*

*"It's data about what's happening inside my body. What we have seen so far, it's corporations and governments collecting data about where we go, who we meet, what movies we watch. The next phase is surveillance going under our skin," he warns.*

*"Certainly, now we are at the point when we need global cooperation. You cannot regulate the explosive power of artificial intelligence on a national level," says Harari, who tells Cooper what he feels needs to be done. "One key rule is that if you get my data, the data should be used to help me and not to manipulate me. **Another key rule, that whenever you increase surveillance of individuals you should simultaneously increase surveillance of the corporation and governments and the people at the top. And the third principle is that-- never allow all the data to be concentrated in one place. That's the recipe for a dictatorship.**"*

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

*Harari says humans are at risk of becoming "hacked" if artificial intelligence does not become better regulated.*

*"To hack a human being is to get to know that person better than they know themselves. And based on that, to increasingly manipulate you," Harari says.*

*There's an upside to the rise of artificial intelligence, too, says Harari, but only if accompanied by regulation.*

*"The whole thing is that it's not just dystopian. It's also utopian. I mean, this kind of data can also enable us to create the best health care system in history," he says. "The question is what else is being done with that data? And who supervises it? Who regulates it?"*

The realization of the right to peace is more than the absence of war. People need to hold free opinion with the WHO's interference under the guise there is a public need to censor association and speech *"For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals."*

We are very concerned about the proliferation of overly compliant member states that have recklessly agreed to join in a public-private effort led by the U.N. and WHO to address "misinformation". In reality the U.N. and WHO with the States are spreading medical and scientific disinformation that benefits WHO's

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

pharmaceutical funders and punishing truth telling experts such as the top scientific expert members of Interest of Justice, World Council for Health and other CSO's advocating for change to protect opinion, rule of law and scientific integrity.

A majority of states and WHO have apparently joined forces regarding 'health misinformation' (at the request of the WHO), but nowhere is there any law that describes what exact speech is defined as health misinformation, in order to: a) be able to challenge the validity of the science and law to know if its really true or false misinformation (with a final res judicata judgment) and b) to give due process to the people that WHO is applying global censorship to.

The science is "evolving" according to the WHO, so logically, all the relied on science taken as true at one point in time, but that is later "evolved", is misinformation. How can brand new data be censored with no debate unilaterally by the WHO and declared false? Something is very wrong with the international order, and the media, big tech AI censorship scheme of the WHO, is the source of a very serious legal problem that must be addressed to restore rule of law in the public interest.

As a result, the WHO-UN global censorship programs ('Trusted News Initiative' and UN's 'program to combat misinformation and rumors') that indisputably confers unfettered discretion for the restriction of freedom of expression on those

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

charged with its execution is in violation of the legal order and absolutely null. Importantly, the creation and execution of the global UN-WHO ‘Trusted News Initiative’ and UN’s ‘program to combat misinformation and rumors’ should ultimately be determined to systematically deny human rights which is a national security threat to peace and democracy in all nations, negating the purpose and moral force of the WHO, WEF and U.N.

The persecution and censorship of scientific debate and even peer reviewed studies being suppressed by the WHO is a systematic denial of the human right to equal treatment by design which is reinforcing a grave systemic violation of human rights, which is a vice or defect that negates the very motive, content and purpose for WHO’s existence, obviously requiring full reform with oversight by marginalized relevant stakeholders or be declared in violation of international scientific and human rights law and be fully abolished forever as an unnecessary experiment in global health governance.

The current political climate of the weaponization of health, at the whim of WHO’s funders, is calling into question the need for truly independent oversight of the WHO and U.N by private bodies in defense of their rights, including relevant stakeholder CSO’s who are not in relations (thus remaining independent) in public regional hearings coordinated by a global oversight network of non conflicted oversight that has no ties to U.N or WHO.

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

**Solutions:**

We formed this 2022-2030 LAW AND CIVICS TREATY MONITORING COMMITTEE and request to be formally recognized under right to association and right to an effective remedy. With formal recognition that our work of human rights monitoring of the WHO and the design, implementation and approval of new policy created by oversight committees such as ours is in the public interest, we believe more CSO's will assist in the necessary oversight and reforms of the U.N. organs to be responsive to the needs of the people they seek to serve and to their duties under human rights law.

[1] HR Committee, General Comment No. 34 on Article 19: freedoms of opinion and expression, CCPR/C/GC/ 34, 12 September 2011; at para. 25.

The solution is to recognize Interest of Justice as oversight and a relevant stakeholder. We spoke at the April 12, 2022 WHO public hearing and again on May 13, 2022 HHS OGA stakeholder listening session in preparation of the 75th WHA however we are unable to find any actual mechanism to actually participate despite the INB deciding our organization is a relevant stakeholder in pandemic preparedness and response.



CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

The WHO is participating in a closed feedback loop by design, listening to large relevant stakeholders they engage with, not us other relevant stakeholders. The Global governance experiment is a disaster under the WHO and U.N. because they cherry-pick experts. There is political interference with scientific decision making as evidenced by the stakeholder engagement packet we sent showing the WHO and the funders conflicts of interest which have no oversight as of yet because all oversight including human rights is in U.N.'s own system. This is against common law rules to be one's judge in their own case so the solution is clear, another independent international organization must oversee the WHO or they are not transparent and ethical as per their own mandates, nor democratic in line with the SDG 16 ideology to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

Our organization speaks for the marginalized majority and they need a voice and a say in the design, implementation and final approval of the health policies created by the WHO and their funders in closed sessions without all of us marginalized primary stakeholders who are actually negatively affected by the decisions of the U.N., WHO WEF and the stakeholder capitalism monopoly that interferes with commerce and frankly needs to be prohibited to protect humanities best interest from stakeholder capitalism ideology which is the greatest imbalance of power the

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

world has ever seen and the greatest threat to democracy, rule of law, human genome, human rights, property, privacy, association, opinion and chills necessary free expression required in a peaceful international order.

We demand the right as primary interested and relevant stakeholders as decided by the INB to hold public hearings and to receive the same consideration of our expertise and to be recognized as oversight with right to same information and to be on subcommittees for the pandemic treaty accord, process and design. We are excluded, and the process is invalid. If we can't participate with experts in science in a public forum, it is our wish that the human rights Council declare it necessary and appropriate to allow for much more time to start the process over where the main topics can be decided by all of the relevant stakeholders. Interest of Justice shall be included and is especially important because of the marginalization of the members of our group by the Who and the fact that we feel oppressed by the who and their stakeholders who are making the decisions in their own best interest that affect the health policy of each nation.

There must be some sort of ongoing way to challenge a health emergency when it comes up because what happened this time is after two years of us fighting in court and winning four times in our Supreme Court. The ordinary courts were unable to help in this instance because they had such high bars for procedural entry. When the courts refuse every single case how would we ever be heard? There must be a

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

new system that allows for the people to have a mechanism for human rights so that we can enforce the Siracusa principles.

The other issue is that the international organizations are skirting around the Siracusa principles because they only apply to the states. One very important solution is to allow for citizen assemblies in each country and region it is affected and provide enforcement power through the Supreme Court of the nation or some other mechanisms that are not globally centralized but perhaps may assist if called to do so.

The people require a way to hold citizen juries and assemblies to review science as soon as the science is in dispute if the who will not reduce new facts after the fact or disputed. This has been an enormous problem and the only solution is independent oversight that does not lie within the United Nations.

The biggest solution to every problem that lies in the world right now would be to redefine pandemic to include large numbers of deaths and a high mortality rate, this would prevent any further abuse of the word pandemic by The Who and nation states.

It is quite apparent that the word pandemic was misused purposely by the Director General of the WHO in order to declare COVID-19 which is a kin to the flu

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

pandemic despite the fact that it does not meet that historical definition of pandemic with great numbers of deaths a high mortality rate.

It is also quite apparent that there were always ordinary administrative procedures available to treat Covid and that the declaration of emergency is in bad faith have an issue repeatedly re-issued despite the Director General himself conceding that there are tools available to treat Covid and save lives as well as relieve the burden on hospital systems. There is a claim against The Who which is not answered at this time. We are still trying to substantiate the last pandemic and hold the due to their duty of substantiation however, that has not yet occurred while the WHO barrels forward to create an entire new pandemic treaty based on the same presumptions that are already in dispute. The WHO has never reduced any evidence to substantiate anything that they claim in regards to COVID-19. People feel helpless and at the mercy of a large system that is barreling over them and there is very limited faith in the system as evidenced by the World economic forum last meeting which was entitled rebuilding trust.

The solution is to rebuild trust by actually creating transparent system which would perhaps include a database not ran by the United Nations or states and solely within network of civil society organizations to assess and address conflict of interest as well as create a system to combat impunity.

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

I have spoken to people and most people insist that they would like to have a citizen jury and open hearing system to be able to publicly dispute the bill because they keep getting censored and they really want their voice to be heard and open public forum on the record as well as to go through mountains of evidence on the public record because it's never been scrutinized yet it's been called misinformation.

*4. "What should States do to create an enabling environment for social movements and promote their ability to achieve rights-based transformations? Please provide details.*

Actually allow us to participate by holding more open hearings for longer days we were not allowed to speak more than once at The WHO hearing for two minutes in regards to making a new pandemic treaty despite the fact that we hold all of the information with a majority of expert scientist who are censored and persecuted it's just not fair and the only solution to this is to create an actual enabling environment where we are funded protected allowed to speak aloud to weigh the differences of ideas allowed to protect marginalized stakeholders and vulnerable populations from a clear imbalance of power. The only way to achieve rights based transformation is to give the rights back to the people to retain inherent power of the common law which requires citizen juries citizen assemblies and open hearings where evidence can be weighed in the town square in front of everybody with due process.

*5. What can other actors, such as businesses, donors, civil society, and multilateral organizations do to recognize and support social movements? Please provide details.*

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

There needs to be a way to assess and address conflicts of interest within the international organizations because that is the source of the oppression and censorship of movements and change. Many people and movements start to gain momentum and they literally get their fundraisers blocked and taken away from them so that there's no source of subsistence to create these movements. The biggest thing we could do is to create laws that say no international organization has the ability to censor these people.

It is worth mentioning that the following report was given **09 April 2020** and not acted upon. Most recommendations went unheeded, which is escalating the problem.

STATEMENTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES

**“States responses to Covid 19 threat should not halt freedoms of assembly and association” – UN expert on the rights to freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association, Mr. Clément Voule**

**09 April 2020**

GENEVA (14 April 2020) - The Covid-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to human rights around the world. “I salute the efforts of governments, international organizations and civil society working together to protect the public from this health hazard. Where human rights are the compass, we will be better placed to overcome this pandemic and build resilience for the future” said Clément Voule, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, in a statement today.

“No country or government can solve the crisis alone; civil society organizations should be seen as strategic partners in the fight against the pandemic. I am thus concerned due to the information I have received from online consultations with civil society around the world,

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

suggesting several worrying trends and limitations, including on civil society’s ability to support an effective response.”

Laws limiting public gatherings, as well as freedom of movement, have been passed in many States. Restrictions based on public health concerns are justified, where they are necessary and proportionate in light of the circumstances. Regrettably, civil society organizations have rarely been consulted in the process of designing or reviewing appropriate measures of response, and in several cases the processes through which such laws and regulations have been passed have been questionable. In addition, those laws and regulations have often been broad and vague, and little has been done to ensure the timely and widespread dissemination of clear information concerning these new laws, nor to ensure that the penalties imposed are proportionate, or that their implications have been fully considered. In many cases, it appears these measures are being enforced in a discriminatory manner, with opposition figures and groups, together with vulnerable communities, constituting prime targets.

Particularly worrying are cases in which governments have seized on the crisis to suspend constitutional guarantees, to pass sweeping emergency laws and to rule by decree, developments which various UN human rights experts, including the Special Rapporteur, have [already cautioned](#) against. In many cases, it appears the measures adopted are geared more at cementing control and cracking down on oppositional figures than at ensuring public health. A trend towards the militarization of crisis management is similarly worrying. Several States have also delayed planned elections, without exerting full efforts to exploring safe alternatives to in-person voting.

Civil society organizations are also facing numerous restrictions and limitations on their work. In some States, new associations are not being registered, where they are unable to demonstrate internal rules geared to the current crisis situation. While civil society workers have a key role to play in responding to the crisis and providing support to vulnerable populations, their ability to play that role has been limited by restrictive laws as well as by funding shortages, themselves brought on in part by limitations on access to cross-border funding. Members of civil society together with other workers, moreover, have been constrained by lack of access to necessary personal protective equipment. In this context, accounts of cases where labor representatives have faced retaliation for speaking out concerning dangerous situations at the workplace are particularly troubling.

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

The crisis has also been used to limit access to information broadly. Several States have adopted new measures penalizing the spreading of ‘false news,’ or have increased reliance on similar provisions of law already in place, while individuals reporting on the crisis have been cautioned, detained or expelled. Internet access is particularly crucial in times of crisis; existing and new limitations on access to the internet, or censorship of particular websites and forms of information, are hence particularly troubling in this period.

In the face of the current public health emergency, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association would like to remind States of the necessity of responding in a manner compliant with their human rights obligations. In particular, the Special Rapporteur would like to emphasize **ten key principles:**

**First: ensuring that new legal measures respect human rights.** It is vital that both the process and the substance of any new measures passed be in compliance with human rights obligations. Consultations with civil society should take place, if possible, before new measures are adopted. Where new laws or regulations are adopted, any limitations on rights imposed must be in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. It is inadmissible to declare blanket restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Exemptions should be foreseen for civil society actors, particularly those monitoring human rights, trade unions, social services providing humanitarian assistance, and journalists covering the management of the crisis. Information on any new measures adopted must be widely disseminated and translated into local and indigenous languages, and appropriate time must be given for the public to familiarize themselves with these laws before criminal penalties are imposed. In no cases may laws or regulations be applied in a discriminatory manner, and information explaining how new measures are being put into effect should be made publicly available and easily consultable by all. Independent oversight and review of measures taken during the crisis should be guaranteed, in order to ensure the rights-compliant, non-discriminatory application of the law throughout the crisis. In all cases, moreover, it is vital that any penalties applied are not disproportionate, that they do not themselves contribute to the further spread of infections, and that they take account of the contingencies of the moment, including the reduced functioning of judicial systems and the financial hardship faced by many.

**Second: ensuring that the public health emergency is not used as a pretext for rights infringements.** It is imperative the crisis not be used as a pretext to suppress rights in general or the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in particular. The crisis is no justification for excessive force to be used when dispersing assemblies, as the Special Rapporteur



CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has [emphasized](#), nor for disproportionate penalties to be imposed. States have an obligation to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations if and when a state of emergency has been declared and of any resulting derogation of rights, which must themselves be in compliance with the [Siracusa Principles](#). It is vital that any limitations imposed be removed and that full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association be restored when the public health emergency caused by Covid-19 ends. In this regard, States should incorporate sunset clauses into any states of emergency or laws passed in relationship to the current crisis, guaranteeing their automatic expiry when the public health emergency has ended. It is particularly important in the context of a crisis moreover that judicial and parliamentary checks and balances be strengthened, in order to avoid excessive and broad power in the executive branch, and to ensure a check on the arbitrary exercise of executive authority.

**Third: democracy cannot be indefinitely postponed.** The Special Rapporteur recognizes that designing appropriate electoral approaches in the context of the current global pandemic is complex, and that there are no easy solutions. Limitations on assemblies in many countries impair individuals' ability to campaign and participate in rallies, to conduct voter outreach and to monitor election processes. Civil society's ability to engage with candidates, or with the broader public in the context of elections, is also constrained. In light of these challenging circumstances, it is all the more important, as highlighted below, that freedom of expression is respected and that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association online are fully ensured. States should provide transparency as to their decision-making processes in the context of elections, moreover, and should consult with civil society in determining appropriate approaches. While limitations on in-person voting may be necessary in some cases, States should take all measures possible to ensure the timely carrying out of elections, including through the utilization of alternative voting procedures such as mail-in ballots. In all cases, the integrity of electoral processes must be ensured.

**Fourth: ensuring inclusive participation.** Active citizenship is key in times of crisis. Civil society must be regarded as an essential partner of governments in responding to the present crisis, in terms of helping to frame inclusive policies, disseminating information, building shared and cooperative approaches, and providing social support to vulnerable communities. States must ensure the right to freedom of association is fully respected, including by registering associations without constraint and by ensuring that civil society organizations are able to conduct advocacy freely, including on the international level. States should also support civil society organizations' participation in the design and implementation of effective public health

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

strategies. States should provide financial support to civil society organizations delivering vital social support, including in particular organizations which support and advocate for persons with disabilities and vulnerable communities. States must ensure that the ability of such organizations to access the communities they serve is not inappropriately limited. In addition, the crisis must not be used to prevent civil society organizations, defense lawyers, and journalists from undertaking vital work monitoring the police, prisons, migrant detention centers and other components of State legal processes.

**Fifth: guaranteeing freedom of association and assembly online.** The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association apply online just as they do offline. In this time when physical assemblies are restricted, it is all the more necessary that access to and use of the internet be ensured. In addition to refraining from restrictions such as internet shutdowns or online censorship, States should take measures to ensure access to the internet extends to the entirety of the global population, and that it is affordable. In the context of civil society organizations specifically, States should ensure that they may complete their registrations online, and should provide opportunities for them to participate, via online fora, in policy development. In all cases, ensuring the rights to peaceful assembly and association online requires that individuals' rights to privacy are fully respected and protected.

**Sixth: protecting workplace rights to freedom of association and assembly.** The right to freedom of association extends to the right to form labor unions and other forms of association within the workplace, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly [extends to the right to strike](#). The crisis underscores the need for workplace protections and measures that ensure the right to health of all employees. In no cases may employees be fired for organizing, nor for speaking up as to the need for enhanced protection and safety at their workplaces.

**Seventh: freedom of expression must be ensured.** The right of civil society actors, including journalists and human rights defenders, to freely seek, receive and impart ideas and information, whether concerning the crisis and its management or other subjects, must be ensured. Laws criminalizing 'false news' as such, which have a long history of abuse, including through being deployed to target human rights defenders, must be avoided in particular.

**Eighth: civil society's participation in multilateral institutions must be secured.** The UN and other multilateral institutions should take steps to ensure civil society organizations can continue to participate in all policy decisions, including those related to the Covid-19 response, especially in the case of public-private partnerships. It should also continue to make available broadcasts

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

and archival footage of open sessions of UN human rights bodies and other meetings, and where feasible, should facilitate civil society's participation via video link. UN Agencies and bodies should undertake proactive outreach to civil society organizations in the absence of in-person meetings, with due consideration to adapting online meetings and consultations to the security needs of human rights defenders and the challenges in exercising freedom of association online. UN Country Teams are particularly important at this moment, and their engagement with civil society around Covid-19 responses and human rights should be strengthened, both to ensure the effectiveness of UN/government partnerships and interventions, and to monitor potential restrictions on civil society in the context of Covid-19.

**Ninth: international solidarity is needed more than ever.** Financial limitations are sharply constraining civil society's ability to contribute to the response to the Covid-19 crisis. Even prior to the crisis, civil society's access to funding was limited by laws restricting cross-border support. States should repeal laws that unduly constrict civil society's ability to access funding, including international funding in particular. Where possible, moreover, states should provide both financial and other forms of support to civil society organizations, and should recognize the key role many civil society organizations play in ensuring public health broadly.

**Tenth: future implications of Covid-19 and responding to popular calls for reform.** Finally, the Special Rapporteur would like to observe that the year prior to the current crisis was marked by an unprecedented wave of protests around the world. While the demands and concerns of the protesters differed from context to context, protesters consistently called for more democratic governance, greater respect for human rights, increased equality, an end to austerity, and meaningful steps to combat climate change and widespread corruption. The current crisis is unlikely to alleviate these demands; if anything, the economic downturn caused by the crisis, combined with financial measures that enhance inequality, will only serve to exacerbate underlying causes. It is vital in this context that States' responses to the crisis take citizens' demands fully into account, and that States take measures to adopt more democratic governance structures, to enhance rights protection and fulfillment, to reduce inequality, and to ensure that the transition to greener and more sustainable energy sources receives increased support and attention.

ENDS

*Mr. Clément Nyaletsossi Voule, from Togo, was appointed as [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association](#) in March 2018. He is a lawyer and currently works*

CIVICS AND LAW  
MONITORING COMMITTEE

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*The Special Rapporteurs 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.*

**[COVID-19 restrictions should not stop freedom of assembly and association, says UN expert](#)**

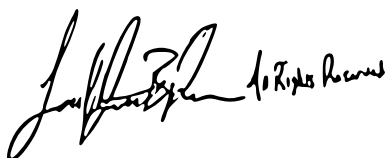
**[COVID-19 does not discriminate; nor should our response](#)**

We agree with this politician: UN, WTO, WHO CAN'T FULFIL THEIR FUNCTIONS AND SERVE NO PURPOSE <https://www.bitchute.com/video/fnGLQb233nbB/>

Sincerely,

Dustin Bryce

Interest of Justice



*Dustin Bryce*

Law and Civics Oversight Committee

Friday June 10, 2022

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