

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Ref.: AL IDN 4/2026
(Please use this reference in your reply)

30 March 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 52/4, 53/4 and 52/9.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning **an attack with acid against human rights defender Andrie Yunis in Central Jakarta on 12 March 2026**.

Mr. **Andrie Yunus** is a human rights defender and Deputy Coordinator for External Affairs at KontraS, the Commission for the Disappearance and Victims of Violence. The organisation, founded in 1998, monitors the human rights situation in Indonesia, with particular involvement in documentation of cases of enforced disappearance. He is also a member of the Fact-Finding Commission which conducted an independent investigation into nationwide protests in Indonesia in August 2025, identifying large-scale human rights violations by the Indonesian security forces.

Previous concerns as to retaliation against members of KontraS for their human rights work were communicated to your Excellency's Government in communication [IDN 8/2021](#), sent on 20 October 2021. We thank your Excellency's Government for its replies to this communication, dated 22 November 2021 and 24 December 2021. However, we wish to reiterate our grave concern for the security of the organisation's members, given the below information received.

According to the information received:

On 12 March 2026, at approximately 11.37 p.m., Mr. Yunus was attacked while driving his motorcycle in Central Jakarta. Two unidentified men on another motorcycle threw acid at him in an allegedly premeditated attack, causing him to fall and leaving him with severe burns on approximately 24 per cent of his body, including on his chest, hands, face and eyes. None of his belongings were stolen, indicating that the attack was not an attempted robbery.

The attack occurred immediately after Mr. Yunus had recorded a podcast in Central Jakarta on the militarisation of civilian and political affairs in Indonesia.

In the year prior to the attack, beginning in March 2025, members of KontraS Jakarta office had reportedly been surveilled, with unidentified individuals parking outside their office and photographing the building. This surveillance

coincided with involvement of KontraS members, including Mr. Yunus, in protests against the revision of Indonesia's Military Law to allow for military officers to hold civilian positions in state institutions.

At the time of finalising this communication, four members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, serving at the Strategic Intelligence Agency, had been detained in relation to their alleged involvement in the attack on Mr. Yunus.

We strongly condemn the abhorrent attack against Mr. Yunus, which the information received indicates may be directly connected to his human rights work and the exercise of his right to freedom of expression. We urge your Excellency's Government to guarantee effective accountability and his right to access to justice for the crime committed against him, including through the identification and prosecution of the material and intellectual authors of the crime, and to urgently engage with KontraS and its members to ensure their security and the prevention of any such attacks against them in the future.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure a prompt, thorough, effective and impartial investigation into the attack against Mr. Yunus, taking into account the possibility that the attack may have been in reprisal for his human rights work. If no such investigation is being carried out, please explain how this is compatible with Indonesia's obligations under international human rights law. Where such investigations have been conducted, please share information on their results and steps taken to ensure effective accountability.
3. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure Mr. Yunus' access to necessary medical treatment and rehabilitation, including psychological support as necessary.
4. Please provide information on the steps taken to engage with KontraS to ensure the safety and protection of its members in light of the attack on Mr. Yunus.
5. Please provide information on any public condemnations by your Excellency's Government of the attack on Mr. Yunus and public support for his work and that of KontraS.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) at the 60 days mark. Should Your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Irene Khan
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to the principles and international standards applicable to this communication, in particular articles 6, 9 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which the Republic of Indonesia acceded on 23 February 2006, which guarantee the rights to life, security of person and to freedom of expression.

In connection with article 6 and the right to life, in the Human Rights Committee's general comment No. 36, the Committee stated that the obligation of State parties to respect and ensure the right to life “extends to reasonably foreseeable threats and life-threatening situations” and that State parties may be in violation of article 6 of the Covenant “even if such threats and situations do not result in loss of life.” (CCPR/C/GC/36, para. 7).

The Committee further stated that State parties are “under a due diligence obligation to take reasonable, positive measures that do not impose disproportionate burdens on them in response to reasonably foreseeable threats to life originating from private persons and entities whose conduct is not attributable to the State.” (CCPR/C/GC/36, para. 21).

Concerning human rights defenders specifically, the Committee stated that the duty to protect the right to life requires State parties to take “special measures of protection towards persons in vulnerable situations whose lives have been placed at particular risk because of specific threats or pre-existing patterns of violence” and that such persons “include human rights defenders” (CCPR/C/GC/36, para. 23).

The right to security of person refers to protection against physical or psychological injury, or attacks on physical and moral integrity, and obliges State parties to take appropriate measures to protect individuals from foreseeable threats to their life or physical integrity from any State or non-State actor. As the Human Rights Committee has underlined in general comment No. 35, States parties should respond appropriately to patterns of violence against certain categories of victims, such as intimidation of human rights defenders, and should take appropriate measures to protect the victims of such violence (CCPR/GC/35 para. 9).

Article 19 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression, which includes the right “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media”.

The Human Rights Committee asserts that there is a duty of States to put in place effective measures to protect against attacks aimed at silencing those exercising their right to freedom of expression. Recognizing how journalists and persons who engage in the gathering and analysis of information on the human rights situation and who publish human rights-related reports, including judges and lawyers, are frequently subjected to threats, intimidation and attacks because of their activities, the Committee

stresses that “all such attacks should be vigorously investigated in a timely fashion, and the perpetrators prosecuted, and the victims, or, in the case of killings, their representatives, be in receipt of appropriate forms of redress” (CCPR/C/GC/34, para. 23).

We would also like to recall the fundamental principles set forth in the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. In particular, we would like to refer to articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration which state that everyone has the right to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels and that each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Crucially, article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3, provides that the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of everyone against any violence threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the Declaration.

Finally, we would like to strongly recall Human Rights Council resolution 38/12, which calls on States to take all steps necessary to prevent threats, attacks, discrimination, arbitrary arrests and detention or other forms of harassment, reprisals and acts of intimidation against civil society actors, to investigate any such alleged acts, to ensure access to justice and accountability, and to end impunity where such violations and abuses have occurred.