



# How to use the UN SP on FOE: a practical guide

By Smita Shah, Garden Court Chambers

[smitas@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:smitas@gclaw.co.uk)

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## Individual Petition

- Direct Intervention by mandate holder
- Violations that have already occurred, ongoing of which have a high risk of occurring
- Sending a letter to the Government requesting information, comment, preventative or investigatory action
- Can concern individual cases, trends, patterns of violations

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## 2 Kinds of Communications

### Letter of allegation

Letter to Government requesting formation and response to allegations

### Urgent action

Asking Government to take preventative or investigatory action



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## Admissibility Criteria

- Intervention is at the discretion of the Mandate holder
- Not abusive language, politically motivated
- Credible Information:
  - Internal consistency of information
  - Precision of factual details
  - Within scope of mandate
  - Not based solely on media reports
  - Supporting evidence – where possible
  - Fill in questionnaire – where required LA, not always for UA



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## Submitting the Complaint: What information is needed?

- Identity of alleged victim - name, age, gender, profession, ethnicity, affiliations
- Nature of medium affected – newspapers, radio, art, incl. Circulation, frequency of broadcast, publication, public performance
- Identification of alleged perpetrators – State, non state actors, State tolerance, inaction, threats
- Identification of organisation/person submitting complaint (kept confidential) – name, fax no, telephone, number, address
- **Who, what, where, when, how and why**



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## Consider the following:

- Has there been a violation? More than one?
- Does it fall within the Mandate?
- How much information do you need? More
- Consent of family member?
- Managing client's expectations
- What do you want Spec Rapporteur to do?
- Pass on updating information
- English/French/Spanish



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## Where do you Submit it:

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

C/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

United nations Office at Geneva

1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Fax: 41 22 917 9006

Email: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org)