



BAR HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

Dear members

We hope to work with as many of you as possible and always welcome your feedback and ideas, so please do not hesitate to get in contact with the new BHRC Project Coordinator, [Illari Aragon](#).

BHRC Roundtable event: This Wednesday, 30th May at 5:30pm the BHRC will be hosting a roundtable with Guatemalan human rights advocate Reverend José Pilar Alvarez, looking at how UK lawyers can support his organisation, the Association to Protect the Las Granadillas Mountain (APMG). As a result of this work on environmental protection, José Pilar and community leaders have suffered numerous threats and he has twice been the victim of spurious charges. In 2011, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission ordered Guatemala to provide José Pilar with protective measures. See more information about [Reverend Jose Pilar Alvarez's organisation](#).

Venue: Cloisters, 1 Pump Court, Temple, London EC4Y 7AA.

Map: <http://www.cloisters.com/contact-us/location-map.asp>

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to coordination@barhumanrights.org.uk

Recent BHRC letters of concern and statements

Pakistan: BHRC expresses concern at the position of Pakistan's Ministry of Interior, which is blocking plans to raise the age of criminal responsibility in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 7 to 12 years.

See [BHRC statement](#).

Colombia: The Colombian Constitutional Court confirmed its decision regarding the suspension order made on Muriel Mining Corporation's Mandé Norte Project in

Chocó to explore and extract minerals on collectively owned Indigenous and Afro-Colombian land. In 2011 the BHRC submitted an [Amicus Curiae](#) to the Colombian Constitutional Court regarding the annulment of the decision taken by Colombia's Constitutional Court (7-769/2009) in the Muriel Mining Corporation Case. The brief deals with the international jurisprudence regarding the right to consultation and prior informed consent of the communities affected by large-scale projects.

Current BHRC scoping work

Malawi: Michelle Knorr and Rachel Logan are traveling to Malawi at the end of May with the purpose of conducting scoping work on behalf of the BHRC, thanks to the generous funding of the Scurrah Wainwright Charity. The BHRC delegates will be meeting with a number of individuals and organisations with the view to strengthening partnerships and building further channels of assistance for human rights work through the BHRC existing Public Interest Casework Support (PICS) project. See more information about the [BHRC PICS project](#)

Call to members

In accordance with our mandate to monitor and uphold the rule of law, the BHRC frequently issues statements of concern and sends letters to raise attention about particular human rights violations. In 2010 and 2011, we intervened in a diverse number of human rights issues in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Colombia, Iraq, Jordan, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, different West African countries and Zimbabwe.

In order to respond to as many requests for assistance as possible, we are calling on our members to assist with researching and drafting urgent appeals. If you are interested in becoming involved in this, please email us specifying topics and regions of expertise and interest. If you are involved in a case or campaign and think that BHRC support would be useful, please do not hesitate to contact us too.

External events

BHRC partner organisation International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) is holding an event on Wednesday 6th June at 5.45 p.m. at the offices of Herbert Smith to inform prospective volunteers about the opportunities to engage in pro-bono work through the International Senior Lawyers Project. For more information please contact volunteers@islp.org. or visit: <http://www.islp.org/contactus.html>

Defending the Environment - A Criminal Offence?

Incorporating the launch of a new report: Criminalisation of Human Rights Defenders

On Tuesday, 29 May, at 5.30pm at Matrix Chambers (Griffin Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5LN)

More information contact susibascon@peacebrigades.org.uk

Best wishes,

Illari Aragon

BHRC Project Coordinator

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***The BHRC is dedicated to promoting principles of justice and respect for
fundamental human rights through the rule of law in different parts of the world.***

Further details on how to become a [member](#).

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