



Council of the  
European Union

193168/EU XXVII. GP  
Eingelangt am 17/07/24

Brussels, 17 July 2024  
(OR. en)

12389/24

COHOM 159

#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Front Line Defenders Global Analysis 2023/2024 Presentation - COHOM meeting of 10 July 2024

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Delegations will find in the annex a presentation given by an external stakeholder, on behalf of Front Line Defenders at a meeting of the **Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)** on 10 July 2024. This presentation and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



## Global Analysis 2023/2024

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

# 75 Years of UDHR & 25 Years of HRD Declaration

## Progress:

- Developed frameworks for HRD protection.
- Normalized and supported HRD roles globally.
- Specific regional mechanisms for Environmental Land and Indigenous.

## Impact of HRDs:

- Protected and claimed rights, expanded justice and fairness.
- Women's Rights , LGBTIQ+ rights, Climate Justice

## Challenges:

- Significant risks remain: nearly 3000 HRDs killed in the last decade.
- Gap between rhetorical and practical support for HRDs.



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DEFENDERS

# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS MEMORIAL

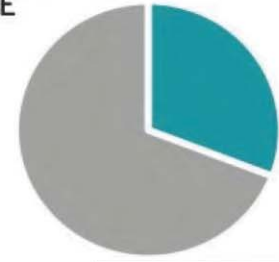
www.hrdmemorial.org



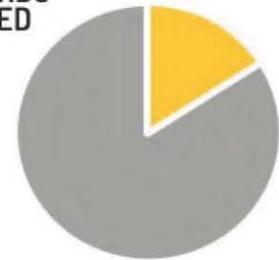
**In 2023, the HRD Memorial documented the killings of 300 HRDs in 28 countries.**

Colombia:	142 <sup>1</sup>	Guatemala:	6	El Salvador:	1
Mexico:	30	Peru:	4	Eswatini (fmr. "Swaziland"):	1
Brazil:	24	Iran:	3	Indonesia:	1
Honduras:	19	Afghanistan:	2	Lebanon:	1
Ukraine:	11	Bangladesh:	2	Mauritania:	1
Philippines:	10	Cameroon:	2	Mozambique:	1
Nicaragua:	9	China:	1	Paraguay:	1
Palestine:	9	Democratic Republic of		Rwanda:	1
Sudan:	8	Congo (DRC):	1	Thailand:	1
India:	7	Ecuador:	1		

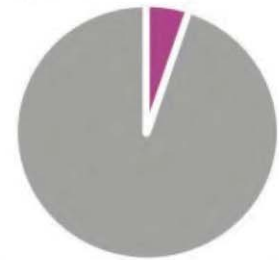
**31%** OF HRDS KILLED WERE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OR WORKED ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS



**16%** OF HRDS KILLED IDENTIFIED AS WOMEN<sup>2</sup>



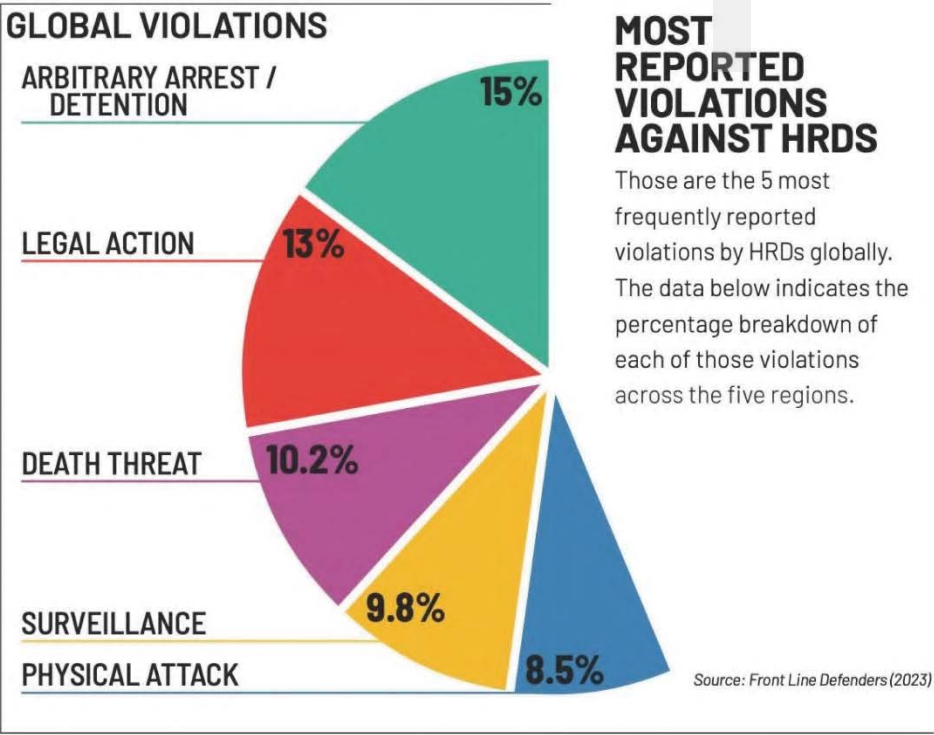
**5%** OF HRDS KILLED WERE OR WORKED ON LGBTIQ+ RIGHTS



Source: HRD Memorial (2023)

# GLOBAL STATISTICS: How Human Rights Defenders Are Targeted Around the World

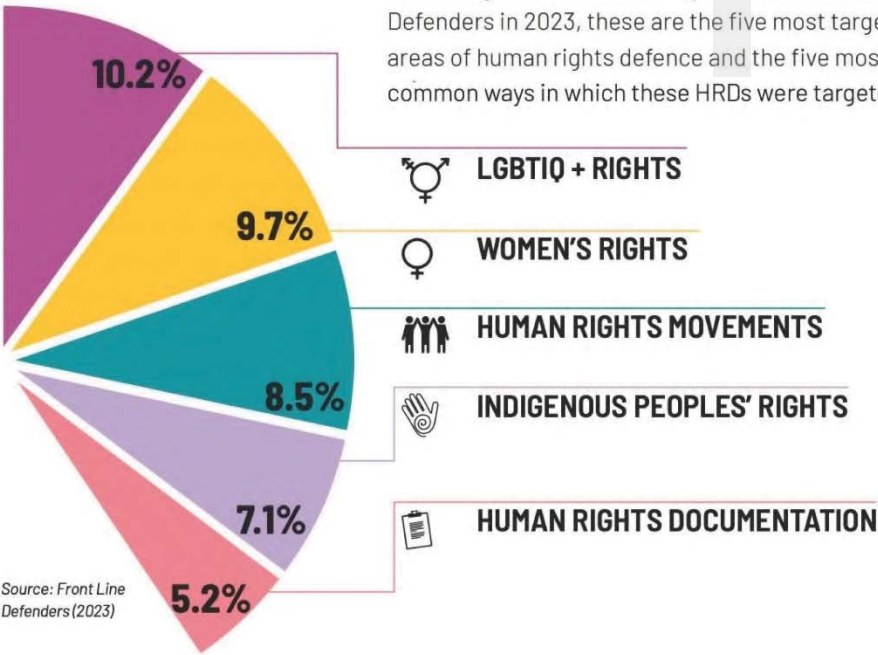
- **Data Overview:** FLD ' casework and grants in 2023.
- **Scope:** 1,538 violations in 105 countries.



# Most targeted areas of Human Rights Defence

## AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENCE

According to the violations reported to Front Line Defenders in 2023, these are the five most targeted areas of human rights defence and the five most common ways in which these HRDs were targeted.



Source: Front Line Defenders (2023)

## Defending LGBTIQ+ Rights

### GLOBAL RISKS

LGBTIQ+ defenders at risk worldwide.

Increasing number of homophobic legislations targeted LGBTIQ+ persons and fuelled severe backlash against HRDs

2023: 14 LGBTIQ+ HRDs killed in 3 countries.

### EUROPE AND ASIA

### CENTRAL

Most Targeted group 17%

Russia's framing "international LGBT movement" as "extremist"

### AFRICA

20% : 22% of violations against LGBTIQ+ defenders.

Challenges to access relocation and visa

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## WHRDs

### HRDs in Conflict and Crisis Situations

- **HRDs face severe risks** In conflicts across Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia, DRC, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Colombia, Mexico, Syria, and more.
- **WHRDs in Conflict:** WHRDs face heightened risks in hyper-masculinized conflict environments.
- **Non-State Armed Actors:** In Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Central African Republic, and Venezuela HRDs were targeted by criminal gangs, drug traffickers, and paramilitary groups.
- **Need for Support:** Few relocation avenues; defenders often flee to neighbouring countries, remaining at risk.



## Targeting of Family Members

- **Targeting HRD's Family Members:** They face retaliation due to the HRD work, and are subjected to detention, threats, beatings or killings.
- **Psychosocial Impact:** Increased psychosocial strain on WHRDs when family members are targeted.
- **Killing of at least 21 relatives** of human rights defenders, including minors, in Afghanistan, Colombia, Honduras, Sudan and the Philippines in 2023.

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## WHRDs and Targeting of Family Members

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**TRENDS ACROSS THE REGIONS****MOST REPORTED VIOLATIONS BY REGION****AFRICA**

PHYSICAL ATTACK	17.5%
DEATH THREAT	14.9%
ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION	13.2%
LEGAL ACTION	9.7%
THREATS / OTHER HARASSMENT	6.1%

**AMERICAS**

DEATH THREAT	22.1%
PHYSICAL ATTACK	13.3%
LEGAL ACTION	9.6%
ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION	9.6%
THREATS / OTHER HARASSMENT	9.2%

**ASIA-PACIFIC**

ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION	27.3%
LEGAL ACTION	15%
THREATS / OTHER HARASSMENT	9.7%
SURVEILLANCE	8.8%
TARGETING OF FAMILY MEMBERS	5.3%

**EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

LEGAL ACTION	17.3%
ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION	13.3%
SURVEILLANCE	12.8%
RAID / BREAK-IN / THEFT	7.6%
QUESTIONING / INTERROGATION	7%

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

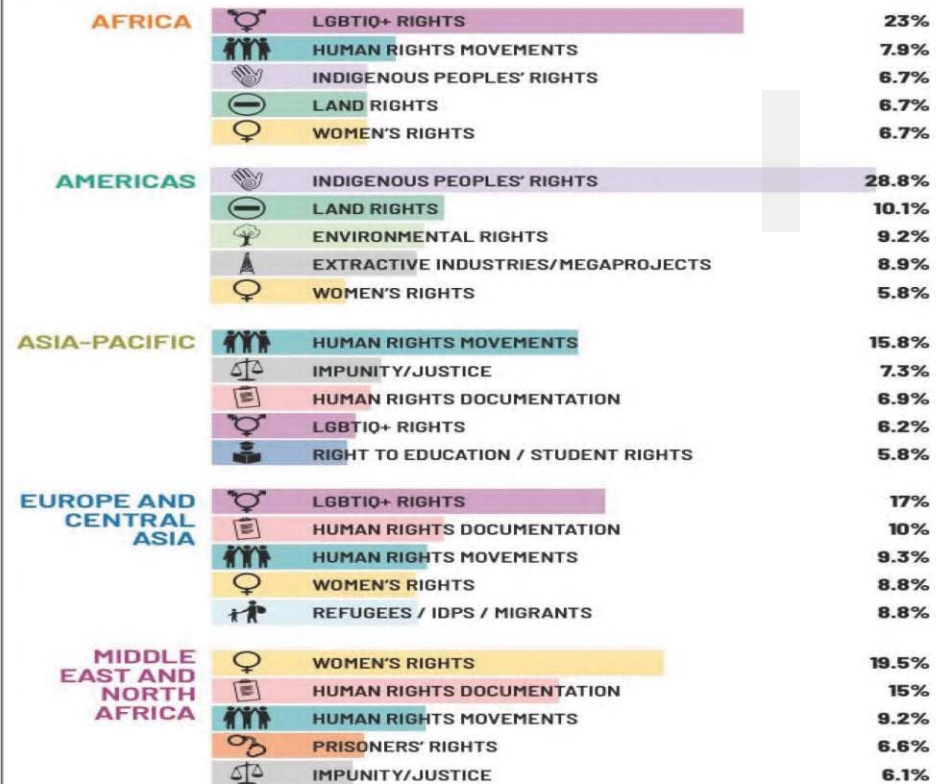
ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION	17.8%
THREATS / OTHER HARASSMENT	15.4%
LEGAL ACTION	13.1%
SURVEILLANCE	12.2%
DEATH THREAT	11.6%

Source: Front Line Defenders (2023)

## TRENDS BY REGION

## TRENDS ACROSS THE REGIONS

## FIVE MOST TARGETED AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENCE BY REGION



Source: Front Line Defenders (2023)

**THEY RESIST, THEY INSIST  
TO FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

DOWNLOAD FLD GA 2023/24 [here](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.FRONTLINEDEFENDERS.ORG/EN/RESOURCE-PUBLICATION/GLOBAL-ANALYSIS-202324](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-202324)

