

Local Implementation Strategy to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in Ethiopia

The European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders constitute a framework to guide the engagement of the European Union and its member states with human rights defenders in third countries. These guidelines provide for European Union missions to prepare local implementation strategies in their countries of accreditation, in order to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines. This strategy was endorsed by the EU Heads of Mission on 12 November 2009.

Main objectives of the Local Implementation Strategies (LIS):

- To enhance collaboration amongst EU missions and coherence of EU activities for human rights defenders (HRDs) and offer practical guidance to missions on how to protect defenders under the current context;
- To make the existence and purpose of the guidelines more widely known among HRDs and staff of EU missions and ensure that HRD's views are included in monitoring and implementation of the LIS;

How EU will promote the guidelines in Ethiopia:

- Translate the guidelines into local languages (beginning with Amharic/Oromo/Somali/Tigrinya) and disseminate amongst key actors;
- Promote the guidelines in suitable fora;

How EU will seek to protect HRDs:

- When clear violations of the rights of HRDs have occurred the EU will consider the following options: raising the issue with the Government and the Human Rights Commission, carrying out demarches, or issuing EU statements and will make sure to follow-up on and evaluate the outcomes of these actions;
- EU missions will seek to ensure that the situation of HRDs (issues of concern/specific cases if appropriate) is an item on the agenda of the Article 8 Dialogue;
- EU missions will seek to include recommendations made by international and regional level mechanisms, notably those working on the protection of HRDs (ex: the Special Rapporteurs of the UN and of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the African Peer Review Mechanism) in these political dialogues;
- Encourage visits of Special Procedures mandate holders from the UN and ACHPR;
- Individual EU missions will bring up the issue of HRDs in a range of fora notably at the Universal Periodic Review and its follow up;
- EU missions will closely follow the implementation of the Civil Society Proclamation and the findings of these activities will guide EU actions;

- EU missions will facilitate interaction between HRDs and visiting delegations to ensure HRDs have access to key EU actors;
- EU missions will publish resolutions from the European Parliament relevant to HRDs;
- EU missions will include a section on the situation of HRDs in all relevant EU Heads of Mission (HOM) reports;
- Where appropriate, EU missions will carry out trial monitoring activities; the observation should be carried out throughout the trial;
- During EU field missions efforts will be made to extend EU contacts with HRDs;
- If deemed appropriate by the HRDs, EU missions will consider carrying out activities to increase visibility of HRDs;
- EU missions will seek to facilitate interaction between HRDs and the authorities;
- A lead Focal Point officer has been designated within the EU Delegation, whose contacts will be shared with HRDs.