What is a Special Rapporteur?

- Special Rapporteurs (SRs) are a **mechanism** of the United Nations Human Rights Council that mandates independent experts to **report** and **advise** on a country's human rights situation or a specific human rights theme.
- SRs engage in studies and expert consultations around their specific mandate to **increase the capacity of the Human Rights Council** to address human rights issues and situations worldwide based on the SR’s recommendations.
- Currently there are 44 thematic mandates, including the **SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (UNSRAA)**, and 12 country mandates.

Mandate of the UNSRAA

1. Gather all information of national practices and experiences in relation to the promotion of FoAA
2. Produce annual reports considering the views of States to suggest the best practices in the promotion of FoAA
3. Seek and respond to relevant stakeholders
4. Provide technical assistance to the OHCHR to better promote and protect FoAA
5. Report on violations and restrictions of FoAA
6. Act on individual cases and alleged violations or abuses of FoAA

The mandate of the UNSRAA was established in October 2010 to promote and protect FoAA on a global scale.

The mandate-holder serves for an initial period of three years with the possibility of renewing for a second term once.

The Human Rights Council extended the mandate of the UNSRAA for an additional period of three years in September 2013 and June 2016.
Meet the UNSRAAs

Maina Kiai

- First mandate-holder of the UNSRAA
- Appointed in May 2011 until April 2017
- Thematic reports produced include:
  1. Challenges faced marginalized groups in exercising their FoAA
  2. FoAA in the context of natural resource exploitation
  3. Practical recommendations for the management of assemblies
  4. The enabling environments that States create for business and civil society
  5. The exercise of assembly and association in the workplace.

Clément Nyaletsossi VOULE

- Current mandate-holder of the UNSRAA
- Appointed in March 2018
- Thematic reports produced include:
  1. General trends in the exercise of FoAA
  2. Civil society participation in the implementation of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development (2019)
  3. Civil society participation in the implementation of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development (2020)
  4. The exercise of the rights to FoAA in the digital age
  5. Closing of civic space and its implications for FoAA.

As a United Nations human rights mechanism, a fundamental component of the UNSRAA’s mandate is to engage with individuals and civil society concerns and opinions in contribution to the promotion and protection of FoAA. Submission of information to SRs can be done through the completion of this online form or by emailing the UNSRAA directly at: freeassembly@ohchr.org.