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Human Rights Council Thirty-second session Agenda item 3 Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

# **Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**<sup>\*</sup>

Addendum

Observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received

\* Reproduced as received.

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## I. Introduction

1. The present report contains observations by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions on communications sent between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 and responses received from States and other actors between 1 May 2015 and 30 April 2016. During the period under review, the Special Rapporteur sent a total of 115 communications to 44 States and 2 other actors. 104 communications were sent jointly with other mandates, while 11 communications were sent by this mandate alone. Of all communications sent, 68 were urgent appeals and 47 were allegation letters.

2. It has been a long-term practice of the mandate to report to the Council on the communications sent to States and the replies received, initially in the main body of annual reports, and later in addendums. In 2005 the Special Rapporteur tabulated communications for the first time. This predated the practice of Special Procedures more broadly issuing a joint communications report at each session of the Human Rights Council, (most recently A/32/53), which was a welcome development. The Special Rapporteur takes the opportunity in this, his final submission to the Council, to reflect briefly on the practice. In this report, he retains the tabulated record of communications, while at the same time adds some analysis of the trends of communications sent, replies received, and some general reflections on certain of the subjects raised.

3. The communications procedure of the Special Rapporteur's mandate is something which takes a great deal of time, and it is important for the Council to be regularly apprised of the substance of this work in a manner that is useful and engaging. From the perspective of individual cases taken up, and from the perspective of reforms that might result from these illustrative examples of State practice, it is important that there be some kind of follow-up to the initial communication.

4. The joint communications report provides basic statistics with respect to the responsiveness of States overall to different mandates. With respect to this mandate, the Special Rapporteur received responses to 53 out of 115 communications sent within the reporting period. He thanks all Governments who have replied to his communications for their cooperation. 62 of the communications are yet to be responded to. In this period, the Special Rapporteur also received replies to 8 previous communications, i.e. sent prior to the reporting period for which he is grateful. This means the overall timely response rate for communications sent by this mandate is 46 per cent. While slightly higher than the system-wide reply rate for Special Procedures communications (42 per cent in 2015), it should be much higher. Moreover it should be noted that some of the responses included in this number are also purely procedural in nature

5. In its resolution 26/12, the Human Rights Council urged States "[t]o cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his or her tasks, to supply all necessary information requested by him or her and to react appropriately and expeditiously to his or her urgent appeals, and those Governments that have not yet responded to communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur to do so without further delay". Therefore, the Special Rapporteur reiterates his appeal to all Governments to respond to communications in a timely manner so as to assist and cooperate with his mandate efficiently in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolution 26/12.

6. However, the most meaningful follow-up on the contents of the communications between the Special Rapporteur and a particular State, including—vitally—the response of the Government, can often be done by the source of the original information (in most cases either a lawyer representing the victim of his/her family, or a national human rights organisations). The Special Rapporteur believes that it is important that the sources are routinely and automatically informed after the suitable delay of confidentiality has elapsed both of the fact that a communication was sent and whether a response has been received.

The system should be set up in such a way that the source automatically receives copies of or links to the relevant correspondence once it is available.

7. The Special Rapporteur notes the role that could be played in this regard by NHRIs and Ombudspersons as well as UN human rights offices or country teams. Such institutions play a valuable role in following up on the recommendations made by Special Rapporteurs during their country visits, but could be perhaps more directly involved in the process of communications, once the initial communication, along with any reply from the Government, have been made public. The possibility that they are also given the automatic notification mentioned in the previous paragraph should be investigated.

8. In his final observations on communications report, the Special Rapporteur has experimented with a slightly different format, attempting to offer some follow-up information and commentary on the communications sent as part of his mandate. It will be a question for his successor as to whether this is a practice to continue. The Special Rapporteur would welcome feedback from States, NGOs and other users on whether this format works for them and how it can be improved

9. This report compiles in two tables the correspondence sent and received during the period under review: Tabulation (A) of cases transmitted and replies received to communications sent during the reporting period, and Tabulation (B) of cases transmitted to States concerning alleged violations of death penalty safeguards. At the end of each tabulation, the Special Rapporteur offers his observations on the communications sent and the replies received during the reporting period.

# II. Tabulation (A) of cases transmitted and replies received to communications sent during the reporting period

10. In Tabulation (A) all communications have been grouped by country, with countries listed alphabetically according to their names in English. The electronic version of the present document has each communication sent and reply received hyperlinked, and clicking on them will open the communication sent and the reply from the concerned State, respectively, as uploaded on the OHCHR website. All communications are also available in the Special Procedures communication reports.

11. Each communication is referenced as urgent appeal (UA), allegation letter (AL), joint urgent appeal (JUA) and joint allegation letter (JAL). This is followed by the date when the communication was issued, as well as the case number and, when applicable, the State's reply.

## A. Violations alleged

12. In Tabulation (A) on communications and replies, the violations are classified into the following categories, using the short versions in parentheses:

(a) Non-respect of international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment ("Death penalty safeguards");

(b) Death threats and fear of imminent extrajudicial executions by State officials, paramilitary groups, or groups cooperating with or tolerated by the Government, as well as unidentified persons who may be linked to the categories mentioned above, when the Government is failing to take appropriate protection measures ("Death threats");

(c) Deaths in custody owing to torture, neglect, or the use of force, or fear of death in custody due to life-threatening conditions of detention ("Deaths in custody");

(d) Deaths due to the use of force by law enforcement officials or persons acting in direct or indirect compliance with the State, when the use of force is inconsistent with the criteria of absolute necessity and proportionality ("Excessive force");

(e) Deaths due to attacks or killings by security forces of the State, or by paramilitary groups, death squads, or other private forces cooperating with or tolerated by the State ("Attacks or killings");

(f) Violations of the right to life during armed conflict, especially of the civilian population and other non-combatants, contrary to international humanitarian law ("Armed conflict");

(g) Expulsion, refoulement, or return of persons to a country or a place where their lives are in danger ("Expulsion");

(h) Lack of investigation or accountability, leading to impunity, lack of compensation or concerns for the rights of victims ("Impunity").

(i) Concerns about a legislative framework ("Legislation").

#### **B.** Character of replies received

13. The replies received have been classified according to the following six categories designed to assist the Human Rights Council in its task of evaluating the responses received to the communications sent within the reporting period and the effectiveness of the mandate:

(a) "No response" denotes the absence of a response to a communication sent within the reporting period;

(b) "Recent communication" denotes the absence of a response to a communication sent within the past 60 days;

(c) "Acknowledgement of receipt" refers to a reply acknowledging receipt that the communication was received and/or that it has been transmitted to the relevant State authorities;

(d) "Addresses some substantive issues" characterizes a reply that provided information on certain substantive issues raised in the communication;

(e) "Substantive response" denotes a reply that is responsive to the allegations and that substantively clarifies the facts. It does not, however, imply that the action taken necessarily complies with international human rights law.

(f) "Translation awaited" indicates that a response has been received, but has not yet been translated by the relevant services of the United Nations.

# C. Tabulation (A)

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
Afghanistan	JAL	17/12/2015	Group of individuals	No response	Attacks or killings
		(AFG 3/2015)			
Australia	AL	20/11/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Death penalty safeguards
		(AUS 8/2015)		issues	
				07/01/2016	
Bahrain	JUA	23/11/2015	2 males	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(BHR 7/2015)		23/02/2016	
Bangladesh	JAL	10/04/2015	Group of individuals (49	Acknowledgement of receipt	Attacks or killings, excessive
Dunghudesh	51112	(BGD 1/2015)	individuals)	17/04/2015	force; Impunity
	JAL	30/04/2015	2 males (journalists/bloggers)	Acknowledgement of receipt	Attacks or killings; death
	01112	(BGD 2/2015)	2 marcs (journalists, croggers)	05/07/2015	threats
	JUA	23/11/2015	2 males	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	5011	(BGD 8/2015)	2 marcs	i to response	Death penanty sureguinds
	JAL	24/11/2015	2 males (writers/publishers)	Acknowledgement of receipt	Attacks or killings
	JAL	(BGD 7/2015)	2 marcs (writers/publishers)	25/11/2015	Attacks of kinnigs
		(DOD //2013)		25/11/2015	
Belarus	JUA	17/04/2015	1 male (human rights lawyer)	Substantive response	Death threats; Impunity
		(BLR 1/2015)	(g, j)	12/06/2015	
Brazil	AL	21/07/2015	1 male	No response	Attacks or killings; excessive
DIULII		(BRA 3/2015)	1 maio	110 Tesponse	force
		(DKA 3/2013)			

\* Type of Communication: UA: Urgent Appeal; JUA: Joint Urgent Appeal; AL: Letter of Allegation; JAL: Joint Letter of Allegation.

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
	JUA	09/10/2015		Substantive response	Attacks or killings; death
		(BRA 7/2015)	rights defenders and indigenous community	09/12/2015	threats
Burundi	JUA	30/04/2015	Group of individuals (protesters,	Addressees some substantive	Excessive force; attacks or
		(BDI 3/2015)	human rights defender)	issues 04/05/2015	killings
	JUA	13/11/2015	Group of individuals (including	Substantive response	Excessive force;
		(BDI 5/2015)	political activists and protesters)	07/01/2016	attacks or killings; death in
				Substantive response	custody
				29/01/2016	
Central	JAL	02/09/2015	Group of individuals (militias and soldiers)		Attacks or killings, excessive
African Republic		(CAF 1/2015)			force; death in custody
Colombia	JUA	20/08/2015	Group of individuals (human rights defender and farmer community)	Substantive response	Death threats; attacks or
		(COL 4/2015)		25/09/2015	killings
	JAL	3/02/2015	Group of individuals (human	Substantive response	Attacks or killings; death
		(COL 5/2015) rights defenders)	28/04/2016	threats	
Democratic	JAL	10/12/2015	Group of individuals (including	Acknowledgment of receipt	Excessive force; attacks or killings; impunity
Republic of Congo		(COD 5/2015)	human rights defenders and political activists)	29/01/2016	
congo				Addresses some substantive issues	
				11/02/2016	
				Addresses some substantive issues	
				02/03/2016	
Dominican	JUA	30/04/2015	4 individuals (journalists)	No response	Death threats
Republic		(DOM 1/2015)			

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
Ethiopia	JUA	12/05/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(ETH 3/2015)			
	JUA	28/12/2015	Group of individuals (protesters)	No response	Excessive force; attacks or
		(ETH 5/2015)			killings
Egypt	JUA	10/04/2015	6 males	Substantive response	Death penalty safeguards
		(EGY 5/2015)		07/05/2015	
	JUA	29/05/2015	Group of individuals	Substantive Response	Death penalty safeguards
		(EGY 7/2015)		30/07/2015	
	JAL	21/07/2015	Legislation	Substantive response	Legislation
		(EGY 11/2015)		05/08/2015	
	JUA	14/08/2015	1 male	Substantive Response	Death penalty safeguards
		(EGY 12/2015)		11/12/2015	
El Salvador	JAL	28/05/2015	2 males (human rights defender)	Substantive response	Attacks or killings
		(SLV 2/2015)		27/07/2015	
				Substantive response	
				11/08/2015	
The Gambia	JAL	09/04/2015	3 males	No response	Excessive force, attacks or killings; impunity
		(GMB 1/2015)			kinnigs, impunity
	JUA	24/07/2015	Legislation	No response	Legislation, death penalty
		(GMB 2/2015)			safeguards
Guatemala	JAL	25/11/2015	9 male (human rights defender -	Substantive response	Attacks or killings; death
		(GTM 4/2015)	environment)	14/03/2016	threats

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Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
	JUA	07/01/2016	1 male (human rights defender)	No response	Death threats; attacks or
		(GTM 6/2015)			killings
	JAL	26/02/2016	Group of individuals	Acknowledgement of receipt	Impunity
		(GTM 2/2016)		06/04/2016	
Honduras	JUA	31/08/2015	1 female (journalist and human	No response	Death threats; Attacks or
		(HND 2/2015)	rights defender)		killings; impunity
	JAL	11/11/2015	defenders I GBTI rights)	Substantive response	Attacks or killings
		(HND 3/2015)		01/02/2016	
	JUA	14/01/2016	6 individuals (human rights defenders; indigenous community)	Substantive response	Attacks or killings; Death
		(HND 1/2016)		04/04/2016	threats;
			5,		Excessive force
India	UA	17/04/2015	1	No response	Excessive force; attacks or
		(IND 5/2015)			killings, death threats
	JUA	25/09/2015	1 male (human rights defender)	No response	Death threats; Attacks or
		(IND 11/2015)			killings
	JAL	06/11/2015	4 females	No response	Attacks or killings
		(IND 13/2015)			
Indonesia	JUA	06/03/2015 (IDN 2/2015)	10 individuals (including foreign nationals)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	UA	24/04/2015	9 males, 1 female (including	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(IDN 4/2015)	foreign nationals)		
	JUA	21/05/2015	Group of individuals (migrants)	No response	Expulsion
		(IDN 5/2015)			
	JAL	07/07/2015	2 males (human rights defenders -		Attacks or killings

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Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
-		(IDN 3/2015)	environment)		0
	JAL	09/10/2015	Group of individuals (indigenous	No response	Excessive force; attacks or
		(IDN 8/2015)	community, protesters)	-	killings
Iran	JUA	12/02/2015	1 male	Substantive response	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRN 3/2015)		16/06/2015	
				Substantive response	
				04/03/2016	
	JUA	02/06/2015	2 males	Substantive response	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRN 7/2015)		04/03/2016	
	JUA	10/06/2015 (IRN 8/2015)	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	JUA	29/07/2015 (IRN 11/2015)	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	JUA	10/08/2015 (IRN 12/2015)	1 male	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRIV 12/2013)		24/11/2015	
	JUA	13/10/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRN 18/2015)		issues	
				24/11/2015	
	JAL	16/10/2015	1 male, 1 female	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRN 19/2015)		13/11/2015	
				Addresses some substantive issues	
				1 6 10 0 10 0 1 6	

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	$communication^*$	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
	JAL	29/10/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(IRN 16/2015)		26/04/2016	
	JUA	11/11/2015 (IRN 21/2015)	3 males	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(1111/21/2010)		18/04/2016	
	JUA	24/11/2015 (IRN 22/2015)	1 male (foreign national)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	JUA	20/01/2016 (IRN 3/2016)	1 female	No response	Death penalty safeguards
raq	JUA	04/05/2015 (IRQ 1/2015)	Group of individuals	No response	Attacks or killings
	JAL	30/07/2015 (IRQ 3/2015)	1 male	No response	Attacks or killings
	JUA	27/11/2015 (IRQ 5/2015)	2 male (foreign nationals)	Substantive response 11/01/2016	Death penalty safeguards
srael	JAL	22/10/2015 (ISR 6/2015)	Group of individuals	No response	Excessive force; attacks or killings
	JUA	08/12/2015 (ISR 9/2015)	Group of individuals (human rights defenders)	No response	Attacks or killings; death threats; excessive force;
lesotho	JUA	30/11/2015 (LSO 1/2015)	Group of individuals (judiciary, members of armed forces)	No response	Excessive force; attacks or killings; death in custody; death threats
	JUA	19/02/2016 (LSO 1/2016)	Group of individuals (lawyers)	No response	Death threats; attacks or killings
Aadagascar	JAL	13/10/2015	Group of individuals	No response	Excessive force; attacks or

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
		(MDG 1/2015)			killings; impunity
Malaysia	JUA	21/05/2015	Group of individuals (migrants)	No response	Expulsion
		(MYS 2/2015)			
Mexico	UA	15/04/2015	2 males, 1 female	Addresses some substantive	Excessive force; attacks or
		(MEX 4/2015)		issues	killings, death threats
				15/06/2015	
Nicaragua	JAL	23/03/2015	2 males	No response	Death in custody; excessive force; death threats
		(NIC 2/2015)			
Other	JAL	07/07/2015	2 males (human rights defenders	Substantive response	Attacks or killings
		(OTH 3/2015)	-environment)	23/07/2015	
	JUA	16/11/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(OTH 9/2015)			
Pakistan	JUA	19/03/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 2/2015)			
	JAL	24/04/2015	Group of individuals (health	Substantive response	Attacks or killings
		(PAK 3/2015)	workers)	04/05/2015	
				Substantive response	
				18/05/2015	
	JAL	22/06/2015	Group of individuals	Addresses some substantive	Attacks or killings, death
		(PAK 1/2015)		issues	penalty safeguards
				21/08/2015	
	JUA	24/07/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 5/2015)			
	JUA	28/07/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 6/2015)			

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
	JUA	03/08/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 7/2015)		issues	
				05/08/2015	
	JUA	28/09/2015 (PAK 10/2015)	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
	JAL	02/12/2015	1 male (journalist and human	No response	Attacks or killings
		(PAK 12/2015)	rights defender)		
	UA	18/12/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 14/2015)			
	JUA	01/02/2016	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(PAK 3/2016)			
	JUA	24/02/2016	1 female (human rights lawyer)	No response	Death threats
		(PAK 5/2016)			
Peru	JUA	25/08/2015	i	Addresses some substantive	Death threats
		(PER 3/2015)		issues	
				14/04/2016	
Philippines	JAL	24/12/2015	4 individuals (human rights defenders)	No response	Excessive force; attacks or killings
		(PHL 6/2015)			
Russian Federation	JAL	06/03/2015 (RUS 1/2015)	1 male (political activist)	Addresses some substantive issues	Attacks or killings
				20/05/2015	
	JAL	02/09/2015	1 male (journalist)	No response	Attacks or killings; death
		(RUS 5/2015)			threats; impunity
South Africa	JAL	01/05/2015	Group of individuals (foreign	No response	Attacks or killings; impunity
		(ZAF 1/2015)	nationals, migrants)		
	JAL	03/09/2015	1 female (albinism)	No response	Attacks or killings
			· · · · ·	-	Ç

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
		(ZAF 2/2015)	5		0
Saudi Arabia	JUA	13/05/2015	1 male	Substantive response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 2/2015)		18/05/2015	
	JUA	25/08/2015	7 males (foreign nationals)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 4/2015)			
	JUA	21/09/2015	1 male	Response in translation	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 6/2015)		28/12/2015	
	JUA	30/09/2015	1 male (foreign national)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 5/2015)			
	JUA	19/10/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 8/2015)			
	AL	09/11/2015	Group of individuals (including	No response	Excessive force; attacks of
		(SAU 9/2015)	humanitarian workers)		killings; armed conflict
	JUA	30/11/2015	1 male	Response in translation	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 10/2015)		04/03/2016	
	JUA	24/12/2015	1 male (foreign national)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SAU 12/2015)			
Singapore	JUA	30/10/2015	1 male (foreign national)	No Response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SGP 3/2015)			
Somalia	JUA	16/11/2015	1 male	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SOM 1/2015)			
Sudan	JUA	12/06/2015	2 male (religious leaders)	No response	Death penalty safeguards
		(SDN 4/2015)			
	JUA	20/01/2016	Group of individuals	Response in translation	Death penalty safeguards

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
		(SDN 1/2016)		29/04/2016	
South Sudan	JAL	27/08/2015	1 male (journalist)	No response	Attacks or killings
		(SSD 2/2015)			
Thailand	JUA	21/05/2015	Group of individuals (migrants)	Substantive response	Expulsion
		(THA 3/2015)		22/05/2015	
	JUA	27/05/2015	4 males	Acknowledgement of receipt	Attacks or killings; Impunity
		(THA 5/2015)		02/06/2015	
Tchad	JAL	04/09/2015	Group of individuals		Death penalty safeguards
		(TCD 1/2015)			
Turkey	JAL	21/09/2015	Group of individuals	Addresses some substantive	Excessive use of force;
		(TUR 2/2015)			Attacks or killings
				20/11/2015	
	JUA	01/12/2015	1 male (human rights lawyer)	Substantive response	Attacks or killings;
		(TUR 4/2015)		31/12/2015	
	UA	24/12/2015	Group of individuals	Addresses some substantive	Excessive force; Attacks or
		(TUR 5/2015)		issues	killings; impunity
				1/02/2016	
	JUA	21/01/2016	Group of individuals	Addresses some substantive issues	Excessive force; Attacks or killings
		(TUR 1/2016)		25/02/2016	6
USA	UA	23/01/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Death penalty safeguards
		(USA 2/2015)		issues	2 caar penaity suregaints
		. ,		USA 2/2015	
	JAL	24/03/2015 (USA 5/2015)	6 males	Addresses some substantive issues	Attacks or killings; Excessive force;
		(03A 3/2013)		02/09/2015	Armed conflict

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
	JAL	10/04/2015	Group of individuals (African	Acknowledgment of receipt	Excessive force; death in
		(USA 7/2015)	American and other minorities)	05/08/2015	custody; death penalty safeguards, impunity
				Addresses some substantive issues	
				03/12/2015	
	JAL	07/05/2015	3 males (migrants)	Acknowledgment of receipt	Excessive force; attacks or
		(USA 9/2015)		25/06/2015	killings
				Substantive response	
				23/12/2015	
	JAL	26/06/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Death penalty safeguards
		(USA 13/2015)		issues	
				04/11/2015	
	JUA	13/07/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		USA 17/2015		20/07/2015	
	JAL	08/10/2015	Group of individuals (medical	No response	Excessive force; attacks or
		(USA 18/2015)	staff and patients)		killings, armed conflict
	AL	01/12/2015	Group of individuals	No response	Attacks or killings, legislation
		(USA 20/2015)			
Venezuela	JAL	27/03/2015	1 male	Addresses some substantive	Excessive force; Attacks or
		VEN 4/2015		issues	killings
				(29/05/2015)	
				Substantive response	
				(18/06/2015)	
	JAL	24/02/2016	1 male (human rights lawyer)	No response	Attacks or killings
		(VEN 2/2016)			

Country	Type of communication*	Date and case	Subjects concerned	Reply and type of reply	Violations alleged
Viet Nam	JUA	30/10/2015 (VNM 1/2015)	2 male, 1 female	No response	Death penalty safeguards, death in custody; death threats
	JUA	25/11/2015 (VNM 2/2015)	2 male; 1 female (including human rights lawyers)	No response	Excessive force, attacks or killings; death threats
Yemen	JAL	24/03/2015 (YEM 1/2015)	6 males	No response	Excessive force; attacks or killings; armed conflict
	AL	09/11/2015 (YEM 2/2015)	Group of individuals (including humanitarian workers)	No response	Excessive force; Attacks or killings; armed conflict

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Country	Type of communication	Date	Subject(s) concerned	Reply	Violation(s) alleged
Angola	JAL	05/12/2013	Group of individuals	Substantive response	Excessive force; Attacks or
		(AGO 5/2013)		22/12/2015	killings
Colombia	JUA	25/02/2014	Group of individuals (human	Addresses some substantive	Death threats; attacks or
		(COL 3/2014)	rights defenders)	issues 19/10/2015	killings
				Substantive response	
				04/01/2016	
	JAL	11/08/2014	Group of individuals (human rights defenders and unionists)	Addresses some substantive issues	Attacks or killings; death threats
		(COL 6/2014)		20/05/2015	
				Addresses some substantive issues	
				19/10/2015	
	JUA	13/09/2013 (COL 10/2013)	Group of individuals (human rights lawyers)	Addresses some substantive issues	Attacks or killings, death threats
		(00210,2010)		12/08/2015	
	JUA	27/01/2014	4 males (human rights defenders - land rights, journalist)	Substantive response	Attacks or killings; Death threats
		(COL 2/2014)	- fand fights, journalist)	04/01/2016	uneats
Iran	JUA	31/07/2013 (IRN 12/2013)	4 males	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
		(())		15/06/2015	

JAL	30/12/2013 (IRN 25/2013)	4 males	Addresses some substantive issues	Death penalty safeguards
	(IIII ( 25/2015)		15/06/2015	
JUA	14/10/2014	1 male	Substantive response	Death penalty safeguards
	(IRN 23/2014)		16/06/2015	

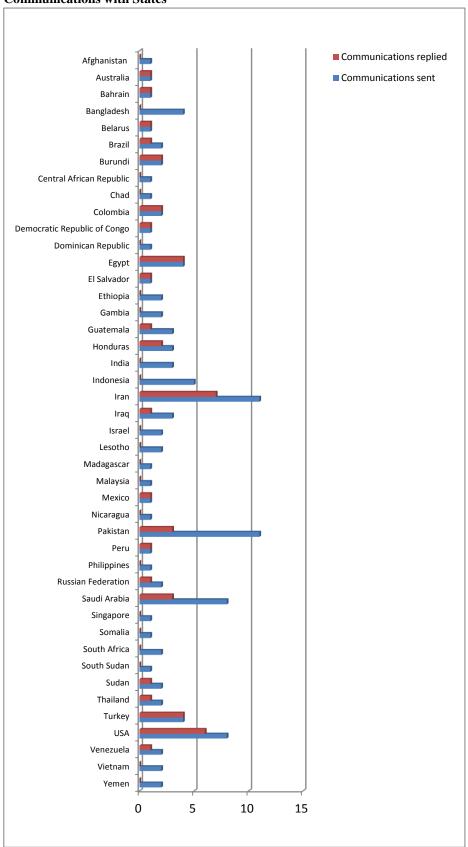
### E. Observations on Tabulation (A)

14. During the reporting period, many States have replied to one or more of the communications addressed to them (24 out of 44). The Special Rapporteur would like to thank all States who have responded substantively and in a timely manner to all or some of the communications sent (23). The assessment of individual cases in which the Special Rapporteur has intervened is an essential part of his work and he is grateful for the collaboration that he has received. The Special Rapporteur would like to thank particularly the Governments of Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Turkey and Venezuela for having replied substantively (addressing all or some of the questions raised) and within the required deadline to all the communications addressed to them in the reporting period.

15. A handful of States did not submit a timely reply to any of the communications sent, or have submitted merely an acknowledgement of receipt, including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, The Gambia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Philippines, South Africa, Singapore, Somalia, South Sudan, Tchad, Vietnam, Yemen. The responses from some of these States have arrived after the required deadline and for that reason fall outside of the reporting period of the present report.

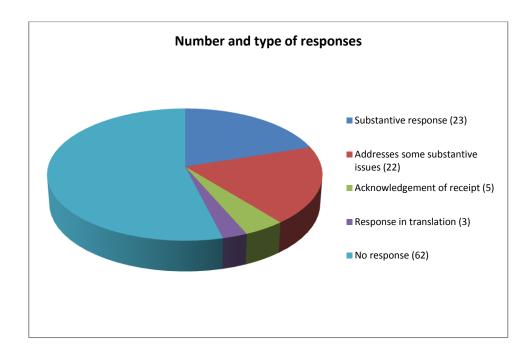
16. In all instances where no responses were received, the Special Rapporteur urges Governments to provide substantive responses as soon as possible.

17. To provide a global perspective on the communications with States during the reporting period, the table below reflects the number of communications sent to each State and the number of replies of a substantive nature received from them within the required deadline. Such replies comprise both substantive replies and replies which address some substantive issues. Acknowledgements of receipt are not considered as a reply for the purpose of this table, as they do not provide an effective response to the questions raised in the cases transmitted to Governments.

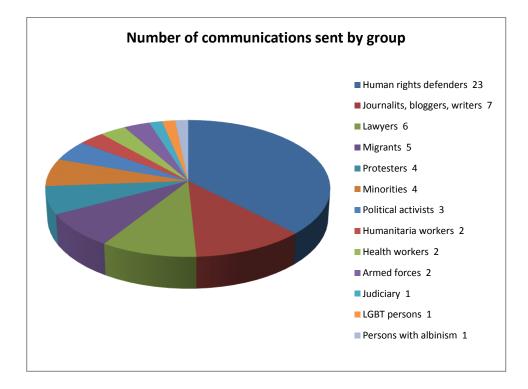


**Communications with States** 

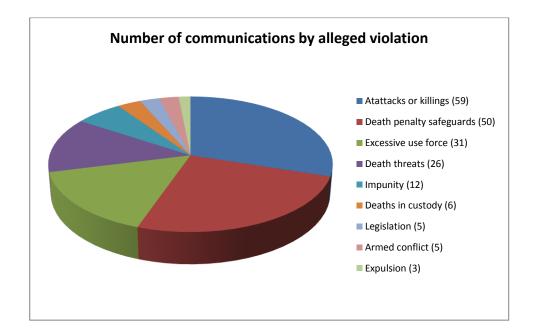
18. Of all communications sent to States, 23 received a substantive response, 22 received responses which addressed some substantive issues, 5 received acknowledgements of receipt which were not followed by a substantive reply, and 3 are in translation. As mentioned above, 62 communications did not receive any type of response.



19. The tabulation of communications sent during the reporting period indicates the groups of people addressed in the communications sent by the Special Rapporteur. The main groups of people addressed in the communications (by number of communications sent) were: human rights defenders (23), journalists, bloggers or writers (7), lawyers (6), migrants (5), protesters (4), persons belonging to minorities (4), political activists (3), humanitarian workers (2), health workers (2), members of armed forces (2), members of the judiciary (1), lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people (1), persons with albinism (1). In addition, eight communications address the situation of foreign nationals for alleged violations of death penalty safeguards.



20. The main alleged violations covered in the communications sent during the reporting period were: attacks or killings (59); violation of death penalty safeguards (50), excessive use of force (31), death threats (26), impunity for violations of the right to life (12), deaths in custody (6), concerns about legislative frameworks (5), violations of the right to life in the context of armed conflict (5), and expulsion (3). Alleged attacks or killings and violations of the death penalty, feature prominently again this year in the number of communications sent.



21. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is frequently appraised of the situation of individuals who have been sentenced to death following judicial procedures which allegedly do not comply with international standards for the imposition of the death penalty. Many of these individuals face immediate execution. The irreversibility and magnitude of the punishment often requires the Special Rapporteur's urgent intervention. All the countries which have received more than five communications during the reporting period are indeed retentionist states which continue to execute death penalty sentences. In all of those States, half or more of the communications received from the Special Rapporteur address alleged violations of death penalty safeguards. A more detail description of the types of violations addressed with regards to the imposition of the death penalty can be found in Section VI.

22. Throughout the six years of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has continually underlined the importance of viewing the right to life as having two components: the prevention of or protection from arbitrary killings, and the need for full accountability should such killings occur. When sending communications to States concerning a victim who has been killed, the Special Rapporteur often focuses his questions on the process of accountability, including the investigation which may or may not already have begun. In this connection, conscious of the need for a practical reference point for the standards that such an investigation should meet, the Special Rapporteur has been collaborating with various actors over the past two years to bring up to date the UN Manual on the Investigation and Prevention of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary or Summary Executions (known as the Minnesota Protocol).<sup>1</sup>

23. The Special Rapporteur is conscious of having sent a number of communications in the past year concerning the targeting of human rights defenders. Of course, in the vast majority of these cases the Special Rapporteur has been joined by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Whether the attack or threat of attack is perpetrated by State agents, or whether State agents fail in their responsibility to protect defenders from attacks at the hands of non-State actors, the State's responsibilities with respect to the right to life are clearly engaged in such instances. In addition to direct protection measures, which may be appropriate and indeed necessary in certain conditions, the State should also give attention to the extent to which its own public response to the work of human rights defenders may be legitimising a climate in which attacks can be perpetrated with impunity. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur dedicated his report to the Human Rights Council to the subject of attacks on journalists, which has many analogies with the issue of attacks on human rights defenders. In both cases the victims play a vital role in enabling other rights, and in both cases the level of response of the State to threats against them or their work can significantly determine the dangers they face as a consequence of their important work.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A description of the process to update the Minnesota Protocol is available at http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Executions/Pages/RevisionoftheUNManualPreventionExtraLegalAr bitrary.aspx

# **III.** Tabulation (B) of cases transmitted to States concerning alleged violations of death penalty safeguards

24. Because of the urgency of the cases brought to his attention, the Special Rapporteur sends many communications concerning the unlawful application of the death penalty.

25. In its resolution 17/5, the Human Rights Council requested the Special Rapporteur in carrying out his mandate "[t]o continue to monitor the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment, bearing in mind the comments made by the Human Rights Committee in its interpretation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Second Optional Protocol thereto;". In this respect, the Special Rapporteur has included the following table on the status of individuals who were the subject of concern with regard to the application of the death penalty in the present report. He urges all concerned States to provide updated information on the status of the subjects of these urgent appeals.

26. Tabulation (B) provides details on the 50 cases transmitted to Governments with regards to alleged violations of death penalty safeguards, including identity of the individuals concerned, the charges brought against them, the alleged violations of death penalty safeguards, and an update on the current situation of those individuals (whether executions had taken place or not).

### A. Violations alleged

27. In Tabulation (B) of cases transmitted to States concerning alleged violations of death penalty safeguards, the violations are classified into the following categories:

- (a) Fair trial concerns.
- (b) Not "most serious crimes".
- (c) Extraction of confession under torture
- (d) Juvenile at time of offense.
- (e) Execution of a person with intellectual or psychosocial disability.

(f) Imposition of the death penalty by Federal Government for facts which occurred in abolitionist state.

(g) Assistance of abolitionist State in the investigation of crimes that may result in the imposition of the death penalty in another State.

**B.** Tabulation (B)

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
Australia	20/11/2015	07/01/2016	Mr. Areeb Majeed	Terrorist acts	Assistance of abolitionist State in the investigation of crimes that may result in the imposition of the death penalty in another State	Remains at risk
Bahrain	23/11/2015	23/02/2016	Mr. Mohamad Ramadan and Mr. Husain Ali Moosa	Terrorist acts	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk
Bangladesh	23/11/2015		Mr. Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury	War crimes; genocide.	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were executed—22/11/2015
Egypt	10/04/2015	07/05/2015	Mr. Mohamed Ali Afifi Badawi, Mr. Mohammad Bakrin Mohammad Haroun, Mr. Hani Mustafa Amin Amer, Mr. Islam Sayed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mr. Khaled Farag Mohammed Ali and one other male adult.	Terrorist acts	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Mohamed Ali Afifi Badawi, Mr. Mohammad Bakrin Mohammad Haroun, Mr. Hani Mustafa Amin Amer, Mr. Islam Sayed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mr. Khaled Farag Mohammed Ali and one other male adult were executed before 17/05/2015
	29/05/2015	30/07/2015	Mr. Mohamed Morsi Eissa El Ayyat and members of his Government	Murder; escaping detention; leaking documents; fraud; insulting the	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crimes.	Remain at risk

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
				judiciary.		
	14/08/2015	11/12/2015	Mr. Ibrahim Halawa	Terrorist acts	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Remain at risk
Ethiopia	12/05/2015		Mr. Andargachew Tsege	Terrorist acts	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk
Indonesia	06/03/2015		Mr. Andrew Chan, Mr. Myuran Sukumaran, Mr Raheem Agbaje Salami, Mr. Zainal Abidin, Mr. Martin Anderson and Mr. Rodrigo Gularte.	Drug offences	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crimes; execution of a person with intellectual or psychosocial disability.	Mr. Andrew Chan, Mr. Myuran Sukumaran, Mr Raheem Agbaje Salami, Mr. Zainal Abidin, Mr. Martin Anderson and Mr. Rodrigo Gularte and two other persons were executed—29/04/2016.
	24/04/2015		Mr. Andrew Chan, Mr. Myuran Sukumaran, Mr Raheem Agbaje Salami, Mr. Zainal Abidin, Mr. Martin Anderson and Mr. Rodrigo Gularte, Ms. Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso, Mr. Sylvester Obiekwe Nwolise, Mr. Okwudili Oyatanze and one other person.	Drug offences	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crimes; execution of a person with intellectual or psychosocial disability.	Mr. Andrew Chan, Mr. Myuran Sukumaran, Mr Raheem Agbaje Salami, Mr. Zainal Abidin, Mr. Martin Anderson, Mr. Rodrigo Gularte, Mr. Sylvester Obiekwe Nwolise and Mr. Okwudili Oyatanze were executed —29/04/2016; Ms. Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso remains at risk.
Iran	02/06/2015	04/03/2016	Mr. Saman Naseem and Mr. Hamid Ahmadi	Enmity against God; corruption on earth; murder.	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Remain at risk
	10/06/2015		Mr. Ehsan Shah Ghasemi	Murder	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk
	29/07/2015		Mr. Salar Shadizadi	Murder	Juvenile at time of offense	Remains at risk

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
	10/08/2015		Dr. Mohammad Ali Taheri	Spreading corruption on earth	Not most serious crime	Remains at risk
	13/10/2015	24/11/2015	Mr. Mohammed Ali Taheri	Spreading corruption on earth	Not most serious crime	Remains at risk
	16/10/2015	13/11/2015 and 16/03/2016	Ms. Fatemeh Salbehi and Mr. Samad Zahabi	Murder	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Ms. Salbehil was executed—13/10/2015; Mr. Zahabi was executed—06/10/2015
	29/10/2015	26/04/2016	Mr. Behrouz Alkhani	Enmity against God; terrorist acts.	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Alkhani was executed—26/08/2015
	11/11/2015	18/04/2016	Mr. Mohammad Ali Zehi and Mr. Milad Azimi	Drug offenses; waging war against God; links to Salafist groups; propaganda against the system; murder.	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense; not most serious crime.	Remain at risk
	24/11/2015		Mr. Kelven Ozube Agbai	Drug offenses	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crime.	Remains at risk
	31/07/2015	15/06/2015	Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, Mr. Abdul-Reza Amir- Khanafereh, Mr. Abdul- Amir Mojaddami and Mr. Jasim Moghaddam Payam	Enmity against God; corruption on earth.	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, Mr. Abdul-Reza Amir- Khanafereh, Mr. Abdul- Amir Mojaddami and Mr. Jasim Moghaddam Payam were executed— 04/12/2013.
	20/01/2016		Ms. Fariba Khalegi	Adultery	Fair trial concerns; not most serious	Remains at risk

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
					crime.	
Iraq	27/11/2015	11/01/2016	Mr. Saleh Moussa Ahmed alBaidany and Mr. Hamaad Abdel-Rahman Hamaad	Terrorist acts	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Unknown
Other	16/11/2015	10/05/2016	Mr. Abdullahi Ali	Murder	Execution of a person with intellectual or psychological disabilities	Remains at risk
Pakistan	19/03/2015		Mr. Shafqat Hussain	Kidnapping and involuntary manslaughter	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Mr. Shafqat Hussain was executed—04/08/2015
	03/08/2015	05/08/2015	Mr. Shafqat Hussain	Kidnapping and involuntary manslaughter	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Mr. Shafqat Hussain was executed—04/08/2015
	24/07/2015		Mr. Abdul Basit	Murder	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk
	01/02/2016		Mr. Abdul Basit	Murder	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk
	28/07/2015		Mr. Khizar Hayat	Murder	Fair trial concerns; execution of a person with intellectual or psychological disabilities	Remains at risk
	28/09/2015		Mr. Ansar Iqbal	Murder	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offense.	Mr. Ansar Iqbal was executed—29/09/2015
	18/12/2015		Mr. Muhammad Anwar	Murder	Juvenile at time of offence	Remains at risk
Saudi Arabia	25/08/2015		Mr. Mohammad Afzal, Mr. Safeer Ahmad, Mr. Mohammad Fiaz, Mr. Mohammad Imran, Mr.	Drug offences	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crime.	Remain at risk

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
country .	sen	Dure response received	Ghulam Shabbir, Mr. Mohammad Irfan and Mr. Liaquat Ali	Charge aneged	Holulon dilegeu	Charles
	21/09/2015	28/12/2015	Mr. Ali Mohammed al- Nimr	Treason; membership of terrorist group.	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offence.	Remains at risk
	30/09/2015		Mr. Husain Abu al Khair	Drug offences	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crime.	Remains at risk
	19/10/2015		Mr. Dawood Hussain al- Marhoon	Sowing corruption and breaching security; participation in protests; terrorism-related offences.	Fair trial concerns; juvenile at time of offence.	Remains at risk
	30/11/2015	04/03/2016	Mr. Ashraf Fayadh	Apostasy; blasphemy.	Fair trial concerns; Not most serious crime.	Sentence overturned to prison sentence and corporal punishment.
	13/05/2015	18/05/2015 and 26/10/2015	Mr. Sheikh Nimr Baqir Al- Nimr	Terrorism-related offences	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Sheikh Nimr Baqir Al-Nimr was executed– around 02/01/2016.
	24/12/2015		Mr. Ali Agirdas	Drug offences	Fair trial concerns; not most serious crime.	Mr. Ali Agirdas was executed—20/11/2014
Singapore	30/10/2015		Mr. Kho Jabing	Murder	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Kho Jabing was executed—20/05/2016
Somalia	16/11/2015		Mr. Abdullahi Ali	Murder	Fair trial concerns; execution of a person with intellectual or psychological	Remains at risk

30

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
					disabilities.	
Sudan	20/01/2016	29/04/2016	27 individuals	Apostasy	Juvenile at time of offense; Fair trial concerns; not most serious crime.	Remain at risk
Tchad	04/09/2015		10 individuals	Membership of a terrorist group	Fair trial concerns.	Unknown
USA	10/04/2015	05/08/2015 and 03/12/2015	Group of individuals	Unknown	Fair trial concerns	One person died in custody; none was executed.
	26/06/2015	04/11/2015	One adult male	Murder	Fair trial concerns; imposition of the death penalty by Federal Government for facts which occurred in abolitionist state.	Remains at risk
	13/07/2015	20/07/2015	Mr. David Zink	Murder	Fair trial concerns; execution of a person with intellectual or psychological disabilities.	Mr. David Zink was executed—14/07/2015
Viet Nam	30/10/2015		Mr. Le Van Manh	Murder; rape.	Fair trial concerns;	Remains at risk

32

Country	Date appeal sent	Date response received	Name of individual	Charge alleged	Violation alleged	Status as far as could be established
Iran	30/12/2013	15/06/2015	Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, Mr. Abdul-Reza Amir- Khanafereh, Mr. Abdul- Amir Mojaddami and Mr. Jasim Moghaddam Payam	Enmity against God; corruption on earth.	Fair trial concerns	Mr. Ghazi Abbasi, Mr. Abdul- Reza Amir-Khanafereh, Mr. Abdul-Amir Mojaddami and Mr. Jasim Moghaddam Payam were executed— 04/12/2013.
	14/10/2014	16/06/2015 and 04/03/2016	Mr. Saman Naseem	Enmity against God; corruption on earth.	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk.
	12/02/2015	16/06/2015 and 04/03/2016	Mr. Saman Naseem	Enmity against God; corruption on earth.	Fair trial concerns	Remains at risk.
USA	23/01/2015	19/06/2015	Mr. Warren Hill	Murder	Execution of a person with intellectual or psychological disabilities	Mr. Warren Hill was executed—27/01/2015

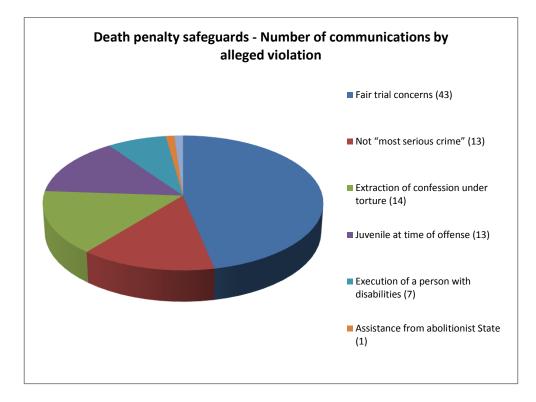
## **D.** Observations on Tabulation (B)

28. It should be noted that the communications the Special Rapporteur sends to States on the subject of the death penalty are in ways the most straightforward to follow-up upon on the basis of a desk-based review. The Special Rapporteur expresses his continued gratitude to various civil society and advocacy organisations who facilitate this follow up. Establishing, at the very least, whether an individual has indeed been executed subsequent to a communication being sent to the Government provides a helpful reference to whether the sending of these urgent appeals is effective in ensuring that States abide by international standards, prospectively, in their application of the death penalty. According to available information, executions were registered in 8 of the 15 countries addressed in Tabulation (B).

29. The death penalty is a barbaric punishment which, viewed from the perspective of State practice, is in steady, irrevocable and terminal decline. The Special Rapporteur has argued elsewhere that international law is in principle abolitionist, in the sense that it requires at least the progressive abolition of the death penalty.<sup>2</sup> However, in several States there have been steps taken to re-introduce capital punishment, while in a handful of other States it remains a common practice, and, regrettably, one that often takes place in flagrant violations of established international law protections.

30. As indicated in the table below, the main alleged violations covered in the cases transmitted to Governments during the reporting period were: fair trial concerns in judicial procedures leading to the imposition of the death penalty (43); the imposition of the death penalty for crimes which do not meet the threshold of the "most serious crimes" (13); extraction of confessions under torture (14); juvenile at time of offense (13); execution of a person with intellectual or psychosocial disability (7); assistance of abolitionist State in the investigation of crimes that may result in the imposition of the death penalty in another State (1); and the imposition of the death penalty by Federal Government for facts which occurred in abolitionist state (1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Christof Heyns & Thomas Probert 'The right to life and the progressive abolition of the death penalty' in *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Argument, Trends and Perspectives* (New York: United Nations, 2015)



31. The Special Rapporteur is concerned about the alarming number of cases in which the death sentence was allegedly imposed following judicial procedures that fall short of international standards of fair trial and due process, a necessary requirement for the lawful imposition of this type of punishment. Forty-three out of the 50 communications considered in Tabulation (B) address this issue. One of the most dangerous abuses addressed in communications appears to be the use of the death penalty for crimes that are not the "most serious". During the past year, the Special Rapporteur sent 13 communications about the imposition of the death penalty for various offences that do not meet this threshold.

32. In this connection, the Special Rapporteur particularly highlights the imposition of the death penalty for drugs offences. In 2015, the World Day Against the Death Penalty was used to underscore the extent of this problem. Moreover, earlier this year, the Special Rapporteur joined a demarche of several Rapporteurs to the UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs in which they made clear that 'the application of capital punishment for drug-related offenses directly contravenes international human rights law' and urged States 'to make immediate commitments towards its full abolition.'<sup>3</sup>

33. The Special Rapporteur has also frequently sent communications regarding the planned execution of individuals who must be protected from the death penalty (20): most commonly those suffering from a psycho-social disability (7 communications), or those who have been convicted for crimes committed as juveniles, in some cases those who are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Joint Open Letter by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the occasion of the United Nation General Assembly Special Session on Drugs New York, 19-21 April 2016 http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19828&LangID=E

still juveniles (13 communications). In this latter case, the Special Rapporteur underlines that the burden of proof should rest on the prosecution to demonstrate that a defendant was an adult at the time the crime was perpetrated.

34. The Special Rapporteur is also concerned about the number of instances in which he has addressed allegations of a capital sentence being proposed against an individual after a "trial" in or before which evidence has been derived from torture (14 communications). This manifestly undermines the credibility that the sentence is being imposed after a fair trial. In addition, 26 communications address overall allegations of torture of individuals who have been sentenced to death.