



**Geneva**  
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\*Established in 1986 by Dutch section of Amnesty International with support from Dutch section of ICJ (=NJCM) and Dutch Bar Association.



## Who are we?

Lawyers for Lawyers (**L4L**) is an independent and non-political Dutch foundation which seeks to promote the proper functioning of the rule of law by pursuing freedom and independence of the legal profession.

We do this by supporting lawyers worldwide who are threatened, hindered or suppressed in their work as a lawyer.

Board and 50 lawyers who work pro bono as country monitors.

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## (Moral)Support

- Letter writing campaigns
- Fact finding missions
- Trial monitoring
- Lobbying
- Awards
- Hosting foreign lawyers at risk
- Awareness campaigns
- Twinning project

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*Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*  
*Preamble*

Whereas professional associations of lawyers have a vital role to play in upholding professional standards and ethics, protecting their members from persecution and improper restrictions and infringements, (...),

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Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers  
Principle 14

Lawyers, in protecting the rights of their clients and in promoting the cause of justice, shall seek to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized by national and international law and shall at all times act freely and diligently in accordance with the law and recognized standards and ethics of the legal profession.

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## Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers Principle 16-17

16. **Governments shall ensure** that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (...).
17. Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they **shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.**

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## TURKEY: trial observation



- 46 lawyers were arrested in November 2011 in the KCK-case
- Trial observations: July and November 2012, and January, March, July and December 2013
- After 2 ½ years the last 9 lawyers that remained in custody were released on 18 March 2014!
- On 21 March 2014 the last 5 lawyers in custody in the CHD-trial were released and Muharrem Erbey released, after 4 years of pretrial detention. But all lawyers are still being prosecuted

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## Social Media

25-11-12

**Petition to Iranian Ambassador in The Hague. This photo was shared around the world.**



Nasrin Sotoudeh was arrested september 2010. She was sentenced to 6 years in prison and banned from practising law and travelling abroad for a period of 20 years, on charges of 'undermining national security, propaganda against the regime and for not wearing a hejab (Islamic dress or headscarf). She went on hungerstrike on 17 october 2012 because:

- *she was not allowed to have her children visit her in prison regularly.*
- *her daughter of 13 years old and her husband were not allowed to travel abroad. She was released from prison in September 2013.*



## Social Media

**L4L** drew attention to forgotten Iranian lawyer **Houtan Kian** with a short [video](#) that spread rapidly across the globe through the internet. In the video human rights lawyers from all over the world, who have been victims of government repression themselves, expressed their solidarity with Houtan Kian. After 3 months Houtan Kian released. <http://bit.ly/1kYpyuI>



## Fact Finding Mission Colombia

Presentation report Colombian Ambassador  
21 May 2013 and petition January 2014



## Lawyers for Lawyers Award



The first L4L-Award was awarded to **Alex Muchadehama** in 2011  
Human rights lawyer from Zimbabwe.



**Magamed Abubakarov**  
**Lawyers for Lawyers Award 2013**  
Magamed Abubakarov, a Russian human rights lawyer specialized in terrorist cases from the North-Caucasus, received the Lawyers for Lawyers Award 2013.



## UN Activities with ECOSOC-status

- Since obtaining the UN ECOSOC status **L4L** can submit oral and written statements at HR Council, as a follow-up for the UPR-submissions and country reports.
  - Organize Side Events at HR Council
  - Submissions for the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
  - Submission for the Universal Periodic Review
- These submission are prepared by our pro bono lawyers.

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## Hosting lawyers

- Organize events where lawyers can meet each other and share information.
- Protective measures:
  - buddy system,
  - Organize lawyers groups
  - Urgent alerts
- Raising Awareness

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## Twinning lawyers from DRC



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## Lawyers who received help from L4L



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- Website updates
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