



Written, edited and coordinated by Juliane Falloux with the assistance of Catherine François

The Observatory would like to thank in particular: all the partner organisations of FIDH and OMCT, as well as the teams of both organisations

Photogravure / printing: les Ateliers Huerma s.a
Design: Bruce Pleiser / Photography: Sébastien Millier

The report is on sale in English, Spanish and French at FIDH and OMCT and is available on their web sites.

The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) authorise the free reproduction of extracts of this text on condition that the source is credited and a copy of the publication containing the text is sent to the respective International Secretariats.

© FIDH and OMCT, March 2001



**HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
ON THE FRONT LINE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

**THE OBSERVATORY FOR THE PROTECTION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

International Federation
for Human Rights

World Organisation
Against Torture





Table of contents

Introduction	7
Part 1 : Association under scrutiny	15
The right to form, join and participate in NGOs	17
<i>The case of Tunisia</i>	
Freedom to meet and assemble peacefully	23
<i>The case of Burkina Faso</i>	
The right to seek and publish information	27
<i>The case of Democratic Republic of Congo</i>	
The right to know, hold information and communicate with NGOs and IGOs	31
<i>The case of Uzbekistan</i>	
The right to solicit, receive and utilise resources	34
<i>The case of Egypt</i>	
The right to be effectively protected	38
<i>The case of Colombia</i>	
Domestic Law consistent with the international obligations of the state in the field of human rights	42
<i>The case of China</i>	
The United Nations opens the door to GONGOs	52
Part 2 : World-wide Harassment and Repression of Human Rights Defenders	55
(November 1999 - February 2001)	
Africa	57
Americas	83
Asia	127
Europe and the CIS	147
North Africa and the Middle East	173
Annexes:	
Annex 1: Strengthening International Protection	197
Annex 2: Partner Organisations and Contributors	219
Annex 3: Acknowledgements	229
Annex 4: The Observatory: FIDH and OMCT joint programme	233

