



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH ON THE RIGHT TO PROTEST:**

Expressions of interest invited from experienced human rights researchers

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Contract Duration: May – September 2021 Application

Deadline: applications accepted on rolling basis

Reporting to: Research Coordinator

Application contact: [recruitment@article19.org](mailto:recruitment@article19.org)

Background:

Protest plays an important part in all societies, enabling individuals and groups to express dissent and grievances, to share views and opinions, to expose flaws in governance and to publicly demand government accountability and change. Across the world, people are protesting in increasing numbers, on the streets and online, even though the global pandemic. But this rise has been met by an increase in crackdowns on protests, from brutal repression to legal and policy measures that criminalise protest and seek to deter, prevent or obstruct protests. This is compounded by a culture of impunity for those who violate the protesters' human rights. Different sectors of public opinion, including some mainstream media are portraying protests and protesters as either an inconvenience to be controlled or a threat to be extinguished, instead of sensitising societies about how their rights are being infringed.

ARTICLE 19's work empowering individuals and communities to demand their rights to participate in civic space and demand accountability is a fundamental step in shifting narratives on protests in a positive direction. Based on our current work, ARTICLE 19 will develop a dynamic global campaign on the right to protest. This campaign seeks to build on the learnings from our previous campaigns on the right to protest in [Brazil](#) and [Kenya](#), and look further into stigma by bringing an understanding of the impact discrimination and exclusion have on the way that authorities respond to protests, the media covers protest and the public respond and support protest. The campaign seeks to make this visible and support the voices of those most targeted, at risk and excluded.

To ensure that our global campaign is evidence based and locally owned, ARTICLE 19 will carry out research on stigma and discrimination of protesters- both online and offline- in a number of countries. For this reason, we are seeking consultants to support this task.

Purpose:

ARTICLE19 is looking for in-country researcher(s) that can conduct research in:- **Mexico, Tunisia, Brazil, Kenya, Thailand, Poland, Senegal, and USA**. We are accepting applications from consultants that have experience in **one** or **several** of the above countries. The researcher(s) will present their methodology to research how stigma and discrimination against protest and protesters plays a role in how authorities respond to them. They will need to follow ARTICLE19 research guidelines.

The research should include in-depth interviews with people who experience discrimination around protests and documentation of eyewitness accounts. As part of this, the researcher(s) will also need to collect 4 emblematic case studies per country using our case study guidelines. The researcher(s) will work closely with a Senior Campaigner to ensure that all case information is well documented for the campaign.

The researcher(s) will ensure that the methodologies are applied in target countries, provide feedback and support to ARTICLE 19 regional offices when necessary, consolidate data and write a research report. The objective of the report is to demonstrate patterns of discrimination and stigma of protesters in each country and to present cases of discrimination of certain groups of protesters in law and practice. The report should include recommendations for governments in target countries.

Target Countries: Mexico, Tunisia, Brazil, Kenya, Thailand, Poland, Senegal, and USA

### **Research Methodology:**

We are seeking human rights researchers or consultants with specific expertise in selected countries, that have access s and are able to carry out in-depth field research.

A report will be produced by the researcher(s) that should include:

1. Contextual information on the right to protest in the country of study
2. In depth interviews of relevant actors and stakeholders
3. In depth interviews with witnesses and victims of violations, including:
  - a.) Documentation of 4 -6 case studies (per country) of individuals or groups that face discrimination and exclusion
4. Implementation of law in practice:
  - a.) documentation of patterns, how legislation is being used and how it is being used differently on certain groups.
  - b.) pattern of behaviour by authorities policing protests

### **Tasks and Responsibilities (adhering to national guidelines and laws relating to coronavirus):**

- Uses ARTICLE19 guidelines and protocols for research
- Uses ARTICLE19 policies and documents
- Present research methodology, including on key approaches and questions to be answered in research
- Works closely with ARTICLE19 Research Coordinator and regional teams as key informants and collaborators, who will provide insight into the country, networks and key stakeholders.
- Responsible for data analysis and drafting of research report
- Ensure all information is translated when necessary

- Collation of raw data
- Drafting of report based on the findings
- Drafting of emblematic case studies

Deliverables: Researcher(s) are expected to document data and write a report based on findings including 4-6 emblematic case studies per country. The final report will include all the raw data and any evidence that has been collected.

**Competencies:**

- Minimum of 5 years' experience in conducting human rights research and investigations
- Good knowledge and understanding of freedom of expression and assembly rights
- Experience conducting interviews with survivors of human rights violations
- Demonstrable experience in statistic data evaluation
- Demonstrable knowledge and experience in one or a selection of the selected countries

**Tender methodology:**

Please submit your CV and your tender under the following headings to email address: [recruitment@article19.org](mailto:recruitment@article19.org)

1. Contact Information
2. Cover letter briefly explaining how you meet the above competencies
3. Include examples 2 -3 research papers from previous work
4. Research proposal: including methodology, CVs of research teams and detailed budget