



UNREPRESENTED NATIONS AND PEOPLES ORGANIZATION



September Achievements and General Assembly

Esteemed members,

First of all, **we want to thank you for your active participation during the extraordinary General Assembly** conducted online on Saturday, September 30th. It has been a pleasure to see you all.

During the month of September, the UNPO has engaged in many events for the rights and representation of our members. Here are some of the notable events and accomplishments:

- **Support the UNPO members of Niger Delta and Ahwazi Arabs during their General Assembly:** UNPO's General Secretary delivered a speech in solidarity during this event, highlighting the importance of unity and collaborative efforts in advancing the rights of marginalized people. During the Ahwazi GA, Mona Silavi was elected as the General Secretary of the Democratic Solidarity Party of Al-Ahwaz (DSPA).
- **Support to Sindh and Baluch at the UN:** The UNPO secretariat stood and delivered a speech in solidarity with the Sindh and Baluch communities at the United Nations. During this occasion, both the UNPO Secretary-General, Mercè Monje Cano, and the President of the World Uyghur Congress, Dolkun Isa, expressed their solidarity with the World Sindhi Congress underlining the necessity of international solidarity between unrepresented nations and disenfranchised communities worldwide.
- **Support to IRA Mauritania in Brussels:** the UNPO secretariat has also stood with our Haratin members, IRA Mauritania, during their protest in front of the European Parliament also raising our voice in solidarity with them.
- Among other activities, the UNPO has also **facilitated the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression on his visit to Algeria a meeting with Kabylia activists** in order to raise concerns on the ongoing human rights abuses against the Kabyle people.
- UNPO has also **filed a complaint to the CEDAW** in regard to the situation affecting Hmong women in Laos. (Read more at: <https://unpo.org/article/20292>)

Much more has been done by the UNPO secretariat. However, before continuing, we would like to take the opportunity to extend our heartfelt **congratulations to our president Edna Adan Ismail** for being honored with the prestigious Templeton Prize and the Global Love of Life award.

We would also like to **congratulate Mr. Dah Abeid**, president of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA-Mauritania) for being shortlisted for the 2024 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. Mr. Dah Abeid is a prominent anti-slavery activist and member of the Haratin minority in Mauritania.

It is a privilege for all of us to work hand in hand with extraordinary activists like Edna Adan Ismail and Biram Dah Abeid.

UNPO Secretariat

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RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Rethinking self-determination: colonial and relational geographies in Asia

The UNPO is proud to share the recent publication of Advisory board member, Professor Fiona McConnell of the University of Oxford; Rethinking self-determination: colonial and relational geographies in Asia. The article, co-written with Shona Loong and Alex Manby, presents a dialogue between literature on self-determination, postcolonial geographies and relational space. Through discussing the self-determination claims of the Nagas, the Tibetans and the Karen, this publication explores how claims to self-determination are far more diverse than conceptions of saltwater and settler colonialism. Rather, the publication celebrates the aspiration, creativity and unique reworking of the right to self-determination by communities that are bound in protracted conflicted or political stasis.



The UNPO at the UN 54th Session on Human Rights

The UNPO continues to fulfill its mandate to represent the voices of the unrepresented people, and after the cybersecurity training in July, UNPO members are currently undertaking a Human Rights Mechanism course in parallel to the 54th Session of the HRC with our partner, Geneva for Human Rights (GDH). The course has also initiated dialogue to facilitate additional methods of advocacy, such as by introducing participants to an influential panel of German NGOs.

We hope that this course will help UNPO members representatives to have their voices heard at the UN.



Transnational Repression : Addressing a Growing Global Concern

As you know, the UNPO secretariat has been a pioneer in actively addressing the pressing issue of transnational repression. We remain concerned about the threat that transnational repression continues to affect diaspora refugees and unrepresented diplomats worldwide.

In this regard, the UNPO has been approached by the highly respected *Geneva Observer* to highlight the UNPO's work. The online magazine published on 21 September 2023 a compelling article mentioning the UNPO's work on the issue. Furthermore, paid particular attention to the situation of human rights activists at risk when coming to Geneva and other UN host cities, in addition to refugee espionage. The article shares the findings of their interview with UNPO Secretary-General, Mercè Monje Cano, regarding the concern for transnational repression felt within Geneva to advocate for their rights.

We are glad to see that thanks to the UNPO efforts this important topic is gaining more and more global attention. In this regard, the UNPO welcomes the efforts from the Council of Europe and the European Parliament to tackle and recognize this issue. However, we call for more proactive steps by international bodies, particularly the UN, to address the issue. Read more at: <https://unpo.org/article/4201>

FOR UNPO MEMBERS

**DESK FOR RENT
AVAILABLE:**

The UNPO Office Brussels has an available desk to rent for between 300 euros in shared space or 700 euros/month for a private room (price only for UNPO members).

UNPO members interested contact: merce@unpo.org

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Please note that if you have event invitations, or important updates that you wish to share with the UNPO members, we are delighted to include them in our monthly newsletter.

Kindly note that we request you to send us your updates, event invitations, or contributions before the last week of each month.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



The UNPO opens for new members: the UNPO will now be open to welcome new members to join the organization. For inquiries on membership or to request the application form, please email: membership@unpo.org.

**Meaningful, Inclusive, and Safe Participation of People of African Descent in Public Affairs**

Friday, 6 October 2023, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

Side Event at the 54th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council Palais des Nations, Room XIX, Geneva, Switzerland and remote participation via Zoom (with interpretation)

Registration: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007582/>

**Mental health and human rights**

Online event (Zoom platform) on Monday 9 October 2023, 12:30 to 14L30 CEST.

More at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/health/mental-health-and-human-rights>

**2023 Social Forum**

When: 2 and 3 November 2023

More information about participation is available on the [Social Forum index page](#).



As part of our ongoing efforts to keep our members informed and engaged, we are reaching out to kindly request your assistance in updating our database. It is important for us to ensure that our newsletters and updates reach each and every member of UNPO.

To achieve this, **we kindly ask you to inform us ASAP if there is any representative who should be included/changed in our database.**

Please do let us know at: cip@unpo.org.