WHO DEFENDS

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS?







Course material for 15/16 year old high school students





COLOPHON

Authors of the first series: Alana Thelissen, Christa Adema, Emma van de Laar, Harry de

Ridder and Lisa van Tiel

Authors of the second series: Christa Adema, Harry de Ridder and Lisa van Tiel

Translation: Lisa van Tiel and Emma van de Laar

Layout and editing: Harry de Ridder

Version 1: This time with human rights defender Placide from Congo! Version 2: This time with human rights defender Lydia from Kenya! Version 3: This time with human rights defender Zafar from Pakistan! Version 4: This time with human rights defender Mariam from Georgia!

Second series - Version 1: This time with human rights defender Kiruba from India! Second series - Version 2: This time with human rights defender Midhat from Sudan!





'Who defends the human rights defenders?' is meant for 15/16 year old high school students. Free download on http://www.amnestynijmegen.nl/index.php/educatie/lesmateriaal

CONTENT

STUDENTS

Worksheets	worksheet 1	
Human rights	worksheet	2
Freedom of expression	worksheet	3
Human rights defenders	worksheet	4
Extra vulnerable	worksheet	5
Who defends the human rights defenders?	worksheet	6
Shelter City Nijmegen	worksheet	8
The human rights defender 'from Nijmegen'	worksheet	8
Human rights in Sudan	worksheet	9
Women's rights	worksheet	9
The freedom of expression and the freedom of association	worksheet	9
National Intelligence and Security Services and Sudanese laws	worksheet	10
Extra course material	worksheet 11	
Notes	worksheet	12

TEACHERS

Instructions	instruction	1
Introduction	instruction 2	2
Structure	instruction 2	2
Eight versions	instruction 2	2
Goals	instruction	3
Movie material	instruction	3
Answers to the questions	instruction	4
Literature	instruction	7
Web links	instruction	7



WORKSHEETS



Who defends the human rights defenders?

Human rights

All countries of the world have agreed that everyone in the world whether you are a man or a woman, young or old, poor or rich and no matter what skin color, has the same rights. This agreement was made in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December 1948 (UDHR). The rights named in the UDHR are called human rights.



The logo of the UDHR

In this short YouTube-movie some of these human rights are mentioned:



Human Rights - Ministry of Foreign Affairs



- 1. What human rights do you recognize in the movie?
- 2. What other human rights that were not mentioned in the movie do you know?





You probably already know that not everyone respects human rights. In that case, we speak of human rights violations. Some violations are easy to prevent, others are more difficult to find a solution for.

A human rights violation that can easily be prevented, is torture. If the government of a country prohibits torture and enforces the law, torture can be banned.



- 3. Give another example of a human rights violation that can easily be prevented.
- Give an example of a human rights violation that cannot be prevented easily.



Prohibition on torture

Freedom of expression

One of the most important human rights is freedom of expression. If you cannot express your opinion, you cannot oppose human rights violations either.

Martin Luther King was publicly opposing discrimination of people with a dark skin color. His only 'weapon' was freedom of expression. Partly because of his famous speech 'I have a dream' (in front of about a million people) he realized equality of law for everyone in his country.



In some countries you have to be careful in the way that you act or about the things that you say. That is especially true for people with the following professions:

- Artist
- Journalist
- Moviemaker
- Union leader



Protest of a union in Belgium



A piece of art of Chinese artist Yue Minjun



- 5. Explain for each of the four professions mentioned above why these people should be extra careful according to you.
- 6. What do these professions all have in common?
- 7. Name a profession -not mentioned above- that could also be in the category of extra vulnerable professions.
- 8. Write your own text for a protest against a current wrong on the protest sign of Yue Minjun.

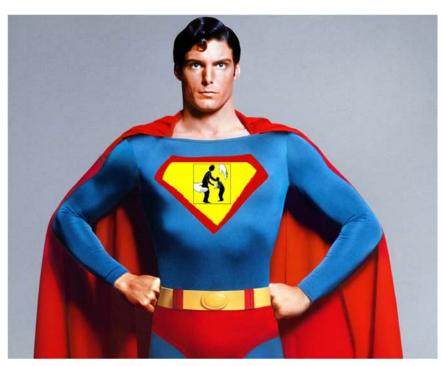
Human rights defenders



9. Write down as many words as you can that come to your mind when you think about 'human rights defender'.

Does a person like that have any special characteristics according to you? If so, which ones?





A human rights defender is not superman. What is a human rights defender according to you?



10. Try to think of your own definition of 'human rights defender' together with your neighbour.

A 'human rights defender' is someone who

Extra vulnerable

Human rights defenders stand up for human rights, individually or in an organisation, without using violence. Unfortunately they cannot always do that in freedom. Protection of civilians is most needed in times of armed conflict or war. A human rights defender who exposes violations committed by political leaders or armed militias are often accused of partisanship and get threatened.

Since 9-11 a lot of countries adopted rules to oppose terrorism. This often means that the work of human rights defenders is criminalized.

Amnesty asks special attention for female human rights defenders, who often work under more difficult conditions than men and are extra vulnerable because of that. They are often not taken seriously by their surrounding society because of prevailing about women.



Some governments see the work of human rights organisations of women as not important and unlawful.

Female human rights defenders are more at risk to be threatened because of their gender and are more likely to become victim of sexual harassment and rape.

Amnesty launched a special application in 2014 that human rights defenders can use to call out for help, if they are at risk of being kidnapped, attacked or tortured. The Panic Button-app is a silent alarm and can be activated in case of emergency.

By pressing the button, fellow-activists are alarmed if a colleague is in danger. This will fasten the process of providing help. In the first hours of the arrest, the human rights defender's network can act fast to get their colleague released. For example they can overwhelm the police station with phone calls, organise a protest or warn lawyers and organisations like Amnesty.



- Assignment
- 11. What is meant by 'criminalizing human rights defenders'?
- 12. In what way the Panic Button-app works, is explained by the above pictures. What is missing, is English explanation. Write the five steps down together with you neighbour.

Who defends human rights defenders?

Human rights defenders stand up for the rights of others. This often puts them in danger. They also need protection.



13. Who should protect human rights defenders according to you? Explain.

Different international organisations stand up for the rights of human rights defenders. The two most important ones are the United Nations and the European Union.

United Nations

In 1999 the UN adopted the *Declaration on Human Rights Defenders**. The official name of the declaration* already shows that everyone has an obligation to protection human rights defenders.

Article 12 of the declaration pays special attention to the obligations of States:



Article 12

- 1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 2. **The State shall take all necessary measures** to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.
- 3. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively **under national law** in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- * Officially: Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms



European Union

In 2004 the EU adopted the *Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders*. Embassies of member States and EU-missions must provide protection to human rights defenders by visiting, observing processes and where needed undertake action against governments. They must also help guarantee that human rights defenders have free access to (foreign) financial donations.



14. The UN Declaration and the EU Guidelines (it already explains in the name) have one important disadvantage. What could that be? What could the UN and the EU do to further strengthen the protection of human rights defenders? Next to States, private organisations can offer help to human rights defenders. We name a few, but there are more!

Amnesty International

One of the main tasks of *Amnesty International* is the protection of human rights defenders. Amnesty realizes that by protests, publicity, arranging visits and contacts, education and training, lobbying and sometimes financial support.





For example by supporting protests and by writing

letters, you can participate yourself in the protection of human rights defenders.

#Idefend

#Idefend is an initiative of the delegation of the EU in the UN.











The goal of #Idefend is to show solidarity to human rights defenders and to improve their commitment and work for human rights for people all over the world. Maybe you have seen this on social media, like Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/idefend). You can support the initiative yourself by social media.

Justice and Peace



This Dutch organisation stands up for the protection and training of human rights defenders. *Justice and Peace* created several projects that support the work of human rights defenders...



Justice and Peace Netherlands

- The Hague Training Course provides training on digital security mechanisms and policy influencing.
- *Connet2Protect* connects human rights defenders with members of the parliament, lawyers and journalists.
- *Temporary Relocation* temporarily relocates human rights defenders from Africa and Asia in those continents.
- Shelter City is a European project. You can read more about that on the next page.



- 15. Next to legal rules for example by referring to antiterrorist regulations the movie mentions another way to obstruct the work of human rights defenders. What is that?
- 16. Which four ways of threatening a human rights defender are named in the movie?

Shelter City Nijmegen

The movie of Justice and Peace showed that human rights defenders can be put to silence, arrested and tortured and sometimes even disappear. If their situation allows it, they can benefits a lot from temporary shelter. Based on an initiative of the European Parliament, Shelter Cities have been created in all of Europe.

How does Shelter City work?

Shelter City started by recruiting cities in Europe. Shelter Cities in the Netherlands (or soon to be) are: Amsterdam, Den Haag, Groningen, Maastricht, Middelburg, Nijmegen en Utrecht. After The Hague and Middelburg, Nijmegen was the third Shelter City of the Netherlands.

The next step is the selection of human rights defenders. They are chosen by a national selection committee, composed of representatives of Justice and Peace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, de Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam, Hivos en Free Press Unlimited.



Every Shelter City provides a human rights defender a safe environment for three months. In that period, the human rights defenders can recharge so that he or she can return with new found energy.

The human rights defenders will go back to their own country, empowered by a larger network and with more knowledge to better do their work. If desired, the human rights defenders can participate in education or training. Meetings with politicians in The Hague and Brussels will also be arranged.

An interaction should be created between the human rights defenders and civilians of the Shelter Cities. He or she will be part of events in the city (like Music Meeting and the Four Day Marches in Nijmegen). In their turn, the human rights defenders can participate in debate or have a speech on human rights in his or her country.

The human rights defender 'from Nijmegen'



Midhat is a human rights defender from Sudan. He is training other human rights defenders to improve their digital and physical safety. He regularly works with young people from Sudanese cities. Together they report about several social and human rights themes (like war and peace, freedom of expression, women's rights, environmental issues and education). To pass on this information to other young people, they use digital or other creative means. Midhat organizes film debates for example and supports a youth choir that performs songs in different cities about everything that's wrong in their country. The organization Midhat worked for, is prohibited by the Sudanese government. For his activities Midhat got sentenced to a year in prison and had to pay a fine of 50,000 Sudanese pound (6700 euro).

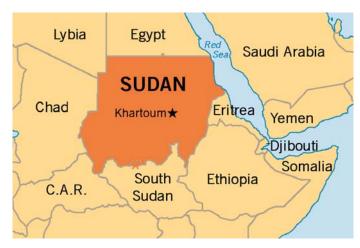


- 17. Shelter City does not just have advantages. What disadvantage(s) of the Shelter City project could you think of?
- 18. Imagine you would be in Midhat's position. What practical matters could come up for a human rights defenders in Nijmegen?

Human rights in Sudan

In 2011 the country separated in the Islamic Sudan and the Christian South-Sudan after a long war with a lot of bloodshed. The International Criminal Court in The Hague has several charges for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity running against president Omar Al-Bashir, who gained power by a coup d'état.

Reports of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch about the human rights situation in Sudan are everything but positive



Freedom of expression is seriously restricted. Political parties of the opposition are not allowed to organize meetings. News papers that write critical articles cannot be published. Journalists, lawyers, students, doctors, human rights activists and protesters are frequently arrested and tortured.



19. What are the most important differences between a human rights defenders' work in Europe and in Sudan? Please explain your answer.

Women's rights

In Sudan punishing people by hitting them with a whip still happens on a daily basis. Especially women are often a victim of this horrible punishment. They are punished for acting 'immoral' or 'indecent'. The law prescribes women how to live their life, how to dress and how to behave. Women that protest against this are treated violently, insulted and (threatened to be) raped. Sometimes the women and journalists that write about it are arrested, abducted or even tortured. The government denies everything and will do anything in its power to make sure that nobody writes about it or takes part in protests. Despite this suppression the number of protests has increased the last couple of years.



Lubna fights for Sudanese women's rights





- 20. a) Explain in your own words what 'immoral' and 'indecent' exactly means.
 - b) Are these terms objective or subjective?
 - c) Why is that important to determine?
- 21. The video shows activist Lubna. She is an activist and journalist and was sentenced to get whip lashes because she was supposedly not complying with the clothing regulations of the law. Are there any clothing regulations in the Netherlands? What do you think of that? Should you comply with those kind of rules or not?

Freedom of expression and freedom of association

In 2016 a group students on campus wanted to have a peaceful protest for the elections of the student council. Police officers fired their guns on the group of students and an 18 year old student was hit. His death led to more protests against the violence of the police. Unfortunately these protests were answered with even more violence. Several students were arrested, abused and even murdered.





- 22. What does 'Freedom of association' mean?
- 23. a) What is a peaceful protest?
 - b) Why would the government act against a peaceful protest?
- 24. a) Does your school have a student council?
 - b) Do you think it's important to have a student council? Why or why not?

National Intelligence and Security Services and Sudanese laws

The large amount of people being arrested is also caused by the far-reaching power of the NISS, the secret service of Sudan, and the Sudanese laws.

The NISS can arrest someone arbitrarily and put him/her in prison for four and a half month without a judges review. Torture mainly takes place in the NISS prison cells.

The laws of Sudan contain several special articles that are used against opponents of the government:

- * article 50: undermining the constitutional system.
- * article 53: espionage.
- * article 65: participation in a criminal or terrorist organization.

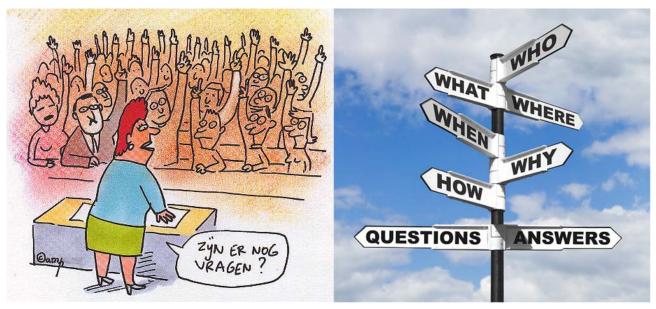


- 25. Why would torture mainly take place in the prison cells of the NISS?
- 26. Describe in your own words what is meant by the text of article 50.

Extra course material

As a preparation for the meeting with human rights defender Kiruba we came up with some questions you can ask her. Of course you can think of some question on your own that you want to ask. What would you like to know?

- * Against what human rights violations is she fighting?
- * Why do these violations take place and what can she do about it?
- * What successes has she achieved in his work?
- * She is threatened for opposing violations. How does that affect her work? Is she not scared?
- * What does the future of India look like?



Text in picture: Are there any question?

Notes

INSTRUCTIONS



Who defends the human rights defenders?

Introduction

The course material 'Who defends the human rights defenders?' is developed by the Education group of Amnesty Nijmegen in cooperation with Shelter City Nijmegen.

Shelter City is a national initiative of Justice & Peace in cooperation with Dutch cities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to protect human rights defenders as initiated by a motion of the European Parliament. Human rights defenders that risk their own lives by fighting for human rights, will be provided temporary shelter in European cities.

Shelter City Nijmegen is realised by a cooperation between different organisations from Nijmegen, under which Amnesty Nijmegen, Radboud University, the municipality of Nijmegen and Bureau Wijland. Qader Shafiq of Bureau Wijland coordinates the project, q.shafiq@bureauwijland.nl.

Between 2017 and 2020 eight human rights defenders will come to Nijmegen. The second one of the second series is Midhat* from Sudan, who will be in Nijmegen from September until December.

Structure

The course material 'Who defends the human rights defenders?' takes two lessons of 50 minutes.

Lesson 1: worksheets 1-5 Lesson 2: worksheets 6-10

The course material can be used by the teacher independently as well as by guest teachers from Amnesty Nijmegen. For guest lessons you can contact the head of the Education group: Harry de Ridder, amnestynijmegen@gmail.com.

As a follow-up, you can ask Midhat himself to tell his story as long as he still is in Nijmegen. For that you can also contact Harry de Ridder, amnestynijmegen@gmail.com. As preparation for a possible meeting we have prepared some question and ask the students to prepare some questions as well before the meeting.

Preparation of the meeting: worksheets 11-12

Eight versions

In 2017-2020 eight different versions in the second series of the course material 'Who defends the human rights defenders?' will be created. Each version will be connected to the individual story and backgrounds of the human rights defenders that come to Nijmegen. The first one and a half part of the material will not change, only the last half on the human rights defender will be adapted every time. As soon as we know the identity of the following human rights defender, we will publish the next version of the course material.

General notions Lesson 1 and the first half of lesson 2 (worksheets 1-8)

Human rights defender Second half of lesson 2 (worksheets 8-12)

^{*} For his safety we can not disclose his name.

Goals

- The student will be introduced to human rights and human rights violations.
- The student knows that the human right 'Freedom of expression' is connected to opposing human rights violations.
- The students know that people with certain professions have to more careful than others.
- The students can explain their own definition of a human rights defender.
- The student knows that human rights defenders are extra vulnerable and know why female human rights defenders are at even greater risk than their male colleagues.
- The student can tell who stands up for the rights of human rights defenders and can name some international and private organisations that protect their rights.
- The student knows about Shelter City.
- The student knows about the selection procedure of human rights defenders that come to one of the Shelter Cities of the Netherlands.
- The student knows human rights defender Midhat and his background.
- The student can name some human rights violations in Sudan and explain why these violations mostly occur there.
- The student will meet and converse with human rights defender Midhat.

Movie material

In the course material 'Who defends the human rights defenders?' three short movies are showed:

YouTube-movies:

- * Human rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affair (2.22 min.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eRCogmiGfA
- * Justice and Peace Netherlands (3.02 min.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK1jAIJ0AcM
- * Lubna fights for Sudanese women rights (1.53 min.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30wgYKHF-dc

MP4-movies:

- * Human rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affair (2.22 min.) http://www.amnestynijmegen.nl/download/Mensenrechten-BuZa.mp4
- * Justice and Peace Netherlands (3.02 min.) http://www.amnestynijmegen.nl/download/justice-and-peace-netherlands.mp4
- * Lubna fights for Sudanese women rights (1.53 min.) http://www.amnestynijmegen.nl/download/lubna-sudan.mp4

Human rights

The lesson starts with discussing what human rights and human rights violations are.



- 1. Everyone is equal, everyone has equal rights, everyone has the right to develop in a good standard of living, everyone has the right to live in freedom and safety, everyone has the right to sufficient food and water, there is a prohibition on the use of child soldiers, nobody can be arbitrarily arrested without the family of the person knowing where they are (prohibition on disappearances), everyone has the right to life, everyone has the right to freedom of expression, torture is prohibited, everyone has the right to believe, everyone has the right to live together with whom he or she want, everyone has equal rights.
- 2. -
- 3. For example: prohibition on slavery, prohibition on the use of child soldiers.
- 4. Some economical, social and cultural rights are less easy to realize, think of: the right to labour. Every society copes with unemployed people.

Freedom of expression

In this part of the course material we further discuss the human right 'Freedom of expression', a condition to be able to oppose human rights violations (of others).



- 5. Artist: if you show art that exposes the government or makes fun of it, you risk being arrested.
 - Journalist: he can expose corruption or other wrongs which the risk of being arrested.
 - Moviemaker: similar to the journalist, but not with words but with images. A moviemaker can make fun of the government as well.
 - Union leader: he or she stands up for the rights of workers and stands up against the wishes of employers
- 6. They do not just stand up for their own opinion, but also for the rights of others.
- 7. A writer, blogger, cartoon artist, comedian.
- 8.

Human rights defenders

We are discussing a self-made definition of human rights defenders and their characteristics.



- 9. After the students' opinion. A human rights defender is not superman, but someone who is not afraid to stand up for the rights of others. It takes some courage, or at least someone who is willing to take on his own fear.
- 10. For example: A human rights defender is someone who stands up for the rights of others (in a situation where he operates himself and where human rights are violated; someone from Amnesty who stands up for human rights in a safe environment are not called human rights defenders). A human rights defender can only be called a human rights defenders is he or she does not use violence.

Extra vulnerable

Human rights defenders are at great risk, especially women. Amnesty's application can help with that.



The work of human rights defenders is criminalized to silence them.

- 12. Stap 1: Take the time to install the Panic Button-application in a calm situati-
 - Step 2: Think of the people who should be informed when action needs to be undertaken. Step 3: Check that your phone is on, sufficiently charged and with sufficient credits (for a prepaid or contracted phone).
 - Step 4: Press the button of the application in case of emergency.
 - Step 5: Your network will be notified by text and indicate your location so that people from your network can help you fast.

Who defends the human rights defenders?

People who stand up for the rights of others are also at risk and need protection themselves.



- According to the declaration basically everyone: individuals, groups, organisations and official institutions.
- 14. Both are not treaties with legal force, but declarations with no more than official promises. If the UN and the EU would contain that protection in a treaty, we could take on violators with the law or treaty in place.
- 15. Defamation (violate someone's honour or good name on purpose) with the goal of degrading the human rights defenders and taking away their credibilit.
- 1) physically (physical intimidation or direct threats).
 - 2) online (digital surveillance and online threats).
 - 3) family (physical intimidation or direct threats of family members).
 - 4) mobile phone (surveillance of mobile phones and threats by text).

Shelter City Nijmegen / The human rights defender 'from Nijmegen'

In this part of the course material we further discuss the how and why of the Shelter City project and the human rights defender who came to Nijmegen...



- 17. It could be: the human rights defenders do not want to go back to their own country or the situation in their country has become so badly in those three months that they cannot go back. It could also be personal: for example when a person got into a relationship in the city where he or she temporarily lived.
- Think of things like: a place to live, a place to work or take a course, the use of a computer, telephone, public transport card, a budget to their expenses, but also: people around them to accompany and help them.

Human rights in Sudan

After the civil war that led to the separation of Sudan in two independent states one would hope that the human rights situation would improve. Sadly that is not the case.



19. The Sudanese governments is not doing much to prevent and fight human rights violations, in fact, they are the main cause of human rights violations. As a human rights defender you don't have to count on support from the government when trying to report human rights violations. Not only do you not receive support from the government, fighting against human rights violations can even be dangerous.

Women's rights

Sudan upholds strict clothing regulations that especially affect women. Women who behave 'immoral' or 'indecent' can be punished by whip lashes.



20. a) All answers are correct, the term can be interpreted in every way. For example: walking down the street without wearing any clothes, swearing, stealing etc.

- b) The terms are subjective. Everyone can have a different opinion on whether something is immoral or indecent.
- c) It's important to know that the terms are subjective, because they can be abused when it comes to using these terms in the law. The police can decide for themselves whether something is immoral or indecent. The video below describes this law justly as 'vague and discriminating'.
- 21. Everyone's own opinion. Possibility to start a discussion on clothing in public places, clothing for particular profession, hats in class. Freedom of religion, expression etc. can possibly be discussed in that matter as well.

Freedom of expression and freedom of association

In Sudan freedom of expression and association are not respected and can lead to being abused or even death.



- 22. The right to freely become part of a group.
- 23. a) A peaceful protest is a protest with the aim to make your voice being heard without using violence.
 - b) It is a peaceful process, so they do not act because they are afraid that people will use violence or cause damage. The government is afraid of the spreading of opinions other than those of themselves. When people unite, they are stronger. In order to maintain their power, they do not want this to happen.
- 24. a) Yes/no.
 - b) Everyone's own opinion. Do the students think it's important to raise their voice? On what topics do they want to be heard? What if the students couldn't express their opinion on anything?

National Intelligence and Security Services and Sudanese laws

The NISS and the Sudanese laws make it possible to arrest people easily.



- 25. During the four and a half month that someone is arrested, he or she cannot see a lawyer. The prison cells of the NISS are not subject to supervision from outside so it's easier to torture people.
- 26. 'Undermining the constitutional system' basically is 'standing up against laws you don't agree with', which makes you a suspect as soon as you take part in a protest and which can lead to the arrest of people that don't agree with the government.

Literature

Human rights in Sudan

- https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/sudan/
- https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/sudan
- https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/03/human-rights-benchmarks-sudan
- https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/03/23/sudan-silencing-women-rights-defenders
- https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-one-of-worst-countries-for-women-s-rights-survey
- https://www.opendemocracy.net/north-africa-west-asia/yosra-akasha/killing-student-is-killing-nation-sudanese-universities-revolt

Web links

- http://www2.nijmegen.nl/mmbase/attachments/1549721/
 Shelter_City_Nijmegen_Initiatiefvoorstel_februari_2014.pdf
- http://www.sheltercity.nl
- http://www.bureauwijland.nl
- http://www.amnestynijmegen.nl



Who defends the human rights defenders?

Course material for 15/16 year old high school students developed by the Education group of Amnesty Nijmegen and Shelter City Nijmegen



