

ANTI-REPRESSION TOOLKIT

FOR ACTIVISTS



CALS

Centre for Applied
Legal Studies

With thanks to:

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RIGHT2PROTEST PROJECT

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TERMINOLOGY

REPRESSION: The act of suppressing someone by force. This can also include attempts to put an end to their views or human rights causes. Repression can be both emotional and physical.

VICTIMISATION: When someone treats you badly or disadvantages you because you complain about discrimination/a human right violation/ corruption or poor service delivery or help someone who has been the victim of the above.

SURVEILLANCE: Close observation and monitoring of an individual, which is often not lawful and violates one's right to privacy and freedom of movement. Unauthorised surveillance can be undertaken by spies, criminals and even corporations

DIGITAL TRACKING: The tracing and monitoring of a person's online movements, using real time or historical data, often found using GPS tracking software.

CENSORSHIP: Acts directed at limiting freedom of speech and/or digital media freedom. The suppression or prohibition of any information that is considered offensive or politically unacceptable. This can extend to individuals being denied access to certain platforms where they express their opinions.

TACTICS: An action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end.

SLAPP SUITS: Strategic lawsuits against public participation (also known as SLAPP suits) are lawsuits intended to

censor, intimidate, and silence critics by burdening them with the cost of a legal defense until they abandon their criticism or opposition.

PUBLIC INTEREST: Any matter that is of concern to the general public or is for the benefit of the general public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The active involvement of individuals or groups in matters of public interest. This includes but is not limited to protests, movement building, public engagements, petitions, complaints, participation in public hearings, academic research, journalism and whistleblowing activities concerned with the public interest.

COUNTERING: Act in opposition to.

REPOSITORIES OF POWER: Institutions or parties who hold/exercise power. Central holders of power.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS: Activists whose work is based on community issues, might not belong to any specific organisation or movement, but are vocal and fight for their communities' interests.

WHISTLEBLOWING: The act of disclosing information related to any illegal, immoral and illegitimate practices of an organisation or police. This disclosure is usually by organisation members (former or current) who expose the illegal/illegitimate/immoral practices under the control of their employers to persons, state functionaries/Chapter 9 Institutions/organisations that may be able to effect action/intervene.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT

The Centre for Applied Legal Studies and the Right to Protest Project share common interest in ensuring that the capacity of activists is built through various methodologies including knowledge sharing that is practical, sustainable and helpful.

The aim of this toolkit is to provide activists, social movements, communities and non-governmental organisations with tools and resources to fight against different forms of victimisation. The toolkit is designed to be a resource that can be utilised by an individual or a group.

The toolkit covers topics such as SLAPP suits, digital security, effective measures against surveillance and internet censorship, physical security as well as institutions where activists can get assistance.

The toolkit can be used as a guide during community workshops and capacity building training. It can also be used as a research tool for those interested in expanding

on educational material to fight against activist repression.

Toolkit Users can also adapt the toolkit to use it as an evaluation and monitoring tool to forecast imminent attacks or risks as well as improve and implement innovative strategies to fight repression. The toolkit is therefore both a preparation and supporting guide for activist against repressive tactics and their future deployments.





HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

In the context of a shrinking civic space and the repression of activists, this toolkit can be utilised as a guide and training material to capacitate activists. Crucially, the toolkit's significance lies in its potential to disseminate critical information, strategies and defense mechanisms amongst activists. The below step-by-step guide will help you navigate the toolkit effectively to ensure that you obtain maximal benefit from the toolkit.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE:

1

PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT:

Start by reading the introduction section to understand the overarching purpose and objectives of the toolkit. This will provide you with an overview of what information you can obtain from this resource.

2

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Familiarise yourself with the structure of the toolkit, which consists of six key sections. Understanding this structure will help you navigate through the content effectively.

3

WHAT THE LAW SAYS ABOUT PROTECTING ACTIVISTS:

Use this section to gain insights into the legal framework that protects activists. Understand your rights and the legal avenues available to protect yourself and your fellow activists.

4

DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN BE REPRESSED:

This section explores the different ways that activists can be targeted. Use this section to find information on some of the attacks you may be experiencing.

5

FOCUS AREAS:

The toolkit pays special attention to three ways in which activists are increasingly targeted. These are:

- **SLAPP suits:** the use of legal processes to silence activists.
- **Digital security:** learn how to protect your online presence, data, and communications as well as learning how activists can be at risk of surveillance and tracking.
- **Physical Security:** this deals with the ways in which the physical security of an activist can be threatened. The section also covers strategies for safeguarding your physical well-being. This includes personal safety measures and strategies for events and protests.

6

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS ON COUNTERING REPRESSION:

Here, you will find practical strategies and tactics for fighting repression. This is where you can learn about tools you can implement to counter repression which include effective advocacy strategies, resilience building, and mobilisation.

7

ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS:

In this chapter, you can find information on how various organisations can assist as well as their contact details.

8

RESOURCES:

Lastly, you will find a resource page that has links to websites that can give you more information about different topics on activist repression.

INTRODUCTION

The repression of activists is not a new phenomenon in South Africa. Almost three decades into democracy, South Africa finds itself confronted with different forms of targeting of activists. In the Apartheid regime, repression was defined as

To date, despite a democratic dispensation, activists, social movements, communities and even whistleblowers in South Africa still experience different aspects of repression that resemble that of the apartheid regime.

“

the response of the apartheid regime and its supporters to resistance against the policies of apartheid; resistance by the people of South Africa, resistance by South Africa's neighbours and resistance by the international community

”

In response to activist repression, the Centre for Applied Legal studies in collaboration with the Right to Protest Project held a symposium on activist repression in May 2023. The conference deliberated on the challenges faced by activists as well as strategies and tactics that activists can use to combat repression. This toolkit is borne out of this symposium.





WHAT THE LAW SAYS ABOUT ...

PROTECTING ACTIVISTS

The South African Constitution protects the rights of everyone including those of activists. The Bill of Rights explicitly states that everyone has the right to equality, dignity, life, privacy, security of the person, freedom of expression, assembly and association.

International law further provides us with guidelines on the protection of civic space and of activists. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights mandates South Africa to protect the rights to freely and peacefully protest as well as the freedoms of expression and association. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights further amplifies the protection of rights and freedoms including the rights to life, equality and privacy as well as the freedom of expression that includes the freedom to hold opinion without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media or other platform, freedoms to peaceful protest, associate and participate in public affairs.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights also provides protection for human rights defenders. These include the protection of civil and political rights. The African Union

through the Kigali Declaration of 2003 also considered civil society as a building block in the creation of an environment conducive to human rights in Africa. The Kigali Declaration of 2003 further calls upon its member states and regional institutions to protect and encourage the participation of civil society organisations in decision making processes.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights has also made resolutions that prioritise vulnerable human rights defenders. The African Commission has established a mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa. The Special Rapporteur receives and acts on complaints of violations of the rights of human rights defenders, and provides recommendations on what members can do to better protect human rights defenders.

The South African Human Rights Commission is mandated by the Constitution to promote the respect for human rights and a culture of human rights. This, by necessity, must include promoting the protection of human rights defenders.

THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

The right to protest has for years been undermined under different oppressive government regimes, most notably, the apartheid government. In apartheid South Africa, almost 70% of the population was excluded from public participation. Those who resisted were subjected to extreme forms of police brutality during protest action. Protests were, however, a critical method of activism to voice out dissent on issues such as racism.

In democratic South Africa, the Right2Protest is now a constitutionally protected right for all people under section 17 of the Constitution. Furthermore, the Regulations of Gatherings Act ("RGA") governs protests in South Africa.

Under the RGA, presiding officers are to respect the right to protest of those who wish to exercise this right. The role of presiding officers is to guide protestors on community safety policies and processes such as giving notice for a protest and holding regular community safety meetings and consultations. The use of lethal weaponry during

protest is strictly prohibited. In addition, municipalities are not allowed to charge protestors fees to protest.

The Right to protest should always be respected by the state, private stakeholders, and citizens. Police and private security who use excessive force must be held accountable. This is also important for combating protest-related deaths.

For any protest related queries or if you need assistance related to protest action, contact the Right2protest hotline on 0800 212 111



PROTEST

DIFFERENT WAYS THAT

ACTIVISTS ARE TARGETED



HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE BEING VICTIMISED?

Are you involved in activism, public participation, public interest work, or work that is aimed at advancing social justice or promoting and protecting the exercising of rights?

Is the resistance, attack or threat of attack you are facing linked to any of the abovementioned work?

Do you feel targeted, victimised, threatened or intimidated by the incidences carried out against you?

.....

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS I MAY BE TARGETED AS AN ACTIVIST?

Over the years, activists have reported facing various attacks. For ease of reference, we group these attacks based on three broad categories:



**THREATS TO
PHYSICAL SECURITY**



**DIGITAL
SECURITY**



**MISUSE OF LEGAL
PROCESSES**



PHYSICAL SECURITY:

- death,
- death threats,
- kidnappings,
- forced hidings,
- assaults,
- threats of violence,
- intimidation and
- stalking.

DIGITAL SECURITY:

- surveillance,
- tracking,
- phone tapping,
- threatening texts,
- threatening calls,
- threatening recordings or pictures,
- cyberbullying.

MISUSE OF LEGAL PROCESSES:

- unlawful arrests,
- SLAPP suits,
- police intimidation,
- misuse of civil or criminal processes.



IMPORTANT

FOCUS AREAS

SLAPP SUITS

What is it?

SLAPP, an acronym for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, can be defined as “meritless cases mounted to discourage a party from pursuing or vindicating their rights, often with the intention not necessarily to win the case, but simply to waste the resources and time of the other party until they bow out”¹. SLAPP suits are a way of weaponising the judicial system to repress dissenting voices. SLAPP suits create an impression that the lawsuit is a valid legal proceeding (such as a defamation claim or interdict),² whereas the true objective of such suit is to silence opponents or punish those with dissenting views.³ The use of litigation to destabilise and disintegrate movements, activism and the expression of dissent in the public interest has become increasingly common.

What do SLAPPs look like?

SLAPP suits look like legitimate suits but they are designed to restrict the exercising of rights, including the right

SLAPP [slapp]

noun

Also called SLAPP suit.
a civil lawsuit brought as an intimidation measure against non-government individuals or organisations.

to protest, freedom of expression and freedom of association exercised in the public interest. SLAPP suits should therefore be understood as a legal mechanism used to prevent the enforcement of constitutionally guaranteed rights exercised for a greater public good. These SLAPPs could also infringe on rights such as freedom and security of person, the right not to be unlawfully detained and the rights to privacy and equality before the law.

Here are some examples/scenarios of SLAPPs:



¹ T Murombo & H Valentine 'SLAPP suits: An emerging obstacle to public interest litigation in South Africa' (2011) 27 SAJHR 2 82- 84.

² The Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Victimisation Experiences of Activists in South Africa, April 2018.

³ Z Emmammally 'Slapping down SLAPP suits in South Africa: The need for legislative protection and civil society action' (2022) SALJ 1



THUTO is the leader of Masiye Community Forum. The forum has been trying to engage the mine for years but the mine refuses to consult with them. As a result, the forum organises a protest. One of the mine managers catches wind of the planned protest and the mine speedily applies for an urgent interdict against Thuto and the forum to prevent them from ever protesting against the mine. If they fail to do so, the mine seeks R1 million from Thuto and the forum.

This is an example of a SLAPP suit taking the shape of an interdict. The interdict is overly broad and it has the effect of preventing the forum from ever protesting against the mine. This is to silencing dissent against the mine and drain the resources of the forum. Furthermore, the mine cannot reasonably believe that it would get R1 Million from Thuto or the forum yet it seeks this order from the court in order to threaten and silence.

MARY is an environmental activist and has been actively involved in raising awareness about the gendered impacts of climate change. In a radio interview, Mary criticised the district municipality and the coal mines for their failure to resolve the air pollution crisis in the Mpumalanga Highveld. The municipal manager heard the interview and was furious. He retaliated by making a public statement stating that Mary "is an anti-development agent of the west". He also instituted a suit against Mary for defamation and claimed damages amounting to R5 million.

This is a SLAPP suit in the form of a defamation claim. The municipal manager is trying to discredit Mary and intimidate and silence her from speaking out against the harm the municipality is failing to prevent. Again, the municipal manager cannot reasonably believe it will receive R5 million from Mary. But the purpose of the suit is not necessarily to win but to silence Mary and intimidate anyone else who may seek to speak out.



LERATO, an actress, was sexually assaulted by a prominent person within the film and TV industry. During the #Amlnext protests, Lerato named the person who had assaulted her on a TV interview. In retaliation, the perpetrator instituted a defamation claim against Lerato to the value of R200 000. He also sought a protection order against her.

As mentioned, SLAPP suits look like legitimate suits, however their purpose is to silence and scare. In this instance, the perpetrator is misusing the legal process of protection orders and defamation suits to gag Lerato from speaking out against him.



How to identify a SLAPP suit

SLAPP suits are in their nature complex legal suits. It is only courts who can make an order declaring that the suit against you is indeed a SLAPP suit. However, it is up to you and your

legal representatives to make legal submissions on why the suit you are facing amounts to a SLAPP suit. It is important to note that not all suits are SLAPP suit.

TIP

In your activism work, keep a record of the work you are doing and any retaliation that can come from it. This includes keeping pictures, videos, recordings, text messages, emails etc. This will help greatly in later proving that you are exercising a right in the public interest and are now being targeted because of it.



HERE ARE A FEW FACTORS THAT CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY A SLAPP SUIT:

1

Were you exercising a constitutionally protected right?



2

If yes, were you exercising the right for the benefit of the public or for a greater public good?



3

Does the suit against you arise from you exercising this right?



4

Do you suspect that the reason for the suit is to silence you, drain your resources, scare you or others off, or to destabilise or demobilise your movement or your work?



If you answered **yes** to the above, make sure you speedily contact a legal representative and provide them with any legal documents that you may have received, as well as any evidence you have that can help prove the SLAPP suit. Some organisations that you can reach out to for possible legal representation include:

- The Centre for Applied Legal Studies
- Lawyers for Human Rights
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Asinaloyiko (Coalition)
- Socio-Economic Rights Institute
- ProBono.Org
- Legal Resources Centre

SURVEILLANCE AND THE LAW

Section 14 of Constitution - The Right to Privacy

“Everyone has the right to privacy, which includes the right not to have- their person or home searched; their property searched; their possessions seized; or the privacy of their communications infringed”

Section 14 of the Constitution guarantees the right to privacy which includes the right to participate in an exchange of information physically or online without their liberties being breached.

On the other hand, the state under the Intelligence Services Act has the right to use forms of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track irregularities that could possibly pose a threat to state security. Private security, however, does not have the same powers and can therefore only use very limited mechanisms in their surveillance activities.

The unconstitutionality of laws such as the Regulations of Interception of Communications and Provisions of Communication -related Information



Act (RICA) have not provided adequate protection for activists' information and their physical and online activities. Even though no party has been granted permission to use information gathered under the RICA to monitor and track activists, this information is easily used as a means to harass and intimidate activists in their work.

MOST COMMON FORMS OF SURVEILLANCE USED TO TARGET ACTIVISTS

Surveillance has, over the years, been used as a tactic by the state and private entities to monitor the activities of activists, non-governmental organisations and social movements. Different tools and methods of surveillance have been instrumental in

the gathering of sensitive information of activists in order to infiltrate, divide and demobilise organisations and social movements.

Some of the most common forms of surveillance are:



Physical/Undercover

Surveillance: This sort of monitoring is usually done by state security intelligence agencies and private security companies. It involves the physical presence of an agent or private security personnel monitoring activist, social movements or organisations. Some of the ways in which it is done is by:

- Following activists in their daily routines
- Befriending activists to gather information from them
- Becoming a member of social movements or organisations to gather inside information or destabilise an organisation or movement from within
- Using drone technology to capture images, audio and videos to identify protestors or track crowd movement



Digital Surveillance:

This method of monitoring can be done through technological devices used to communicate information. This includes telephones, cellphones, tablets and laptops. All these devices have built-in and downloadable applications that activists use to exchange information with their colleagues. Information by monitoring parties is usually gathered through the following:

- Emails
- Text messages
- Social media
- Telephone/Cellphone calls

COMMON SPACES WHERE SURVEILLANCE TAKES PLACE

- At protests
- During community or organisation meetings
- Social media
- Residential Homes
- Organisational operating buildings, offices or spaces



THE IMPACT OF SURVEILLANCE

The result of surveillance is usually censorship, the intimidation of activists, demobilisation of social movement, the deliberate psychosocial impact and stress on an activist as a form of harassment.

Censorship is a regulatory system that uses different forms of prohibitions to limit the freedom of expression. Social media platforms are usually a target for censorship and are especially used to

limit certain conversations or opinions that are not in favour of the state. Here are examples of censorship:

- Internet shutdowns
- Blocking of certain websites, books, newspapers, political and religious texts
- Persecution of freedom of speech by laws or other processes
- Cyberbullying



WHAT TO DO WHEN FACING SURVEILLANCE



Digital Security:

Is there an intruder in your phone or laptop? Be Safe on the Net! The use of technology has become a threat to activists as digital surveillance and cyber bullying increases daily. The state, private security companies and other people are finding new ways of monitoring online activities. This is why digital security training is essential as it is important to use technology to communicate, spread awareness on different issues and mobilise support while protecting yourself.

Use a Virtual Private Network ("VPN") whilst browsing online. A VPN can be used to protect one's identity on the internet by providing users with anonymity, protecting users from cyberattacks and providing passages for exploring the internet. (please see annexures for more information),

Use safer messaging applications. Social media apps are not all safe and can be easily intercepted if they do not provide strong encryption. Activists should use messaging apps that have more layers of protection and have more enhanced digital security that protects communication via text. (please see annexure)



Physical security:

Are you being followed? If you suspect you are under physical surveillance, do the following :

- Remain calm and do not confront suspected monitors
- Get to a place of safety and call for help
- Report the suspicious activities to the police by calling 10111
- Report the suspicious activities to Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network offices in South Africa by calling the following hotline : 078 125 1062



If you suspect your organisation has been intercepted, do the following :

- Report suspicious activities to your supervisor or safety officer
- Change all your passwords immediately
- Delete unnecessary apps on your technological devices immediately
- Switch to safer instant messaging applications as an organisation

PHYSICAL SECURITY

WHAT IS IT?

Repression threatens the physical security of activists. Risks to physical security concerns situations and environments that could make an individual feel unsafe or be in situations and environments that place them in danger or at risk of danger to their physical (and mental) wellbeing. Threats to physical safety can result in activists feeling vulnerable, anxious, confused and often helpless.

Activists that are targeted or at threat of being attacked live in constant fear of their physical safety. This often includes fearing for their lives. This is a completely justified fear as activists have been killed for their activism work.

Women and gender non-conforming people are particularly highly targeted. The impact of threats to the physical security of activists affects not only themselves but their families and loved ones. Strategies and tactics



are therefore needed to deal with the physical safety concerns that come with repression.

There are many forms of physical security threats concerned when repression takes place. Below are some examples of threats to physical security, however, this list is not exhaustive.



1. Unlawful arrests of activists

This involves unlawfully detaining activists including through locking them up in police holding cells, keeping activists in police vans unlawfully and arresting activists for peacefully protesting without any plausible or concrete criminal allegations.



2. Use of police force or private security to deter protests

Threats to physical security mostly happen during protests. This is when activists are practicing their rights to protest and are in direct confrontation with those violating their rights. Unlawful arrests happen when police do not have the rights or any proof of violence during the protests but proceed to arrest activists to deter them from practicing their right to protest. Private security in some instances is used by institutions to stop activists from protesting. In many instances these are witnessed during student protests.



3. Harassment

Harassment takes place in several ways. Suppose that Zinzi who is a gender justice activists constantly has people following her and calling her to tell her she is promiscuous and a bad influence to young girls because she advocates for the rights of gender non-conforming persons or Sindiswa who has a person calling her every night and then hanging up every time she speaks up against the illegal mining activities happening in her town.



4. Physical attacks and Death threats

Many instances of threats to physical security happen through death threats or even physical attacks. This includes being assaulted, kidnapped, threatened with death, forced to leave where you stay and move elsewhere due to threats to your life as well as many other attacks that affect a person's physical safety.

Here are some examples of physical security threats:

Sibongile is known in her community as a leader. She is actively involved in crime prevention in her community. One evening, as Sibongile got home, she found 5 men wearing balaclavas waiting for her at her gate. They assaulted her to "stop disturbing the businesses of drug lords".

Dikeledi, continues to get anonymous SMSs on her phone with the words "continue with this nonsense and we will kill you". She also received pictures of corpses on her phone. Dikeledi is an active member of the local community forum that advocates for increased community benefit from mining.

WHAT TO DO WHEN FACING PHYSICAL SECURITY THREATS?



Changing contact details frequently

In instances where activists face physical safety threats through harassment, threats, or death threats via their cell-phones, a common best practice is to change contact details frequently and only share the numbers with trusted people.



Alerting loved ones on your location

It may also be helpful to alert trusted and loved ones of your location when you feel you may be at risk of physical harm.

Finally, these are only a few ways in which you could face threats to your physical security. There can be many more risks.

Please contact the police if you are in any immediate danger or need to report any other suspicious activities. Please contact the Centre for Applied Legal Studies on 011 717 8600 or the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network hotline on 078 125 1062 if you need to be moved to a place of safety or if you require assistance or advice in taking precautionary measures.



Staying vigilant

Activism requires one to always be vigilant. Activists are at increased risk of physical threats so one must always be vigilant of their surroundings. This includes keeping a close eye on the people or cars around you, not keeping a set routine to avoid being easily tracked and where possible, installing security devices in private dwelling.



Safety houses

Safety houses assist where an activist and their family are at imminent risk of physical harm. This can include activists who have been assaulted and fear they will be attacked again, activists who have received death threats or any other threats of harm against them or their loved ones. Through safety houses, activists are removed from their residential place and placed temporarily into safer and undisclosed locations until risks to themselves or their families have minimised. Organisations such as the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network can move activists facing physical safety threats to safehouses. They can be contacted on 078 125 1062.



FIGHT
FOR YOUR
RIGHTS

AREAS IN WHICH

ACTIVISTS NEED SUPPORT

SUPPORT



- Solidarity amongst activists and social movements is important to fight repression. In addition, other stakeholders and members of society who are in solidarity with activists and who are also committed to fighting repression can help demand the ending of the targeting of activists.
- Global allies and building a global community network can also be pivotal to fighting repression.
- Financial support to activists, movements and communities can also assist in resisting victimisation.
- Formulate working groups to support activists' different needs and provide support both locally and globally based on existing structures.
- Creating communication channels and networks such as WhatsApp groups, networking in communities and the use of social media to provide access to assistance for more people.
- Rapid responses to instances of victimisation: creating clear channels where activists can report and having a network of organisations that can provide assistance as needed.
- Localised mobilisation- communities organising with other communities, social movements connecting with other social movements etc. This way, common interests can be established to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and strategies.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE



- Lawyers that can be provide legal assistance when needed.
- Legal representation in instances of SLAPP suits.
- Legal assistance for bail applications.
- A rapid response team for coordination of legal needs.

EDUCATION



- Facilitating peer-to-peer learning.
- Providing activist training through an activist school.
- Facilitating key information exchange and learnings for activists.
- Training on safety and security such as digital security training measures.
- Activist training and education on fundraising as well as managing and distributing resources.



CONTACT LIST OF ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS



PROVIDING SUPPORT TO ACTIVISTS

RIGHT2PROTEST PROJECT (R2P):

This is a coalition of various organisations and is based at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand. R2P focuses on defending the right to protest in South Africa. It provides protest related legal support, training, bail representation and other advocacy to activists facing repression due to their participation in protests.

Tel: 0800 212 111

www.r2p.org.za

CENTRE FOR APPLIED LEGAL STUDIES (CALS):

CALS is based at the University of the Witwatersrand and it focuses on using the law to advance social justice and human rights. They provide legal representation to activists as well as research, advocacy and training on activist repression.

Tel: 011 7178600

www.wits.ac.za/cals

PAN-AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK (AFRICANDEFENDERS):

A continental network of five sub-regional human rights defender organisations that coordinate protection, advocacy, and solidarity efforts for defenders across Africa.

Hotline: +256 200 760 700

panafrica@defenddefenders.org

www.defenddefenders.org

LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (LHR):

LHR is a public interest law organisation focused on advancing human rights and social justice. One of LHR's programmes involves supporting activists and communities within the environmental justice sector.

Tel: 011 339 1960

www.lhr.org.za

LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE (LRC):

The LRC is a nonprofit law clinic that works to advance human rights and social justice through litigation, advocacy, and legal education. They provide legal assistance to activists and communities facing repression.

Tel: 011 038 9709

www.lrc.org.za

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA:

While a part of the broader Amnesty International network, the South African chapter of Amnesty International focuses on human rights issues within the country, including supporting activists facing repression.

www.amnesty.org.za

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AFRICAN INITIATIVE OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (AIWHRD)

A pan-African, women-defender-led protection and care network dedicated to safeguarding women human rights defenders (WHRDs) across Africa.

info@whrd-initiative.org

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STUDENT ACTIVIST SUPPORT CENTRE (SASC)

A solidarity initiative providing documentation, legal, psychosocial, and advocacy support to student activists facing repression, particularly across Southern Africa.

admin@sascentre.org

www.sascentre.org

SOUTHERN AFRICA LITIGATION CENTRE (SALC):

SALC is a regional organisation that uses strategic litigation to promote human rights and the rule of law. They provide legal support to activists and organisations addressing social justice issues.

Tel: 010 596 8538

enquiries@salc.org.za

www.southernafricalitigationcentre.org

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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION INSTITUTE (FXI):

The FXI focuses on promoting freedom of expression and access to information. They provide legal support and advocacy to journalists, activists, and organisations facing threats and censorship.

Tel: 011 482 1913

fxi@fxi.org.za

www.fxi.org.za

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LAND AND ACCOUNTABILITY RESEARCH CENTRE (LARC):

LARC, based at the University of Cape Town, works to advance land and accountability rights. They provide research, advocacy, and legal support to communities and activists facing repression due to land-related issues.

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS INSTITUTE (SERI):

SERI is a human rights organisation that supports communities, social movements, individuals and other non-profit organisations in South Africa and beyond to develop and implement strategies to challenge inequality and realise socio-economic rights. SERI also supports activists facing various forms of repression.

Tel: 011 356 5860

info@seri-sa.org

www.seri-sa.org

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CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS (CER):

CER is a public interest law organisation that defends the right of communities and civil society organisations to an environment not harmful to the health or wellbeing of present and future generations. It uses litigation, advocacy and activist support and training to assist, support and advance the rights of activists.

Tel: 021 447 1647 / 011 447 1647

info@cer.org.za

www.cer.org.za

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RELEVANT CHAPTER 9 INSTITUTIONS

The role of these state institutions is to promote rights and support our constitutional democracy. They are to be impartial, independent and subject only

to the Constitution and the relevant laws made in terms of the Constitution. They must exercise their powers and perform their functions "without fear, favour or prejudice". These institutions are:

- The Public Protector
- The South African Human Rights Commission
- The Commission for Gender Equality
- The Auditor-General

THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR

protects citizens from unfair treatment by the state and its officials as well as from inefficient administration and dishonesty with respect to public money.

Tel: 012 366 7000 (National)

www.pprotect.org

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (SAHRC)

is responsible for promoting respect for human rights by all South Africans as well as protecting and monitoring human rights in South Africa. It does this through raising public awareness, training programmes, special projects, and through enquiries, hearings and legal interventions. The SAHRC receives and investigates complaints of violations of human rights.

Tel: 011 877 3600 (National)

www.sahrc.org.za

THE COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY (CGE)

monitors gender equality and is particularly concerned with the

rights of women and gender non-conforming persons. It investigates and challenges laws, practices and customs that discriminate against people because of their gender. It monitors government, the private sector and other organisations to ensure that they promote and protect gender equality. Focus areas include the representation of women in public life, employment equity and the problems of violence and abuse against women.

www.cge.org.za

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S

office must check on the accounts, financial statements and financial management of all government departments at all levels of government. It is the taxpayers' watchdog, ensuring that their taxes are well spent. It promotes accountability, helps fight corruption and prevents waste.

www.agsa.co.za

OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ACTIVISTS:

NDIFUNA UKWAZI

Tel: 021 012 5094

contact@nu.org.za

nulawcentre@nu.org.za

SECTION 27

Tel: 011 356 4100

info@section27.org.za

www.section27.org.za

EQUAL EDUCATION LAW CENTRE

Tel: 021 461 1421

Tel: 0800 110 752 (Toll Free)

Tel: 079 135 3402 (WhatsApp - Law Clinic)

info@eelawcentre.org.za

www.eelawcentre.org.za

WOMEN'S LEGAL CENTRE

Tel: 021 424 5660

info@wlce.co.za

communications@wlce.co.za

www.wlce.co.za

BLACK SASH

Western Cape: 021 422 0717

Gauteng: 011 834 8361

Eastern Cape: 041 487 3288

KwaZulu Natal : 031 301 9215

Email: info@blacksash.org.za

Website: www.blacksash.org.za

LAWYERS AGAINST ABUSE

Tel: 072 031 1840

info@lva.org.za

www.lva.org.za

OPEN DEMOCRACY ADVICE CENTRE

Tel: 021 447 1177

helpline@odac.org.za

www.opendemocracy.org.za

- **DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-right-and-responsibility-individuals-groups-and>

- **THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS**

u.int/sites/default/files/treaties/36390-treaty-0011_-_african_charter_on_human_and_peoples_rights_e.pdf

- **THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS**

<https://achpr.au.int/en>

- **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996**

<https://www.justice.gov.za/legislation/constitution/saconstitution-web-eng.pdf>

- **UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

- **THE KIGALI DECLARATION 2003**

<https://caselaw.ihrda.org/en/entity/oglw8etpol309f200996btg?page=1>

- **VICTIMISATION EXPERIENCES OF ACTIVISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA:**

Second Edition by the Centre for Applied Studies, October 2022

<https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/faculties-and-schools/commerce-law-and-management/research-entities/cals/documents/programmes/rule-of-law/resources/Victimisation%20Experiences%20of%20Activists%20in%20South%20Africa%202022.pdf>

- **INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ACT 65 OF 2002**

<https://www.gov.za/documents/intelligence-services-act>

- **REGULATION OF INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION-RELATED INFORMATION ACT 70 OF 2002**

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/a70-02.pdf

- **PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING GROUP WEBSITE:**

<https://pmg.org.za/page/state-institutions-supporting-democracy>

- **CIVICS ACADEMY WEBSITE:**

<https://civicsacademy.co.za/what-are-chapter-9-institutions/>



NO Justice
NO Peace



