

APPENDIX 4

Check list: capacities identified by HRDs

This check list is not intended to be a blueprint for security. Your own context is the key determining factor. Consider the risks and threats you face, and any vulnerabilities you have in order to supplement and personalise this list.

Knowledge:

- about the risks and threats facing you
- about your legal rights, your country's laws, national and international remedies
- about your community, culture and political system
- about how to deal with stress

Contacts:

- Supportive local community
- Capacity to mobilise large numbers of people quickly
- Local contacts – human rights organisations, media, and influential figures
- Contacts in the government, police and other key actors
- Contacts in Embassies (particularly European Union and Norwegian Embassies) which have specific guidelines for the protection of HRDs (see Front Line Handbook for Human Rights Defenders – What protection can EU and Norwegian Diplomatic missions offer?¹)
- Regional and international human rights networks and organisations²

Planning:

- Security plans for every day risks
- Contingency plans in case the worst risks materialise
- Emergency plan (in the event of unexpected risk materialising)
- Clear responsibilities for security
- Mainstreaming security in work plans
- Regular reviews of security plans

Organisation / office:

- Good public reputation
- Relevant physical security - gates, locks, secure doors and windows, safe, good lighting etc
- Clear organisational mandate (so it can be explained quickly to others, eg at a checkpoint)
- Supportive environment for discussing risks
- IT security (eg firewall, anti-virus and malware protection , password system, risks of internet cafes, safe email addresses, encryption of documents)
- Clear systems for handling sensitive information
- Visitor policy to prevent unauthorised access

Other:

- Own behaviour - living within the law
- Supportive family
- Access to a safe house if required
- Safe transport
- Financial resources
- Health insurance
- Ability to manage stress

Vulnerabilities are a lack of these capacities – consider what you need to develop.

1. http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/files/FL_Handbook_EU_Guidelines_ENGLISH.pdf
 2. See Appendix 17 List of useful organisations for HRDs