



DUBLIN
Front Line Defenders – Head Office
First Floor, Avoca Court
Temple Road, Blackrock
Co. Dublin, A94 R7W3, Ireland

info@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +353 1 212 3750
fax +353 1 212 1001

BRUSSELS
Front Line Defenders – EU Office
Square Marie-Louise 72
1000 Brussels
Belgium

euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +32 2 230 9383
fax +32 2 230 0028

Dear friends and colleagues,

After 20 years with Front Line Defenders, as Deputy Director, and then since 2016 as Executive Director, the time has come for me to step down. This February marks my 20th anniversary with Front Line Defenders, an organisation I have been honoured to lead. With this milestone, I now look forward to the opportunity to let others take on the leadership of this exceptional organisation. I am confident I am leaving an organisation that is in excellent shape with a hugely dedicated and talented staff team, a strong new Strategic Plan for 2023-27, robust funding and a track record of delivery on behalf of human rights defenders at risk. Last year, the organisation delivered another record of over 1000 protection grants to the most at risk HRDs around the world, including in severe crises such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iran and Myanmar. With over 100 defenders in attendance, the 2022 Dublin Platform last October was again a brilliant manifestation of the range and diversity of human rights defenders we are providing support to.

Olive Moore, who has made a huge contribution over the last two years as Deputy Director, will now step up as Interim Director for the transition period, while the recruitment of the new Director takes place. I have great confidence in Olive, who will be supported by a strong management team during the transition period.

Our partnerships with our donors have been notable for the strong collaboration and trust which have underpinned them. I thank you for the positive working relationships that we have achieved together and for your continued collaboration during this transition period and onwards.

I would like to put on record my huge thanks to our Chair Denis O'Brien, the Board, our brilliant staff and fellows, our generous donors and all those who have helped Front Line Defenders fulfil its mandate to protect human rights defenders over the years. And of course most of all I want to thank the courageous and inspiring human rights defenders I have had the opportunity to meet with and support. My heart will always be with you.

My one sadness as I leave Front Line Defenders is that my friend and colleague Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja remains unjustly imprisoned in Bahrain almost twelve years on from his arrest, torture and the sham trial which sentenced him to life. I will not be stepping down from the campaign to #FreeAlKhawaja.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrew Anderson'.

Andrew Anderson

Front Line Defenders Board of Directors
Denis O'Brien, Jim Conway, Roja Fazaeli, Maria Mulcahy, Kieran Mulvey, Mary Jane Real (Philippines), David Sykes, Arnold Tsunga (Zimbabwe), Verónica Vidal (Uruguay)

Front Line Defenders International Advisory Council
James L. Cavallaro, Maryam Elahi, Michel Forst, Hina Jilani, Mary Lawlor

Front Line, The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders trading as Front Line Defenders, is registered in Ireland as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Registered Office: First Floor, Avoca Court, Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 R7W3, Ireland.

Company No. 593190; Registered Charity No. 20204494; CHY 22404