

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Repression of Civil Society/HRDs

- Executive branch actions to silence and punish critics, opponents, and those who fail to adhere to the administration's ideologies
 - Law firms
 - Colleges and universities, students
 - NGOs

Repression of Civil Society/HRDs

- Legislative branch actions targeting NGOs
 - Efforts to pass legislation allowing administration to strip non-profit status
 - Hearings targeting NGOs
 - Unfounded investigations

Repression of Civil Society/HRDs

- Misuse of counter-terrorism laws and infrastructure
 - Designation of “antifa” as a domestic terror organization
 - Designation of foreign “antifa” organizations
 - International “antifa” summit
- These actions are a prelude to designating domestic NGOs as “terrorist-supporting”

Recommendations for USA

- Resume full cooperation with international human rights bodies and mechanisms
- Ensure that rights to freedom of speech and association are fully protected and that individuals and organizations are not penalized for disfavored speech or other lawful actions
- Ensure that counterterrorism laws and mechanisms are not misused to repress dissent

Recommendations for Human Rights Council and Member States

- Hold the US accountable for its lack of cooperation with the UPR process
- Raise the situation of civil society and human rights defenders in bilateral discussions
- Express concerns about the situation of civil society and human rights defenders directly to the US administration at the highest levels