

**Justice NOW! Ratify to  
Protect all Human Rights**

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS



June 5, 2009

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol\* warmly welcomes the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and looks forward to its prompt entry into force. The Optional Protocol restores the original unified vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but most importantly, opens the possibility to victims of ESCR violations to seek a venue for justice at the international level.

As we approach the ceremony marking the opening for signature of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to be held in New York on 24 September 2009, we would like to urge the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ to commit to being present and to signing the Optional Protocol during this ceremony. We would also like to request that your Government devote the necessary engagement to ensure that a substantial number of countries participate and sign the Optional Protocol at that time, with a view towards its ratification and subsequent entry into force. While signing the Optional Protocol will represent only the first step to achieve this goal, we consider that the outcomes of this ceremony will send a strong message to the world regarding the commitment of the international community to ensure the full protection of all human rights for all persons.

As we have expressed on other occasions, becoming a party to the Optional Protocol also reinforces the commitment of States to develop and ensure effective remedies for victims of violations of economic, social and cultural rights at both the domestic and international levels. Signing the Optional Protocol will be a tangible demonstration of that commitment.

Excellency, we would welcome the opportunity to meet and further discuss this issue with you or the Permanent Mission of \_\_\_\_\_ in Geneva during the ongoing sessions of the Human Rights Council. We look forward to continued work with your Government around the Optional Protocol. A copy of this letter will be sent to said Mission and to your country's Mission in New York.

Thank you for your support,

The Steering Committee of the International NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR:

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, UK; Community Law Centre, South Africa; Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Switzerland; International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), USA; Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) International Secretariat, Germany; International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Switzerland; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), France; International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia-Pacific (IWRAP Asia-Pacific), Malaysia; Inter-American Platform of Human Rights, Democracy and Development (PIDHDD), Paraguay; Social Rights Action Centre, (SRAC), Canada

If you would like to contact the Steering Committee, please e-mail [op-coalition@escr-net.org](mailto:op-coalition@escr-net.org) or call +1(212) 681 12 36 Ext. 26.

*\*The NGO Coalition for an OP is formed by more than 300 organizations and individuals from more than 60 countries working for social justice worldwide.*