

# Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

- Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association are fundamental human rights and the cornerstone of any democratic system
- UN report 2012 highlights FoA is frequently undermined by governments or is at risk in many countries for other reasons. It underlines the need for the International Community to promote and protect FoA
- SOLIDAR initiated a Global Campaign to promote and guarantee freedom of association



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# Global policy campaign: Goals

- Voice towards EU policy makers the violence of FoA faced by SOLIDAR members, members partners and Global Network members
- Advocate on the EU level to ensure FoA to be prioritised in the Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy
- Include FoA as a key element within bilateral relations developed through Association Agreements including Free Trade Agreements and Economic Partnership Agreements



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## The global policy campaign

- Kick off event:

Round Table in Brussels: *Mobilising for Freedom of Association. Human Rights defenders tell their stories.* (October 2012)

- SOLIDAR drafting committee produced a framework briefing paper with a common understanding of FoA and 12 general and specific recommendations
- 12 mechanism of violation of FoA were defined and underlined with a concrete case from SOLIDAR members and partners



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# Mechanisms of violation

- Physical violence
- Bureaucratic scrutiny and harassment
- Differentiated treat
- Parallel (yellow) unions
- False criminal accusations
- Restricted legal framework
- Non-tolerance in controversial areas
- Restriction of other civil and political rights
- No legal right to strike
- Union discrimination
- Government interference
- Blocked foreign financial assistance



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# The global campaign: What's next?

- Launch of a teaser campaign:
  - Fact sheets from SOLIDAR members, partners and Global Network members highlighting infringements of the right to FoA (May - November)
  - Video's with testimonials of human rights defenders
- Official campaign launch at a conference in Brussels, (November 2013)

