



# HUMAN RIGHTS IN MADAGASCAR

*Extrajudicial executions  
Freedom of the press*

*By GTT International Geneva, collective of the  
Malagasy Diaspora*

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*UPR Info Pre-sessions*

# Madagascar : Status of Extrajudicial executions

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- Recommendations of last UPR (2014)
  - Undertake a comprehensive reform of the judicial system, including the establishment of a credible system of accountability for security force abuses (USA)

# Madagascar : Status of Extrajudicial executions

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- ▣ Between 2014-2019 the death of
  - 3000 presumed outlaws and
  - 1000 civilians were reported
- ▣ Many were killed from helicopter raids against villages.
- ▣ There has been no proper judicial procedure.

## **Last examples**

- ▣ June 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, one elderly, one woman and a handicapped child.
- ▣ 2018 30 people killed

# Madagascar : Recommendations on Extrajudicial executions

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We ask

- The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions to conduct an investigation in Madagascar;
- The judiciary system to punish the authors of alleged crimes;
- The State to provide proper indemnities to the families of victims.

# Madagascar : Status on Freedom of the press

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- Recommendations of past UPR
  - *A - 109.5 Decriminalize defamation, abolish insult laws and take all additional measures to ensure, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists (Ireland);*
  - *A - 109.6 Take concrete steps to protect and promote freedom of expression and press freedom as outlined in the road map for ending the crisis (Japan);*
  - *A - 109.8 Step up its efforts in order to provide a safe environment for journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors (Tunisia);*
  - *A - 109.9 Remove the restrictions on the capacity of journalists to freely criticize the Government without fearing reprisals by updating the law on communication of 1990, and the Special Commission on Audio-Visual Communication (Canada)*

# Madagascar : Updates on Freedom of the press

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## 2016

- ▣ law on cybercrime revised
- ▣ Code of Media communications has been published

Still, journalists and civil society members are not able to work in a safe environment.

## 2019

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| January 27th,               | journalist arrested on charges of violating state security;  |
| February 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,  | 2 Facebookers arrested for insult to the head of State.  |
| September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , | 3 journalists and a municipality officer have been arrested under the pretext of spreading false news. |

# Madagascar : Recommendations on Freedom of the press

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Amend the Cybercriminality law and Code of media communication until they truly create a safe environment which protects journalists, human rights defenders and all civil society actors against abuses:

- Remove criminal liability for defamation, contempt, and slander;
- Review excessive fines;
- Repeal the offence of sedition and of insulting public officials;