



## Detention

Prevention	Reaction
Objective: reduce the impact of the detention on the detainee, the organisation, and the detainee's family.	
Individual	Organisational (if applicable)
<p>Objective: reduce the reasons and the exposure that might cause or facilitate the detention of any member of the organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish checking in routines.</li> <li>Agree on steps to be taken in case of a 'no news' situation.</li> <li>Make sure you have the contact of a lawyer who would be willing to defend you.</li> <li>Memorise your lawyer's number and your security focal point's number.</li> <li>Assess the risks of detention, including possible sources, and determine what leverage you could have on these sources to achieve a release.</li> <li>Agree beforehand on what you can say and cannot say to those who have detained you.</li> <li>Ethical behaviour of individuals and organisation is crucial so as to reasonably exclude personal and organisational breaches of common law.</li> <li>What is ultimately needed is a political action strategy aimed at deterring the authorities from arresting.</li> </ul>	<p>The most important consideration is to ensure that outside help is aware of what is occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alert your security focal point within your organisation. Communicate as much information as you could gather.</li> <li>Alert your embassy or consulate yourself if you can. Communicate as much information as you could gather.</li> <li>Identify yourself clearly as a representative of your organisation.</li> <li>Wait until your lawyer is with you before answering any question.</li> <li>Never sign anything you don't agree with or in a language you don't understand.</li> <li>Know your legal rights and be persistent in requesting that you are granted them.</li> <li>Emphasise their humanitarian work and the neutral, impartial and independent nature of their organisation and its activities.</li> <li>Remain conciliatory; avoid becoming antagonistic.</li> <li>Listen to their captors and try to find out what is motivating them and what they want or hope for.</li> <li>Do not make promises in order to obtain a quick release, and always be clear that they are not in a position to make final decisions or firm commitments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium-term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a defender is detained, and we do not anticipate being able to secure their release in the short term, medium-term objectives and steps should be introduced without losing focus on short-term objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>Establish an ad hoc working group to react to the detention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine where the staff member is being held and by whom.</li> <li>Determine why he/she is being held.</li> <li>Mobilise your lawyer.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities (embassies, consulates, etc...)</li> <li>Inform other HRs or humanitarian organisations and ask for advice or support.</li> <li>If the defender continues to be detained, try and attend to their personal needs - safety, food, healthcare, contact with their family and the organisation, etc. from the beginning of and throughout the process</li> </ul> <p><b>Measures aimed at the family and relatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform the family and relatives if the person is not going to be released soon.</li> <li>Establish and maintain trust.</li> <li>Develop a clear approach towards the family. Provide support and keep them informed (appoint a link person for the family).</li> <li>The family will want time and attention from the organisation. Expect fluctuating attitudes and initiatives from the family.</li> <li>In case of long-term arrest or imprisonment, it is important to plan support for the family of a detained defender.</li> </ul>