

SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
[HRC resolution 28/9]

*Appointment of a special procedures mandate holder to be made
at the 30th session of the Human Rights Council (14 September - 2 October 2015)*

How to apply:

The entire application process consists of two parts: **1. online survey** and **2. application form in Word format**. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed before the deadline for the application to be processed.

First part: Online survey (<http://icts-surveys.unog.ch/index.php/934635/lang-en>) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and nominating entity.

Second part: Application form in Word can be downloaded from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC30.aspx>, completed and saved in Word format and then submitted as an attachment by email. Information provided in this form includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words. The application form should be completed in English only. It will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for each vacancy and will be made available to concerned parties, including through the OHCHR public website.

Once fully completed (including Section VII), the application form in Word should be submitted to hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org (by email). A maximum of three reference letters can be attached in Word or pdf format to the email (optional). No additional documents such as CVs or lists of publications will be accepted.

- **Application deadline: 7 July 2015 (12.00 noon GMT)**
- No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.
- Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

General description of the selection process is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx>

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or fax at + 41 22 917 9011.

An acknowledgment email will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form by email.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.

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I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family name: BENNOUNE	5. Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female
2. First name: KARIMA	6. Year of birth: 1967
3. Maiden name (if any):	7. Place of birth: USA
4. Middle name:	8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): USA
	9. Any other nationality:

II. MANDATE - SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE

NOTE: Please describe why the candidate's competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:

1. QUALIFICATIONS (200 words)

Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)

Karima Bennoune has advanced degrees in Law (Juris Doctor), Middle Eastern and North African Studies (Master's Degree) and Women's Studies (Graduate Certificate) from the University of Michigan in the United States. She also studied at the International Institute of Human Rights. Professor Bennoune has taught graduate courses in international law and human rights at leading institutions around the world for 14 years, including at the University of California, Davis, as well as in Oxford University's Human Rights Program and in the Gender Institute at CODESRIA, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, based in Dakar. Her scholarly publications in human rights have appeared in leading international journals such as the Columbia Human Rights Law Review, the European Journal of International Law, the International Criminal Law Review, Arab Studies Quarterly and UNESCO's International Social Science Journal. Bennoune has also authored many human rights policy papers on complex topics such as women in armed conflict, and the work of the Security Council, both for NGOs and governments. Bennoune is an award-winning writer, has lectured on five continents and possesses outstanding communication skills in English. She is also fluent in French and proficient in Arabic.

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2. RELEVANT EXPERTISE (200 words)

Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)

Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations' work in the area of human rights. (Please state how this was acquired.)

Proven work experience in the field of human rights. (Please state years of experience.)

Karima Bennoune has extensive knowledge of international human rights law and policy, including in the field of cultural rights, as well as expertise on women's human rights, international humanitarian law, international refugee law and international organizations in the field of human rights. She acquired this expertise through study, teaching, and years of practice. From 1995-1999, she served as a legal adviser to Amnesty International, participating in constructive dialogue with governments on a range of human rights issues. She also took part in numerous research missions in many regions of the world, taking into account a diverse range of views, and in a spirit of objectivity and impartiality. She has in-depth familiarity with the human rights machinery of the United Nations, having cooperated with many of these bodies during her career, having served as a consultant for UNESCO and regularly teaching about the UN human rights systems. Professor Bennoune has worked on many cultural rights issues, including an on-going and extensive academic project on the targeting of intellectuals, several widely-cited publications on women's human rights and freedom of religion, and an award winning book on the efforts of many Muslims, including artists, to counter violent extremism and defend local cultures.

3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)

Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)

Professor Bennoune's work in the fields of human rights and international law has been widely recognized both nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards for her research and writing about international human rights, including the 2014 Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the 2011 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award at Rutgers University, the Derrick Bell Award from the Association of American Law Schools Section on Minority Groups (which she was the first Arab-American and the first person of Algerian descent to win), the Scribes Award for Outstanding Legal Writing and the Ziad Asali Award from the Association of Arab American University Graduates. Her work has been cited in reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and the UN Special Rapporteur on protecting and promoting human rights while countering terrorism. Professor Bennoune is a former member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, the leading association of international lawyers in the United States. A noted commentator on

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human rights issues, she has appeared regularly in the media around the world, including CNN, BBC radio, and Algérie Presse Service, as well as writing for the New York Times, the Guardian Comment is Free and Al Jazeera English.

**4. FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME (200 words)
to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. (Indicate whether candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year to the work of a mandate.)**

This candidate is a university professor and therefore has the flexibility and availability for this post. She engages in international travel regularly and is adept at adapting her schedule to make this possible. She has additional availability during the lengthy break in classes in December and early January, during the spring holiday, and from mid-April to mid-August. In the last year, she carried out human rights related travel to more than 10 countries, in 5 regions, and is highly skilled at planning and executing such travel, and melding it with her ongoing academic activities. This would make it entirely possible for her to devote three months, and more, to carrying out the mandate, and striving to do so with excellence, timeliness and thoroughness.

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III. MOTIVATION LETTER (600 word limit)

“A Nation Stays Alive When Its Culture Stays Alive.” This is the motto of Afghanistan’s national museum which I visited during a recent human rights research trip. I know this saying to be true from both personal and professional experience. The struggle to defend cultural rights is indeed of global, national and personal significance everywhere.

I came to work in human rights because of the suffering of my Algerian family at the hands of colonial forces during the war of national liberation – a heritage I first learned about during the portion of my youth spent in Algeria, my father’s home country. I was determined to draw the appropriate lessons from what happened during the colonial period, including the killing of my grandfather by colonial forces, and to work against the repetition of such practices anywhere. It is my Algerian family’s participation in the independence movement and their striving for freedom that first instilled human rights values in me. They were peasants who struggled to preserve their way of life in the face of colonial occupation. This heritage has left me with deep respect for diverse local cultures, and unwavering commitment to the universality of human rights, two things which I understand to be in harmony, not at odds. As UNESCO’s World Report noted, “[r]ecognition of cultural diversity grounds the universality of human rights in the realities of our societies....”

During my extensive human rights field research in recent years, I have witnessed heroic efforts by people to protect their cultural rights and cultural space – whether artists in South Asia who continued performances despite threats and attacks, or educators in the Middle East who collaborated to enable children to cross “separation barriers” to access culture. I have seen women from West Africa to Southeast Asia working to claim equality in cultural rights. I have learned from those in Eastern Europe who have courageously memorialized histories of oppression decades later when it became possible to do so. If named Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, I would work to support such efforts by local actors around the world to similarly ground the universality of human rights in the specificities and complexities of their own contexts and cultures. I would be committed to working in defense of cultural rights in all regions, and in accordance with the principles of non-selectivity and objectivity. I would aim to not simply preach universality but practice it.

My work would build on the excellent foundation created by the outgoing rapporteur, Ms. Farida Shaheed. Many of the issues she has emphasized, including preservation of cultural heritage, and a gendered perspective on cultural rights would be vital to pursue. I would also seek to respond to urgent and emerging demands such as widespread destruction of cultural heritage sites, whether due to globalization or violent extremism, and the rights of those with multiple cultural identities.

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I would be committed to carrying out an inclusive dialogue on cultural rights, with a wide range of governments, civil society, youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrant workers and women's human rights defenders. It would also be a priority to consult closely with UN bodies whose mandates overlap with this one, such as UNESCO, CERD, and CEDAW.

As Special Rapporteur, I would work tirelessly, drawing from my expertise in human rights, to promote the human right to culture, which the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has described as "an interactive process whereby individuals and communities, while preserving their specificities and purposes, give expression to the culture of humanity." This is a vital process which belongs to and must benefit all humankind.

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IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)

Please indicate all language skills:
Mother tongue:

Arabic: Yes or no: **yes** If yes,

Read: Easily or Not easily: **not easily**
Write: Easily or Not easily: **not easily**
Speak: Easily or Not easily: **not easily**

Chinese: Yes or no: **no** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily:
Write: Easily or not easily:
Speak: Easily or not easily:

English: Yes or no: **Yes** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily: **easily**
Write: Easily or not easily: **easily**
Speak: Easily or not easily: **easily**

French: Yes or no: **yes** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily: **easily**
Write: Easily or not easily: **easily**
Speak: Easily or not easily: **easily**

Russian: Yes or no: **No.** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily:
Write: Easily or not easily:
Speak: Easily or not easily:

Spanish: Yes or no: **No.** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily:
Write: Easily or not easily:
Speak: Easily or not easily:

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V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD

NOTE: Please list the candidate's academic qualifications (university level and higher).

Name of degree and name of academic institution:	Years of attendance (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003):	Place and country:
Juris Doctor (J.D.) with honors, University of Michigan Law School	1990-94	Michigan, USA
Master's of Arts (M.A.), Middle Eastern and North African Studies; Graduate Certificate, Women's Rights	1990-94	Michigan, USA
Certificate in Human Rights Law, International Institute of Human Rights	1989	Strasbourg, France
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), History and Semiotics, With Honors, Brown University	1984-1987	Rhode Island, USA

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VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD

NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held, beginning with the most recent one.

Name of employer, functional title, main functions of position:	Years of work (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005):	Place and country:
University of California, Davis School of Law, Professor of Law and Martin Luther King, Jr. Research Scholar	2012- present	California, USA
Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, Professor of Law and Arthur L. Dickson Scholar	2002-2012	New Jersey, USA
University of Michigan School of Law, Visiting Professor of Law	2001-2002, 2008-2009	Michigan, USA
Amnesty International, Legal Adviser	1995-1999	London, UK

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VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)

Section to be completed by the candidate or the nominating entity on his/her behalf.

1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause him/her to limit the extent of their inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.

No.

2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate's ability to act independently in discharging his/her mandate? If yes, please explain:

No.

3. Is there any reason, currently or in that past, that could call into question the candidate's moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which she/he discharges his mandate? If yes, please explain:

No.

4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1?

Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.

Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate holders will act in their personal capacity.

Yes.

5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, he/she will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.

N/A.
