

POSITION: RESEARCHER/WRITER FOR THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR

LOCATION: SCHELL CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, YALE LAW SCHOOL, REMOTE AND ONLINE

START DATE: ASAP

CONTRACT LENGTH: NEGOTIABLE

THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

The mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was established in 1992 under Commission on Human Rights Resolution 58 and has been extended annually. The Special Rapporteur presents findings, analysis and recommendations to each session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and annually to the UN General Assembly.

The UN Human Rights Council appointed Tom Andrews to be the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and Andrews began his mandate on May 1. Mr. Andrews is Senior Robina Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School's Schell Center for International Human Rights.

THE SCHELL CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

The Schell Center offers law students and graduates diverse opportunities to apply the lessons they are learning in the classroom to further the cause of human rights and to examine human rights practice critically. It also brings critical human rights discussion to the wider university community. At the same time, it provides a forum for international human rights practitioners to consider the theoretical issues their work entails and for scholars studying human rights to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. In addressing these needs, the Schell Center seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of international human rights issues; to equip lawyers and other professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to advance the cause of international human rights; and to assist human rights organizations.

POSITION OVERVIEW:

The Researcher/Writer will support the Special Rapporteur (SR) in conducting research and preparing reports to the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly, as well as articles, presentations and other communications concerning human rights in Myanmar. She/he/they will support the SR and his team in monitoring the human rights situation in Myanmar, analyzing information through the framework of international human rights and humanitarian law, and assisting with the development of high-impact strategies to effect positive change to promote and protect human rights.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

In collaboration with the SR and others on his team, the Researcher/Writer will:

- Support the SR and his team in monitoring human rights practices in Myanmar and documenting human rights violations; identify and investigate priority human rights issues and support the SR and his team to corroborate facts in line with best practices; summarize issues in need of further research in well-cited internal memos; and provide sound analysis of

research findings within the framework of international human rights and humanitarian law, along with concrete recommendations to address specific violations, as needed.

- Draft and edit original written material in a timely manner, including potentially: internal memoranda and analysis of human rights findings; sections of draft reports to the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly; letters to governments or other stakeholders; press releases; long-form reports; submissions to the United Nations or other international bodies; and other written materials, including op-eds and journal articles.
- Provide accurate and timely notes from the SR's meetings and strategic advocacy with government officials, elected representatives, members of the diplomatic community, representatives of UN and other international agencies, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and other human rights defenders, as needed.
- Perform other tasks as requested.

The researcher/writer will report directly to the SR and may work closely with law student research assistants.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- B.A. or B.S. degree or the equivalent, as well as relevant graduate degree or comparable experience, preferably in international human rights, Myanmar and/or Southeast Asia, nongovernmental organizations, or the UN system. Experience in human rights research, documentation, strategic advocacy, and engagement with governments preferred but not required.
- The ability to quickly develop knowledge on the human rights situation in Myanmar and the ability to produce high-quality written material in a timely manner.
- Solid understanding of human rights and humanitarian law and ability to apply the framework of human rights and humanitarian law to human rights violations.
- Strong communication and inter-personal skills and a positive, flexible attitude.
- Excellent writing, organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a flexible team located in disparate locations and a willingness to learn and contribute to a positive team environment.
- Desire to implement innovation and creative solutions to complex problems.
- Fluency in written and oral English required. Myanmar or other relevant language skills a plus.

Compensation: Salary of \$50-60K, depending upon experience, plus benefits.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Please send cover letter, CV and brief writing sample (not more than 10 pages) in a single PDF file to schell.law@yale.edu. Questions may be addressed to Hope Metcalf, hope.metcalf@yale.edu.