



## INCLO statement on the U.S.' Commission on Unalienable Rights

July 23, 2019

Eleven INCLO member organizations\* from around the world working to protect fundamental rights and freedoms join hundreds of prominent human rights organizations, U.S. presidential candidates, Democratic senators and religious leaders to express their profound concern over the decision of the Trump administration to establish a “Commission on Unalienable Rights” mandated to “review the role of human rights in American foreign policy”.

The letter calls on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to disband the Commission and to focus his personal attention “on the significant challenges currently facing the protection of human rights globally.”

INCLO members stand by the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) and the credo that all rights are universal and equal to all people, including those from marginalized and historically oppressed communities.

“The decision of the Trump administration to redefine universal human rights sends a dangerous message to the world, undermining the legitimacy of the 70-year old global human rights system and emboldening rights violators worldwide” says *Gaston Chillier*, the Executive Director of CELS, our member organization in Argentina. “In a country like ours, we are concerned that this move will have a significant detrimental impact, not least because of the government's decision to subordinate Argentina's foreign policy to that of the U.S.”

*George Kegoro*, the head of KHRC, an INCLO member and a flagship human rights and governance organization in Kenya says: “The United States, once such an effective force in restraining autocrats around Africa, has now joined in the use of the dictatorship’s playbook

with this latest attempt to redefine human rights. It is an abdication of leadership which will have unimaginable consequences on Africa's long-suffering populations."

[Letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from more than 350 US groups opposing the Commission on Unalienable Rights](#)

[ACLU blog: Pompeo's New 'Human Rights' Commission is Up To No Good](#)

\*The letter was signed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Agora International Human Rights Group (Agora, Russia), Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS, Argentina), Dejusticia (Colombia), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), Human Rights Law Network (HRLN, India), Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Legal Resources Centre (LRC, South Africa), and Liberty (United Kingdom).