

Physicians for
Human Rights



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**Using Science and Medicine to
Stop Human Rights Violations**

Physicians for Human Rights Submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Universal Periodic Review: India, 27th Session – September 22, 2016

About Physicians for Human Rights

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) is a global organization that uses medicine and science to document and call attention to mass atrocities and severe human rights violations. PHR was founded in 1986 on the idea that health professionals and forensic experts, with their specialized skills, ethical duties, and credible voices, are uniquely positioned to stop human rights violations. PHR shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its work on the treaty to ban landmines.

PHR has extensive experience conducting investigations on the use of excessive force during demonstrations and, particularly, the health effects of the use of tear gas and rubber bullets for crowd control. PHR studies have documented severe injuries due to birdshot and rubber bullets in Egypt, Palestine, Panama, and the United States, and abuse of tear gas posing risks to health in Bahrain, South Korea, and Turkey. PHR also has extensive experience defending doctors who come under threat because of the duties of their profession and in documenting violations against medical neutrality – the longstanding principle which obligates states and armed groups to protect medical personnel and compels health care providers to treat all individuals regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or political affiliation.