



VADEMECUM

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FIDU - Federazione Italiana
Diritti Umani e
Italian Federation for Human Rights

IPHR International
Partnership
for Human Rights

International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR) is an independent, nongovernmental organisation founded in 2008. With a presence in Brussels, Kyiv, and Tbilisi, IPHR works closely with civil society groups in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia to raise human rights concerns at the international level and promote respect for the rights of vulnerable communities. IPHR has been documenting atrocity crimes committed in the context of Russia's war on Ukraine since 2014 and has been using collected evidence for accountability purposes.

► <https://iphronline.org/>

✉ IPHR@IPHRonline.org



The Italian Federation for Human Rights – Italian Helsinki Committee (FIDU) is a non-profit civil society organization active since 1987. It promotes and protects human rights based on international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. Based in Rome and operating nationally and internationally, FIDU monitors violations, raises public awareness, and advocates for state compliance with human rights commitments. Its activities include education, training, environmental advocacy, social inclusion, and development cooperation. FIDU also promotes peace, nonviolence, and the culture of legality through conferences, research, publications, and partnerships with universities and civil society.

► <https://fidu.it/>

✉ segreteria@fidu.it

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What is transnational repression (TNR) and how to recognize if you are a victim

Transnational repression (TNR) refers to actions taken by governments or affiliated groups to suppress and control individuals such as dissidents, activists, journalists, or political opponents beyond their national borders. These actions aim to silence free expression, political criticism, and human rights advocacy internationally. Victims of TNR may face serious human rights violations, including physical and psychological threats, privacy breaches, abuse of international legal tools (such as INTERPOL), cyberattacks, and risks of unlawful extradition.

How to recognize if you are a victim of TNR

TNR can manifest in various ways. Below are examples of situations that may indicate you are a victim:

- **Physical threats and intimidation:** Attacks, assaults, or direct threats from government agents or their affiliates, both within the host country and across borders.
- **Legal persecution and misuse of international instruments:** Abuse of international arrest warrants or INTERPOL Red Notices to intimidate, detain, or deport individuals.
- **Cyber threats:** Cyberattacks, phishing, spyware, or other forms of digital surveillance aimed at collecting private information, disrupting political activities, or spreading fear.
- **Interference in private life:** Physical or virtual surveillance, harassment, or privacy breaches through monitoring social media or other communication tools.
- **Pressure on family and friends:** Direct or indirect threats against individuals close to you, whether in your home country or abroad.
- **Mobility restrictions:** Blacklisting or actions that limit freedom of movement, such as passport revocations or travel bans.
- **Financial threats:** Laws allowing state-backed attacks on assets, freezing bank accounts, or blocking crowdfunding platform accounts, aimed at crippling individuals or organizations financially, particularly those involved in political opposition or activism.

Section 1

What to do if you experience threats, intimidation or cyber attacks

If you believe you are a victim of TNR, act immediately to protect yourself and your rights. Here's what to do:

1. Seek protection:

- Contact an immigration and human rights lawyer.
- Reach out to an organization that supports foreigners' rights.
- Apply for international protection (**see Section 2**).
- If you're already a refugee, notify Italian authorities of any threats.
- Avoid contact with representatives from your home country unless fully trusted.
- Limit your online presence and secure your social media and digital communications.

2. Report the threat to Italian authorities:

- **Questura (Police station):** report threats, intimidation, or harassment.
- **Procura della Repubblica (Public Prosecutor's Office):** file a formal complaint if you face a concrete threat, preferably with legal assistance.

3. Request the cancellation of an INTERPOL Red Notice:

- If you receive an unjust or illegitimate INTERPOL Red Notice, seek its cancellation with the help of an immigration lawyer.

Section 2

How to apply for asylum in Italy

If you are a victim of TNR and seek protection in Italy, you can apply for asylum by following these steps:

1. Contact the immigration office:

- Submit your asylum application at the Immigration Office (Ufficio Immigrazione) of the Questura (Police station) in your city.
- Apply within 3-5 days of arrival to avoid irregular status, though applications are accepted at any time.

2. Formalize your application:

- Provide personal details, religion, political affiliations, and reasons for leaving your country (with an interpreter if needed).
- Biometric data (fingerprints, photograph) will be collected, and your passport will be retained.

3. After submitting the application:

- You will receive a temporary residence permit (known as the "yellow permit") allowing you to stay in Italy during the examination process.
- After 60 days, you can legally work in Italy.

4. Application examination:

- The Territorial Commission for the Recognition of International Protection will review your application.
- You may be called for an interview with an interpreter to explain your reasons for leaving your country and the risks of returning.

5. Decision on the application:

- If accepted, you will be granted refugee status, subsidiary protection, or special protection.
- If rejected, you may appeal the decision before the Civil Court (Tribunale Civile).

Section 3

What to do in case of arrest or extradition request

If your home country has requested your extradition or you have been arrested for TNR-related reasons, act quickly by following these steps:

1. Do not sign anything without a lawyer:

- If arrested, immediately request a lawyer. Do not sign any documents before consulting legal counsel. You have the right to a lawyer, including a court-appointed one if necessary.
- A lawyer is essential to challenge any unlawful extradition requests.

2. Verify the legitimacy of the extradition request:

- Italy does not grant extraditions to countries that violate human rights. If you risk torture or political persecution, you can oppose extradition.
- If you have asylum or international protection, Italy cannot extradite you until your asylum request is resolved.

3. Oppose the extradition request:

- If the request is politically motivated, you can challenge it with the help of a specialized lawyer.
- The Italian Court of Appeal (Corte d'Appello) will decide whether to grant or deny the extradition request.
- If the Court of Appeal rules in favor of extradition, you have the right to appeal the decision before the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation (Corte di Cassazione), which serves as the highest court of appeal for ensuring the correct application of the law.