

## The right to freedom of peaceful assembly in Asia

# What to observe and document during an assembly

Members of the assembly observation mission should provide an objective and factual account of what they witness before, during, and after the assembly, in relation to the conduct of both assembly participants, law enforcement officials, and other groups and individuals (counter demonstrators, medical personnel, journalists, lawyers, and other observers).

In completing the template provided below, the assembly observation mission members should only include information that they witnessed first hand. They should clearly distinguish any secondary sources of information.

### General Information

Conduct of the assembly participants

Nature of the assembly

Non-discrimination

Counter demonstrations

Deployment of law enforcement

Conduct of Law enforcement

Dispersal of the assembly

Detention and arrests

Medical aid and assistance

## What to observe and document during an assembly

## General Information

Date of the assembly observed

Stated objective of the assembly and its demands

Observer location

Organizers of the assembly

Duration of the protest (*start/end times*)Absence or presence of journalists/  
National Human Right Institutions/ other assembly observers

YES

NO

Longer answer/comments

## Conduct of the assembly participants

How many people were present?  
(*approximately*)What actions by assembly participants did  
you observe?Was there violence by the participants and/  
or counterdemonstrators?☐☐

If so, what triggered the violence?

Was violence isolated to a few isolated  
instances?☐☐Were participants inciting others to use  
violence?☐☐Was there manifestly widespread incitement  
or intention of violence among participants?☐☐Did the conduct of the assembly  
participants infringe on the rights and  
freedoms of others (*non-participants*)?☐☐Was the assembly peaceful (*under  
international standards*)?☐☐

YES NO Longer answer/comments

## Nature of the assembly

What forms of expression were displayed?

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Were there any restrictions on the modalities (i.e. signs, banners, flags, loudspeakers, use of sound system etc.) or expressive content (speeches, banners, etc.) of the assembly?

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## Non-discrimination

Were certain individuals or groups prevented from participating in the assembly?

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Were certain groups such as women, LGBTIQ groups present at the assembly?

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## Counter demonstrations

What was the nature of the interactions between the demonstrators and counter-demonstrators? (any provocative language/ physical violence)

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Who were the counter-demonstrators? (individuals with political affiliation/non-state actors/ state-backed groups/individuals.)

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What was the role of law enforcement with regard to counter demonstrators?

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## Deployment of law enforcement

How many police officers were present (estimate number)?

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Were they armed?

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What type of equipment did they carry?

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Were members of the armed forces and/ or paramilitary and/or court authorities/ prosecutors present?

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Was the behavior of law enforcement officers intimidating towards the participants?

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Were barricades or other forms of obstructions used?

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	YES	NO	Longer answer/comments
Was force used by law enforcement officials when policing the assembly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Did law enforcement officials try to de-escalate situations that <i>(might have)</i> resulted in violence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were warnings issued prior to the use force?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were the principles of necessity and proportionality upheld in using force?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were firearms used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were firearms used in an indiscriminate manner or targeted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Did law enforcement resort to the use of firearms after exhausting other less dangerous means <i>(used as a last resort)</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were less lethal weapons <i>(batons, tear gas, water cannons)</i> used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was there serious public disorder that justified the use of less lethal weapons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were water cannons used against persons at short range?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were water cannons targeted at assembly participants who were restrained and unable to move?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were water cannons used against persons in elevated positions, where there was a risk of slipping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was tear gas used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was tear gas targeted at groups of violent individuals or was it used to disperse the entire protest?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was tear gas launched from a distance at a high angle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were they targeted on the head or face of anyone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was teargas used in a confined space?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

YES

NO

Longer answer/comments

## Dispersal of the assembly

Under what circumstances was the assembly dispersed?

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## Detention and arrests

Were arrests made before, during, or after the assembly?

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How many people were arrested?

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Were those arrested subject to cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment?

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Were journalists, observers, medical personnel, or by-standers arrested or targeted in other ways by law enforcement officials?

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## Medical aid and assistance

Was medical aid and assistance available?

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How many people (*among both law enforcement, participants, and other individuals*) were injured during the protest?

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How many journalists, lawyers, medics, and assembly observers were injured?

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