

**PRESS RELEASE**

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MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL  
COMMISSION EXPRESS DEEP  
CONCERN OVER THE HARASSMENT  
OF THEIR COLLEAGUE **ANAND  
GROVER**



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*(Geneva, 16 July 2019)*

While country representatives were discussing human rights mainstreaming at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, we learned that our colleague and fellow Global Commission member, Anand Grover, has seen his homes raided by India's Central Bureau of Investigations. Anand, one of the most prominent human rights figures in India and globally, is being harassed for over three years now in relation to alleged funding irregularities for Lawyers Collective – a non-governmental organization he co-founded with his partner and acclaimed human rights defender and Supreme Court lawyer Indira Jaising–, reaching its epitome with the raids of last week.

Anand Grover has been a tireless and outspoken advocate for health, rights and dignity for all, and has not shied away from addressing wrong policies. As a Supreme Court advocate and lawyer, Anand has spent the last thirty-nine years binding by due process, using litigation to advance rights, and defending the rule of law in different parts of India and the world. We hope these principles of an independent and democratic judiciary, that he bounded himself with, will be applied to him in the current investigation.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy stands by its member Anand Grover, and requests the authorities in India to cease the harassment of Lawyers Collective, Indira Jaising and Anand Grover; to respect judicial due process and wait for the result of the appeal of the 2016 report by the Ministry of Home Affairs against Lawyers Collective; and most of all to stop immediately the growing and worrying trend of attacks on civil society and its long fought and necessary freedom.

Signed,

**Louise Arbour**

Former High Commissioner for Human Rights, Canada

**Pavel Bém**

Former Mayor of Prague, Czech Republic

**Richard Branson**

Entrepreneur, founder of the Virgin Group, co-founder of The Elders, United Kingdom

**Fernando Henrique Cardoso**

Former President of Brazil

**Maria Cattai**

Former Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce, Switzerland

**Helen Clark**

Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

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**Nick Clegg**

Former Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom

**Ruth Dreifuss (Chair)**

Former President of Switzerland and Minister of Home Affairs (chair)

**Mohamed ElBaradei**

Director General Emeritus of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egypt

**César Gaviria**

Former President of Colombia

**Michel Kazatchkine**

Former Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France

**Aleksander Kwaśniewski**

Former President of Poland

**Ricardo Lagos**

Former President of Chile

**Kgalema Motlanthe**

Former President of South Africa

**Olusegun Obasanjo**

Former President of Nigeria

**George Papandreou**

Former Prime Minister of Greece

**José Ramos-Horta**

Former President of Timor-Leste

**Jorge Sampaio**

Former President of Portugal

**Juan Manuel Santos**

Former President of Colombia

**George Shultz**

Former Secretary of State, United States of America (honorary chair)

**Javier Solana**

Former European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Spain

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**Cassam Uteem**

Former President of Mauritius

**Mario Vargas Llosa**

Writer and public intellectual, Peru

**Paul Volcker**

Former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve and of the Economic Recovery Board, United States of America

**Ernesto Zedillo**

Former President of Mexico

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**About the Global Commission on Drug Policy**

The [Global Commission on Drug Policy](#) is an independent body comprising 26 members, including 14 former heads of state or government and four Nobel Prize laureates, and currently chaired by Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland. Its purpose is to bring to the international level an informed, evidence-based discussion about humane and effective ways to reduce the harms caused by drugs and drug control policies to people and societies.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy has issued [nine reports](#) since its creation in 2011. These respectively detail the extent of the failure and damage of five decades of prohibition and punitive measures, reveal the impact of repressive policies on health epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, the lack of access globally to essential pain medication, biased perceptions surrounding drugs, the need to prioritize public health approaches, decriminalization of drug use and proportional sentencing and, ultimately, the responsible legal regulation of psychoactive substances.

The Commission has also published [three position papers](#), on the opioid-fueled overdose crisis in North America, drug policy and the Sustainable Development Agenda, and drug policy and the deprivation of liberty.

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