

Le Bâtonnier

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Chairman

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Geneva, 25 September 2019

**Ref: Assassination of Mr. Derk Wiersum**

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Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ordre des avocats de Genève (ODAGE), which represents more than 1,500 lawyers in Geneva. The ODAGE is member of the Swiss Federation of Lawyers, the Union Internationale des Avocats, the International Bar Association, as well as of the International Observatory of Endangered Lawyers.

The ODAGE has been deeply shocked by the murder of our colleague Derk Wiersum on 18 September 2019.

The ODAGE would like to express its solidarity and present its deepest condolences to the family of Derk Wiersum and to the Amsterdam Bar Association.

We also believe that the Netherland authorities' attention should be drawn again on the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, according to which "*Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities*" (Principle 17).

Respectfully yours,

Lionel Halpérin  
Chairman

