



# ALLIANCE FOR LAWYERS AT RISK

Registered Charity no 1205449

The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk promotes human rights by supporting and protecting lawyers who risk their own safety to defend the rights of activists in jurisdictions where the rule of law is fragile. It brings together prominent individual and corporate members of the legal community in the UK, united by a shared commitment to amplifying the voices of lawyers and human rights defenders working under challenging and often dangerous conditions.



The Alliance was founded in 2010 by Sir Henry Brooke, who described it as *“an opportunity for lawyers in the UK, individually and through their firms and Chambers, to fulfil our commitment to the protection of human rights around the world and help our fellow professionals.”*



The ability to bring human rights claims before the courts against public authorities or corporate interests is often taken for granted in the UK. In many parts of the world, however, lawyers and other human rights defenders face significant risks. They are frequently subjected to threats and intimidation and even physical attack – all in the course of their work. The Alliance stands in solidarity with these lawyers and defenders and supports them in their efforts to continue to fight for the rule of law.



Louis Monterrosa accepts the 2026 Award on behalf of his wife, Ruth López, who remains in custody in El Salvador



Sir Geoffrey Vos, the Master of the Rolls, speaking at the ceremony



Louis Monterrosa following his acceptance speech on behalf of Ruth López

## DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: 31 October 2026

### THE AWARD

Nominations are invited for the Sir Henry Brooke Award, the annual award presented by the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk.

The Award recognises a legal practitioner or human rights defender who, through personal endeavour in the course of their practice in a challenging environment, has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion, protection and advancement of human rights and the rule of law.

Through the Award, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk publicly celebrates the work and achievements of lawyers at risk, honouring their essential, yet often unseen, contribution to the defence of human rights. Previous Award recipients include Ruth López, Virginia Laparra, Adil José Meléndez Marquez, Donald Hernandez, Maricela Vazquez, Carla Palacios, Dina Meza, Reinaldo Villalba, Naomi Barasa and Daniel Prado.

The Award is named after, and honours the life and legacy of, the late founder of the Alliance, Sir Henry Brooke. A man of remarkable conviction, integrity and generosity, Sir Henry Brooke's life and career were characterised by his tireless commitment to justice, equality and the protection of human rights.



*“This award from the British legal community is very significant as a demonstration of solidarity and support for Ruth López and her struggle for human rights and liberty in El Salvador.”*

**Louis Monterrosa on behalf of Ruth López,  
recipient of the 2026 Sir Henry Brooke Award**

### DETAILS

The Award will be presented at a ceremony in London in March 2027. Nominations should be submitted using this [form](#).

There are no requirements for the nationality or country of origin of nominees.

An independent selection committee comprising Professor Christine Chinkin (chair), Lord Dyson, Sir Patrick Elias, Maya Lester KC and Lizzette Robleto de Howarth will select the Award winner according to the following criteria:

1. The nature of the work undertaken by the individual to defend fundamental freedoms and promote human rights and the rule of law.
2. The way in which that work has helped to protect and promote the rights and interests of marginalised and/or vulnerable groups or individuals within the community.
3. How the individual has sought to overcome the challenges they have encountered in undertaking their work in defence of human rights and the rule of law.
4. The impact of the individual's work, whether locally or more broadly.
5. The extent to which the individual exemplifies Sir Henry Brooke's commitment to justice, equality and human rights.

### NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms should be sent by **31 October 2026** to [admin@lawyersatrisk.org](mailto:admin@lawyersatrisk.org)