

**TARGETED STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 2023 RULE OF LAW REPORT
UN HUMAN RIGHTS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (OHCHR)**

AUSTRIA REVIEW

IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

Other – please specify

Undue restrictions to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and of association – In May 2022, four UN Special Procedure mandate holders entered into a dialogue with Austria expressing concern at information received concerning the motion adopted by the Municipal Council of Vienna at its 39th session on 27 June 2018, which included undue restrictions to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and of association in its decision to make premises or facilities unavailable to campaigns or events organized by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement or by groups pursuing its aims. They further expressed concern that the City of Vienna's filing of a lawsuit against a member of BDS Austria may hinder the peaceful activities of human rights defenders committed to monitor and denounce human rights violations in occupied Palestine, shrinking the civic space available to them to express legitimate grievances. They asked for information about how the adoption of the above-mentioned motion complies with Austria's obligations under international human rights law to respect and promote the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and of association, and about measures have been taken to ensure that human rights defenders and organizations denouncing human rights violations as part of the BDS movement are able to carry out their legitimate work in a safe and enabling environment, and without undue restrictions ([AL AUT 2/2022](#)).