



1943-2013
20 years
defending
your rights

PROGRAMME

Open House Day – 1943-2013: 20 years defending your rights

14 September 2013 | 10:00 am – 18:00 pm

Palais Wilson, rue des Pâquis 52, Geneva, Switzerland

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Ground Floor Conference Room

11:30 – 13:00 WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Women human rights defenders put themselves on the front line in the promotion and protection of human rights. In doing so, they face risks that are specific to their gender and additional to those faced by men. Frequently, the violence or threat against them is sexual in nature, or they are subjected to restrictions in their work on account of their gender. Furthermore, prejudice, exclusion and public repudiation by both state forces and social actors weigh heavily in their lives.

PARTICIPANTS

JUSTINE MASIKA BIHAMBA is a human rights worker in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As coordinator of the women's human rights NGO *Synergie des femmes contre les violences sexuelles (SFVS)*, she and her family have been targeted by the Congolese military. Ms. Masika Bihamba has made a formal complaint to the Chef d'état-major of the Congolese Armed Forces in Goma. She will testify about her personnel experience and her fight for human rights.

KARIM LAHIDJI began his career in 1965 defending hundreds of political prisoners who opposed the imperial Iranian regime in the sixties, and later the Islamic regime before the military, civil and Islamic courts. Harshly threatened because of his dedication to defend human rights, Mr. Lahidji was forced into exile in France in 1982. A year later, he founded the Iranian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LDDH), a member organization of the *Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (FIDH)*, for which he now serves as president.

SAFAK PAVEY is a Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the first female member with a disability of the Turkish Parliament. Previously, Ms. Pavey has worked for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as an advisor on child rights, education and gender programmes, as well as a spokesperson. She was also a peace solutions activist in a number of conflict areas including Afghanistan, and worked for the UN Human Rights Office as the Secretary of the CRPD.

MODERATOR

Ms. FLAVIA PANSIERI, Deputy UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

15:00-16:30 ▶ **REPRISALS AGAINST THOSE WHO COLLABORATE WITH THE UN TO DENOUNCE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**

Harassment, intimidations and alleged reprisals against individuals and groups that cooperate with the United Nations in the field of human rights are of mayor concern. Information on human rights situations from the ground is fundamental for an efficient and results-oriented promotion of human rights. Therefore, the protection and safety of the individuals targeted must be a top priority of the UN human rights system, including the Human Rights Council, and all instances of reprisals and intimidations deserve unequivocal condemnation.

PARTICIPANTS

CHALOKA BEYANI, a Zambian national and professor of International Law at the London School of Economics, was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in 2010. Mr. Beyani has extensive experience in human rights, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, humanitarian assistance, migration, refugees and displaced persons. He was involved in drafting and negotiating the regional mechanism of

the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, as well as the African Union Convention on Internally Displaced Persons.

PHIL LYNCH is Director of the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), a leading Geneva-based international NGO which works to support human rights defenders, strengthen human rights systems and lead coalitions for human rights change. Prior to joining ISHR in 2013, Mr. Lynch worked as Director of the Human Rights Law Centre in Australia and as head of Australia's first specialist homeless persons' legal service.

HASSAN SHIRE SHEIKH helped found the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project in 2005 in Uganda and the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network in 2009. For a number of years, he has served as the coordinator of the African Human Rights Defenders Project at the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Canada. He also engages actively with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the UN Human Rights Council and the Community of Democracies.

MODERATOR

Ms. JANE CONNORS, Chief, Special Procedures Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

CINEMA

10:00 - 18:00 - 1st floor Meeting Room 1016

"The UN treaty body system": ten committees of human rights experts monitor States' compliance with the international human rights treaties they have ratified. This documentary explains their work. OHCHR, Tinopolis Interactive, 39 min.

"The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples": the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples is one of three specific UN mandates on the rights of indigenous peoples. It provides thematic advice to the UN Human Rights Council. OHCHR/IWGIA, 30min.

"Stories on Human Rights": Internationally recognised filmmakers and artists joined forces to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by contributing to a unique project composed of 22 three minute short films inspired by the six overarching themes of the Universal Declaration: culture, development, dignity and justice, environment, gender and participation. This is an initiative of the UN Human Rights Office produced by the NGO ART for *The World*. 84 min.

"From the Kitchen to the Parliament": director Stéphane Goël recounts the struggle of four generations of Swiss women for the right to vote and stand for election. From 1917- 1969, the cantons in waves refused to grant women voting rights. In 1959, the Federal Council organized a vote on women's suffrage at the national level; 67% of men

voted against. It was not until 1990, following a complaint lodged by four women from Appenzell (Inner Rhodes) that a judgment of the Federal Court forced their canton to grant women political rights. Climage/ RTS, 66 min.

"Defend the defenders": in 2007, in the face of growing dangers that threaten those who fight for respect for human rights, the World Organization against Torture (OMCT), supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAE), called upon several international personalities to put their fame in the service of the protection of human rights defenders. These documentary films show their journey. OMCT/ DFAE, 60 min.

"Martin Ennals Award nominees and laureates profiles": the Martin Ennals Award (MEA) for Human Rights Defenders is granted annually to someone who has demonstrated an exceptional record of combating human rights violations by courageous and innovative means. The award aims at encouraging Human Rights Defenders who are at risk and therefore in need of immediate protection. MEA, 62 min.

"The Work of the UN independent experts": Special Rapporteurs are independent experts charged with investigating and reporting on specific human rights thematic and country or territory mandates. OHCHR, 50 min.

"Human Rights Issues": short videos on the work of the UN Human Rights Office and thematic human rights issues. OHCHR, 120 min.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

RS-022 and Salle des pas perdus

11:00 | 16:00: PUPPET SHOW

Children's human rights will be explained to 5-7 year-olds through a puppet show.

14:00: MUSICAL WORKSHOP

Children will make their own instruments out of recycled materials and use them during an improvised jam session at the end of the workshop.

EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER GAMES

An interactive computer game for children aged 8-12 will also make them experts in human rights. They will even have a diploma they can take home with them when they successfully complete the game.

GUIDED TOURS

10:30 | 12:00 | 14:30

Palais Wilson was built from 1873 to 1875 and was originally known as the Hôtel National. It is one of Geneva's historic architectural staples and has been the world headquarters of the UN Human Rights Office since 1998. When Switzerland joined the League of Nations in 1920, the premises became the organization's first headquarters. In 1924, the building was renamed Palais Wilson after the death of US President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Woodrow Wilson, who played an important role in the establishment of the League of Nations during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference after World War I. A local historian will guide visitors around Palais Wilson and reveal its many secrets.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Salle des pas perdus

12:00 | 15:00 | 16:00 | 17:00

Poets and spoken-word artists will give their interpretation of human rights. Featuring performances by Caramel Brown, Thierry Badinganda, Stanley Kenani, Eunide Gachoud, and members of the UN Music Club in Geneva.

EXHIBITIONS

Palais Wilson hosts a number of works by artists from around the world that were donated to the UN Human Rights Office over the years and displayed around the building.

Salon des délégués

Hosts a collection of 30 lithographs each depicting an article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The authors are world famous painters from Spain and the Americas. Their works were donated to the United Nations by Juan Carlos King of Spain in 1984 and later transferred permanently to Palais Wilson in 1998.

Salon des dames

Featured in this temporary exhibition are reproductions of old pictures of Palais Wilson dating from the inception of the League of Nations (*Société des Nations*) in the 1920s. The photographs were kindly provided by the Archives of the Société des Nations (*SDN*).



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Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



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All activities for the Open House Day are free of charge

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