



Intimidation and reprisals against those engaging with the UN on human rights How best to respond?

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1.15 - 2.30pm

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“I stress the absolute unacceptability of any act of intimidation or reprisal (...) These acts run contrary to the very principles of the United Nations, and violate human rights(...) The United Nations has a collective responsibility to take action to respond to and prevent these acts(...) This responsibility is part of our Charter-based duty to promote and encourage respect for human rights - not only a normative duty, but an operational imperative for ensuring respect for human rights, sustainable development and building secure and peaceful societies.”

– UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Report of the Secretary-General on Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (A/HRC/36/31, para. 68-69)

Intimidation and reprisals undermine human rights, in particular the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Please join us for a discussion on current risks and trends facing people engaging or seeking to engage with the UN on human rights in the form of intimidation and reprisals. The discussion will focus on the role of the UN in combatting this trend in the following three areas: (i) enhancing high-level engagement on reprisals, including to prevent them and ensure appropriate action when they occur, in particular urgent cases; (ii) developing a more comprehensive response for preventing and addressing intimidation and reprisals throughout the United Nations system; and (iii) ensuring cooperation with all actors, especially Member States and civil society actors, to strengthen efforts already underway.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Andrew Gilmour, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights**
- **Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar, UN Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities and Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures**
- **Mr. Ben Majekodunmi, UN Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General**