



Provisional programme

Peaceful protest: a cornerstone of democracy How to address the challenges?

Thursday 26 – Saturday 28 January 2012 | WP1154

This conference constitutes the eighth in a series of annual human rights meetings sponsored by the Norwegian and Swiss Governments, and brings together human rights experts from governments in all regions with practitioners, academics and other non-governmental expertise.

Following a year in which there have been major popular protests in the Middle East, and other parts of the world, the conference aims to:

- achieve greater clarity on the human rights implications of peaceful protest;
- identify common ground among the international community for ways and means to strengthen protection for human rights in times of civil protest;
- examine how social media can support peaceful protest and defend human rights;
- and contribute towards the work of the United Nations' Special Procedures and other human rights mechanisms.

Attendance at the conference is by invitation only

In co-operation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne

(Speakers invited and themes proposed *denotes to be confirmed)

Thursday 26 January : setting the context

1300-1445 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500 **Welcome and introduction**

Isobelle Jaques

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Representative of the Swiss Government

Representative of the Norwegian Government

1515-1645 **1. The right to peaceful protest: surveying developments and challenges**

***Navanethem Pillay**

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

Adam Roberts

President, British Academy, London; Emeritus Professor of International Relations, Oxford University

1645-1730

Photograph and tea

1730-1900

2. How best to protect human rights in the context of peaceful protest?

Experience from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Christian Strohal

Director, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, OSCE (2003-2008);
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva; Vice President,
Human Rights Council

Experience from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights'

***Pansy Tlakula**

Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights', Pretoria

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 27 January: identifying the fundamental rights and principal actors

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1030

3. What is the scope of the human rights to freedom of expression and assembly? How to find a common basis for interpretation and application of relevant law?

***Frank LaRue**

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Guatemala City

Maina Kiai

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Nairobi

Barbora Bukovská

Senior Director, Law and Policy, Article 19, London

1030-1115

Tea / coffee

1115-1245

4. Parallel working groups:

Working group 1: Freedom of assembly – What are the difficulties in practice?

Introduction and moderation:

Speaker to be announced

Working group 2: Peaceful protest and social media – opportunities and dangers?

Introduction and moderation:

Alaa Jarbaan, Business administration student, blogger and activist, Sana'a

Working group 3: Improving the protection of human rights defenders in the context of peaceful protest

Introduction and moderation:

Hina Jilani, Director, AGHS Legal Aid Cell, Lahore

1300-1430

Lunch

1430-1500

5. Report back from working groups

1500-1630	<p>6. State responses to peaceful protest – what are the consequences? What preventive measures are needed?</p> <p>What are the legal aspects? Michael O’Flaherty Vice Chairperson, Human Rights Committee and Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Responses and consequences *Christof Heyns Professor of Human Rights Law; Co-director, Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, University of Pretoria; United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</p> <p>The view from the ground Representative of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights</p>
1630-1700	Tea/coffee
1700-1830	<p>7. Parallel working groups:</p> <p>Working group 1: Legal protection and the role of law enforcement officials – are there special training needs, and how can accountability mechanisms be made more effective? Introduction and moderation: *Steven Haines Head, Security and Rule of Law Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Geneva</p> <p>Working group 2: Protecting freedom of expression and information in times of tension – the role of journalists and media coverage in relation to freedom of assembly Introduction and moderation: Speaker to be announced</p> <p>Working group 3: What is the role of non-state actors in the context of civil protest, including armed groups and communications companies? Introduction and moderation: Speaker to be announced</p>
1830-1915	8. Report back from working groups
1930	Reception followed by dinner
Saturday 28 January: what role for the international community	
0800-0845	Breakfast
0900-1100	<p>9. What roles can the UN Charter and treaty-based mechanisms play in protecting the right to peaceful protest?</p> <p>*Maria Nazareth Farani-Azevêdo Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva</p> <p>*Ggrigory Y. Lukiyantsev Senior Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, New York</p> <p>NGO representative</p>
1030-1100	Tea/coffee

1100-1230

10. Concluding panel: how can the key issues be carried forward?

***Laura Dupuy Lasserre**

Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations; President of the Human Rights Council, Geneva

Vitit Muntarbhorn

Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The full cost of participation is £1,395. This covers 2 nights' accommodation and all meals during the conference, & attendance at all sessions. Special rates may be available for those from non-OECD countries and also academics and NGO representatives.

Enquiries about participation and local travel to: Mrs Judi Maledy, Conference Delivery, Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex. BN44 3DZ Telephone: +44 (0)1903 817728 Fax: +44 (0)1903 815244 Email: judi.maledy@wiltonpark.org.uk

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