



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS (ICJ)

Cordially invite you to join the discussion on

The Role of Judges and Lawyers in Times of Crisis

Tuesday, 31 May 2011, 15:00 – 17:00
Meeting Room XXII
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Ian Seiderman

Legal & Policy Director, International Commission of Jurists

Gabriela Knaul de Albuquerque e Silva

UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Carlos Ayala Corao

Former Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, former President of the Andean Commission of Jurists

Gerritjan van Oven

President, Judges for Judges

The panel will address the special role to be played by judges and lawyers in times of crisis, as last line of defense against the exercise of arbitrary power by political, military and other actors. Situations of crisis, including armed conflicts, terrorism, political instability, insurgency, states of emergency and natural disasters, may put under enormous strain the capacity of all members of the legal profession to fulfill their essential role, with a corrosive impact on the effectiveness of the administration of justice.

The meeting will also mark the publication of the Legal Commentary to the *ICJ Geneva Declaration on Upholding the Rule of Law and the Role of Judges and Lawyers in Times of Crisis*, which will serve as a valuable guide for members of the legal profession in assuming their crucial responsibilities in a troubled world.

For more information, please contact Ilaria Vena at ilaria.vena@icj.org