

INVITATION

GENEVA

12TH SEPTEMBER 2012 - 14:00 - 15:30

ROOM XXII

Organised on the Initiative of:

Impunity Watch

Co-Organisers:

HIVOS

Human Rights Watch

The Lutheran World Federation

International Service for Human Rights

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

Asian Legal Resource Centre

TRIAL

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Forum Asia

CELS (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales)

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada

FIDH (Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme)

International Commission of Jurists

Side Event on the Occasion of the Presentation of the First Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non- recurrence

21st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council
10 - 28 September 2012



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Why the Side Event?

The appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-recurrence is a unique opportunity to strengthen the work of the countless men and women who have dedicated their lives to fight impunity in post-conflict countries and transitional contexts. The mandate is an important step forward in the combating of impunity and enhancing the environment for human rights defenders.

Impunity Watch and its co-organising partners organise an event that underscores the significance of this landmark appointment. The presentation of the Special Rapporteur's first report opens space for examining experiences from different countries, drawing attention to the importance of the appointment and gathering interested organisations to demonstrate their support for the new mandate. The event will explore the conditions under which different actors can contribute to the strengthening of the mandate with emphasis given to the necessity of integral approaches to dealing with violence, ensuring transformation and encouraging the more effective use of transitional justice that responds to the needs and expectations expressed by victims and human rights defenders. The event aims to provide a first step towards this integrated approach by facilitating exchange and lessons learned between the Special Rapporteur and interested NGOs.

Side Event Programme

Opening	Welcoming remarks and reflections on the new mandate by Impunity Watch Executive Director, Marlies Stappers on behalf of the organisers
Presentation by the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence	Presentation on the major themes and priorities of the mandate, including assessments of key challenges.
Victim Representative Presentations from Burundi and Guatemala	Benjamín Mateo Jerónimo (Asociación por la Justicia y Reconciliación, Guatemala) and Aloys Batungwanayo (CARAVI, Burundi) will comment on the importance of the new mandate for victims in their countries.
Debate	Debate with interested NGOs and the participants.
Closing	Concluding remarks by representative of the organisers.

Purpose

To underline the importance of victims' voices in the design of policies to deal with the past and to publicly examine experiences of transitional justice from around the world, reflecting on progress, obstacles and challenges in order to strengthen the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and encourage the international community to make the best use of the opportunity that the mandate provides.

The Side Event will be an occasion for interested NGOs to reflect upon the specific approaches and strategies proposed by the Special Rapporteur towards the fulfilment of his mandate. Informed by experiences in a number of post-conflict countries, the main challenges of the mandate will be identified and submitted to the UN for consideration. In doing so, policymakers will be sensitised to the challenges faced and the need to afford victims' voices a central role in policymaking. The Side Event also aims to offer a platform for interested NGOs and representatives of victims' organisations to draw attention to the importance of the Special Rapporteur's mandate, ultimately strengthening the mandate through emphasising the importance of an integrated approach to dealing with impunity and ensuring truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.



Photos courtesy of Piet den Blanken and Selim Mawad