

Invitation to a side event to the 26th Human Rights Council session:

# Strengthening the Rule of Law in Venezuela

Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 14.00 – 15.30 pm, Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXVII

In Venezuela today, the rule of law is being undermined by a failure to ensure the independence of the judiciary, prosecutors, and the legal profession. This side event at the 26th session of the UN Human Rights Council will describe the challenges and discuss recommendations towards a better respect for human rights through a strengthening of the rule of law.

The event will present and discuss perspectives from the ground against the backdrop of relevant international standards, drawing on recent reports by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and International Bar Association (IBA) and the expertise of the panelists and audience. It will examine both institutional arrangements and practices, and emblematic individual cases such as the continuing reprisals against Judge María Lourdes Afiuni.

## Speakers:

**Gabriela Knaul** UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

**Pedro Nikken** Venezuelan Lawyer & former President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

**Alex Wilks** Senior Programme Lawyer, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

**Wilder Tüyler** Secretary General, International Commission of Jurists (moderator)

Presentations by panellists will be followed by an interactive session with the audience. English/Spanish interpretation will be provided. Copies of the following reports will be available:

- ***Fortaleciendo el Estado de Derecho en Venezuela (Strengthening the Rule of Law in Venezuela)***, International Commission of Jurists, to be published 5 June 2014.
- ***The Execution of Justice: The Criminal Trial of Judge María Lourdes Afiuni***, International Bar Association, published 29 April 2014.