



Shedding Light on Challenges for Human Rights Defenders in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgian, and North Caucasus – Russian Federation)

Friday 11 March 2011

11:00 – 13:00

Palais des Nations, Room XXII

In connection with calls for pro-democracy demonstrations on 11 March in Azerbaijan, youth activists have suffered heavy retaliation in the last few days. Opposition activists, human rights defenders and independent media are harassed and some detained.

The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders presented her country report after her visit to the Republic of Armenia. The report highlights that authorities continue to limit activities of human rights NGOs and that authorities need to take effective measures to ensure participation and protection of human rights defenders.

At this side-event, human rights defenders from the South Caucasus Network of Human Rights Defenders and Caucasian Knot will assess the situation faced in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and throughout the Caucasian region.

The South Caucasus Network of Human Rights Defenders unites 30 human rights NGOs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Speakers:

- Ucha Nanuashvili Human Rights Centre, Georgia
- Melissa Brown Shakhhatun (Political Prisoners' Wives), Armenia
- Mikayel Danielyan Armenian Helsinki Association
- Intigam Aliyev Legal Education Society, Azerbaijan
- Gregory Shvedov Caucasian Knot

Chair:

- Ane Tusvik Bonde Regional Manager Eastern Europe & the Caucasus
Human Rights House Foundation

*Co-sponsored by: B.a.B.e., ARTICLE 19 Global Campaign for Free Expression, Index on Censorship
Supported by the Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.
Russian / English interpretation will be provided.*