



Side event on 29 September 2011:

How to improve the protection of human rights defenders in the OSCE region? Cases from Russian Federation, South Caucasus, Belarus, Kirghizstan

Over the last year, the human rights defenders in the Russian Federation, South Caucasus and Central Asia have faced increased and more sophisticated pressure from the authorities. In this panel, representatives from human rights organizations in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kirghizstan and the Russian Federation will give examples about the challenges they and their colleagues are facing in their daily work for the defense of human rights. Concrete examples concerning what has been done or could have been done to protect human rights defenders at risk in the countries will be given. The human rights defenders will through examples give recommendations to the present and future Chairmanship of the OSCE concerning how the organization can strengthen the protection mechanism of human rights defenders in the OSCE region.

Speakers at the panel:

Russian Federation: Olga Sadovskaya, Committee Against Torture,
Azerbaijan: Rasul Jafarov, Institute for Reporters Freedom and Safety
Georgia: Nazi Janezashvili Article 42 of Constitution
Kirghizstan: Valerian Vakhitov, Citizen Against Corruption
Belarus: Valentsin Stefanovich, Human Rights Centre Viasna

Presentation of recommendations :

Maria Chichtchenkova, Front Line
Hugo Gabbero, Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (FIDH - OMCT) /
International Federation for Human Rights

Moderator: Ane Tusvik Bonde, Human Rights House Foundation and Dmitri Makarov, Youth Human Rights Movement

Time: 13.15-14.45,
Location: Plenary Hall
Language: Russian/English
Refreshments will be served