

You are cordially invited to an interactive discussion on

Criminalisation of human rights defenders: How should the Human Rights Council respond?

Tuesday, 5 March 2013 – 12:15 PM to 13:30 PM

Palais des Nations, Room 21

Twenty years ago, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action set out that human rights defenders should "enjoy the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the protection of the national law". Two decades later however, there is mounting evidence that, far from being protected by law, the work of human rights defenders around the world is being impaired, restricted and even criminalised.

This session the Council will be called on to take action in response to the restrictions and sanctions imposed on human rights defenders. This interactive discussion, featuring both human rights experts and frontline defenders, aims to assist the Council to develop an adequate and effective response.

The panel will be moderated by Phil Lynch, Director of the International Service for Human Rights. Panellists will respond to questions from the audience, together with questions submitted via [Twitter using #HRDs](#).

Speakers

- Ms Margaret Sekaggya, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders
- Ms Luisa Cabal, Vice President of Policy and Programs, Center for Reproductive Rights
- Dr Willie Parker, medical doctor, USA
- Ms Alba Cruz, human rights defender from Mexico
- Mr Rob Hawke, Peace Brigades International

Organised by the International Service for Human Rights, Center for Reproductive Rights, Peace Brigades International and co-sponsored by Human Rights House Foundation, Civicus, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

