



25th anniversary seminar

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IN THE FRONTLINE OF DEFENSE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Perspectives – challenges – responses

DATE: Tuesday **15th of October 2013**, 12:00 – 15:30
VENUE: Fritt Ord, Uranienborgveien 2, Oslo

Part I: 12:00 – 14:00

Introduction by the Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF)

Sandra Petersen, Executive Director

Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and Norway's engagement in the work for defenders globally

Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Human rights work and human rights defenders' situation in perspective

Jan Egeland, Secretary General at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

«Violations of the right of NGOs to funding: from harassment to criminalisation»

Antoine Bernard, CEO, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Reflections and comments

Jan Helgesen, Deputy Director Norwegian Center for Human Rights and Chair of the Venice Commission

Chair: Liv Hernæs Kvanvig, NHRF

Break

Part II: 14:00 – 15:30

Panel discussion: «Defending human rights in conflict areas»:

Introduction by *J. Aloysius Toe*: «A personal account from the frontline of human rights defence»

Local perspectives from Liberia, Colombia and Pakistan, as well as the role of donors and the international community

Panellists: *Tanveer Jahan (NHRF), Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer (NHRF), J. Aloysius Toe (NHRF), Jan Egeland (NRC), Anne Rimmer (Frontline Human Rights Defenders)*

Facilitator: *John Peder Egenæs, Secretary General for Amnesty International Norway*

FOR REGISTRATION; send an e-mail to info@nhrf.no before **10th of October**.

Speakers:



⊙ **JAN EGELAND** is the **Secretary General** of the **Norwegian Refugee Council**, a position he has held since August 2013. He came from the position as Europe Director of **Human Rights Watch**. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, he was the executive director of the **Norwegian Institute of International Affairs**. As **UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator** from 2003 to 2006, Egeland helped reform the global humanitarian response system and organized the international response to the Asian Tsunami, and crises from Darfur to the Democratic Republic of Congo and to Lebanon. In 2006, Time magazine named him one of the 100 «people who shape our world» www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1975813_1975847_1976579,00.html From 1999 to 2002, he was the **UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser** on Colombia, and from 1990 to 1997 he was State Secretary in the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. He has 30 years of experience in international work with human rights, humanitarian situations, and conflict resolution. Additionally, he was among the initiators of the peace negotiations that led to the **Oslo Accords** between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization in 1993. Jan Egeland was one of the key actors in establishing the **Norwegian Human Rights Fund** in 1988.



⊙ **ANTOINE BERNARD**, jurist, has been the **International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)** CEO since 2010. Previously a consultant with the **United Nations** as well as Paris 2 and Paris 10 International Law research centers, he has been teaching international human rights law and international relations for the past fifteen years. He also lectures at **Paris 2 Human rights research center**.

Mr. Bernard has actively participated in international missions in more than fifty countries and works on a daily basis with local and international human rights actors. A specialist in international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law, he has developed FIDH's approach to the protection of human rights defenders, individual criminal accountability for international crimes, transitional justice, transnational corporations' responsibility and strategic litigation. He has represented FIDH with law enforcement officials, the **International Criminal Court's Prosecutor**, the United Nations Special Representative on Business and human rights' Leadership group, the Advisory board (as its chair, 2008/2012) of the **Global Social Compliance Program**, the **French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights** (as its International affairs Sub-committee Vice-president, 2008/20011). He also litigates as a legal representative before international and regional institutions.

Mr. Bernard has published many articles on the role of civil society, international criminal justice, and human rights standards and practice. His latest publication, *«To repair, prevent and sanction: what can be expected from international criminal justice,»* was published in Making peace, edited by G. Devin at Palgrave MacMillan (2011).



⊙ **JAN E. HELGESEN** is professor at **Norwegian Centre for Human Rights**, where he teaches human rights law and legal methodology. He is very active at the international arena, he has followed closely the main human rights organisations like the United Nations, Council of Europe, CSCE/OSCE. He was the Norwegian delegate to the UN working group drafting the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1998. During the last five years, he was the chairperson of the working group and was entrusted to establish a text which could meet consensus by the states. He has been President, currently First Vice-President of the **European Commission for Democracy through Law, the Venice Commission**. This body has for two decades given advice to states also on human rights issues.



◉ **TANVEER JAHAN** is a women human rights defender with more than 25 years of working experience within the rights community in Pakistan. She has many years of experience from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, however, currently she is leading the organisation Democratic Commission for Human Development based in Lahore. In March 2013 she was elected as a representative for the National Commission on the Status of Women as a civil society representative. Tanveer has been working as a consultant in Pakistan for the NHRF since 2003.



◉ **MR. J. ALOYSIUS TOE** has been one of Liberia's leading human rights activists since 1996, and was at the forefront in the struggle for human rights during Liberia's civil war and the presidency of Charles Taylor. Aloysius has established key Liberian human rights organisations such as Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy, and has received several rewards in recognition of his work. He temporarily resides in the USA to complete a post graduate human rights degree at the Brandeis University. Aloysius has been working as a consultant in Liberia for the NHRF since 2004.



◉ **ELENA REY MAQUIEIRA PALMER** is a women human rights activist with more than 15 years of experience from Colombia. Originally a sociologist, Elena has worked for a wide range of national and international human rights organisations, including the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Peace Brigades International. Elena has edited and contributed to various publications, and carried out research on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology / ICAN. Elena has been working as a consultant in Colombia for the NHRF since 2011.



◉ **ANNE RIMMER** is the Training Coordinator (Personal and Organisational Security) with Front Line Defenders. She has been conducting and evaluation participative workshops on security with human rights defenders (HRDs) at risk from all over the world since 2007. Anne has trained, learned from, and been inspired by hundreds of HRDs from countries including: Afghanistan; Kenya; Mexico; Pakistan; Russia; Saudi Arabia; Yemen and Zimbabwe. She is particularly interested in specific strategies and tactics HRDs use to protect themselves, and in well-being practices for HRDs which assist them to deal with challenging situations. Anne is the author of the Workbook on Security: Practical Steps for Human Rights Defenders at Risk, published by Front Line Defenders, 2011. Her background includes 15 years working at Amnesty International UK Section and 6 years in Sub-Saharan Africa training on gender-based violence and monitoring and documenting human rights violations.



◉ **JOHN PEDER EGENÆS**, Amnesty International Norway, has served as the Secretary General of Amnesty International in Norway since 2007. He has worked for the organisation in various positions for more than 20 years, from AI Campaign Coordinator to Project Officer for AI's Human Rights Education Programme. Egenæs has an academic background in anthropology, in addition to practical teachers training. As a former teacher he has gained experience of working with children and youth with special needs. Almost all his adult life John Peder Egenæs has been advocating the rights of people who have been forgotten, persecuted, or deprived of their right to freedom of speech by the authorities in their respective countries.

The seminar is supported by the NHRF's board as well as:

