



## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS IN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Despite the recognized centrality of protecting and promoting civil society rights and the rights of human rights defenders during elections periods, CSOs and HRDs are commonly subjected to targeted persecution to prevent them from engaging in election-related activities. In Africa, with at least 15 Presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 2015, the challenges facing civil society to help ensure the realization of transparent democratic processes are particularly pertinent.**

**The event will provide an important opportunity to discuss what measures can be taken to ensure greater participation of civil society groups and human rights defenders, to ensure transparent and representative elections in Africa. The panelists will expound on their specific experiences engaging in election-related activities in Burundi, Sudan and West Africa.**

For more information please contact:

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### **WHEN**

Friday, 13 March 2015  
12:30-14:00

### **WHERE**

Room XXIV, Palais des Nations

### **PANELISTS**

Vital Nshimirimana, Forum pour le Renforcement de la Société Civile, Burundi

Mohammed Badawi, African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, Sudan

Solange Fiyat, West Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

### **CHAIR**

John Foley, EHAHRDP