

Eritrea: Crimes against humanity and next steps

Side event at the
UN Human Rights Council
32nd Session

- ▶ **Date:** 24 June 2016
- ▶ **Time:** 10am - 12pm
- ▶ **Venue:** Palais des Nations
Room XXIII



Panellists

Daniel Rezene Mekonnen,
Eritrean Law Society

Biniam Simon,
Radio Erena (Our Eritrea)

Selam Kidane,
Stop Slavery in Eritrea

Moderator

Clementine de Montjoye,
DefendDefenders

Agenda

Experts on Eritrea and Eritrean Human Rights Defenders will share experiences in fighting impunity in Eritrea for the past 25 years and discuss the next steps in light of the Commission of Inquiry's findings.

Refreshments will be provided

Two years after the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation in Eritrea (Col), crimes against humanity and grave human rights violations persist across the country. Indefinite military service, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association and religion remain rampant, provoking the exodus of at least 380,000 Eritreans over the past decade.

Despite repeated calls from the international and regional human rights community, the Eritrean government, to date, has failed to undertake appropriate action to effectively address these and other grave human rights violations in the country.

The 32nd Session of the Human Rights Council provides a number of necessary opportunities to examine developments in the human rights situation in Eritrea and the government's lack of compliance with recent recommendations from the international community. Specifically, during the session, the Col will present its report on human rights violations, with a view to addressing the lack of accountability to crimes against humanity have been recorded in Eritrea.

In light of this, the side event will bring witnesses, whose testimonies will shed light on violations such as those highlighted by the Col's report. They will draw on their experiences to highlight what crimes against humanity translate to on the ground, and make recommendations on the need for continued monitoring to ensure compliance with recommendations, as well as for the formulation of an implementation mechanism to ensure that victims receive justice, truth and reparations, and that those suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity are brought to justice in fair trials.

