



The misuse of anti-terrorism laws in Africa

Undermining civil society, eroding human rights, jailing dissent

Tuesday 16th June 2015

11am-12.30pm

Room IX, Palais des Nations

Terrorist organisations including *Boko Haram* and *Al-Shabab* pose a genuine threat to national security, human rights, regional stability, and civilian populations across Africa.

However, anti-terrorism legislation in many African countries is frequently used as a smokescreen to stifle dissenting voices instead of addressing genuine national security concerns.

This event will discuss and analyze these trends across the African continent. It will assess the broad reach of so-called 'counter-terrorism' legislation and its impact on other rights and freedoms, while exploring possible strategies to successfully challenge these laws without hindering the fight against terrorism. It will explore the role of the United Nations Human Rights Council, including its Special Procedures, in addressing these concerns.

Panelists:

David Kaye, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Leslie Lefkow, Deputy Director, Africa Division, Human Rights Watch

Gabriel Dolan, Board Member, Muslims for Human Rights, Kenya

Mesfin Negash, Civil Rights Defenders, and former Editor of Addis Neger, Ethiopia

Soleyana Gebremichael, Zone 9/ Ethiopian Human Rights Project, via Skype

Moderator:

Rachel Nicholson, Campaigner: Horn of Africa, Amnesty International

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