Preventing the entrenchment of civic space restrictions in Tanzania

Side-event at the 38th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Date: 26 June 2018  
Time: 14:00-15:00

Location: Room XXIV, Palais des Nations

Panellists:

Ms. Vicky Ntetema  
Former BBC Correspondent  
Founder of Under the Same Sun

Ms. Huzla Mchatta  
Legal and Human Rights Centre

Moderator:

Mr. Nicolas Agostini  
DefendDefenders

Tanzania has long been seen as a model for democratic pluralism and stability in East Africa, and is known for its long-standing commitment to improving the human rights of all people, both nationally and within the region.

However, the last three years have been marked by a worrying decline in respect for human rights, including the rights to freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly. A number of laws and practices, including the closure of media outlets, judicial persecution, and the arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, are being used to suppress dissent in the country.

During the side-event, human rights defenders and journalists will discuss Tanzania’s crackdown on civic space, and explore strategies to build the country’s profile as a situation of concern for the Council under its prevention mandate. DefendDefenders will also launch its latest report “Spreading Fear, Asserting Control: Tanzania’s assault on civic space.”