



Cordially invite you to the event:

REPRESSION AND CRIMINALISATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AZERBAIJAN AND BELARUS

FRIDAY, 6 MARCH 2015, 11.45 – 13.00

PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXI

Speakers:

Ales Bialiatski

Vice – President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and
President of the Human Rights Centre “Viasna”

Anna Dobrovolskaya

Board member of the International Youth Human Rights Movement and
Director of the Human Rights House Voronezh

Arzu Geybullayeva

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Moderation:

Natalia Bourjaily

Vice President for Eurasia, International Center for Not-for-Profit-Law

In March 2013 the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 22/6 calling on States to create and to maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders in which they can work free from restrictions and attacks. However since the adoption of the resolution, the space for human rights defenders in number of states including Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation, continues to shrink and remains patently unsafe.

*In the **Russian Federation**, the widely criticized legislation on “foreign agents” has compromised the existence of hundreds of non-governmental organisations, which are regularly subjected to unwarranted inspections, harassment, and in the worst cases closure. Since the presidential election of October 2013, the government of **Azerbaijan** has undertaken a systematic campaign to silence independent and dissident voices in the country. As a result of this crackdown, several dozen human rights defenders, including bloggers, journalists, activists and lawyers are behind bars, and many human rights defenders fled the country. In **Belarus**, ahead of upcoming presidential elections, restrictions on the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression continue to prevent civil society groups and human rights defenders from undertaking their legitimate activities.*

The panellists will share their insights into the situation in their respective countries and on regional trends. The session will further explore how the international community can address recent measures taken to criminalize the work of human rights defenders, which violate international standards and obligations.

Russian / English translation

Refreshments will be provided at the opening of the event

For further information or to obtain an accreditation to the Palais des Nations, please write to andhina.kusumawidjaja@humanrightshouse.org by 4 March 2015