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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

Panel discussion on Legal Threats to Safety of Journalists

2 November 2023, 10:00-12:00 CET, Room XIX, Palais des Nations, and online

PROGRAMME OF WORK

(registration link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007867>)

10:00 - 10:20 Opening remarks

- **H.E. Mr. Ioannis Ghikas**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- **H.E. Ms. Riia Salsa-Audiffren**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- **H.E. Mr. Lars Tummers**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- **Dr. Tawfik Jelassi** Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO (by video message);
- **Ms. Peggy Hicks**; Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of the UN Human Rights Office

10:20 - 11:45 Panel discussion on legal threats to the safety of journalists

The panel discussion will begin with an overview of OHCHR Study on the impact of counter-terrorism and criminal laws on media freedom and safety of journalists. The panel will then expand its perspective to the global shrinking of civic space, affecting not only journalists and media workers but also various groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, political opposition, and civil society actors. Additionally, the panel will examine media freedom restrictions in the online space and explore increasing detention practices resulting from the implementation of these laws and the chilling effect on media freedom. Seasoned journalists will share challenges from different regions and offer recommendations for a more secure environment for journalists and media workers.

Panellists:

- **Mr. Simon Walker**, Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, OHCHR
“OHCHR study on the impact of criminal laws on media freedom”
- **Ms. Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin**, Former Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
“Securitizing the civic space, impacting journalists and beyond” (by video message)
- **Ms. Paula Martins**, Human rights policy advocacy lead, Association for Progressive Communications
“Undue restrictions on media freedom in the digital space”
- **Ms. Rawan Damen**, Director General, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism,
“MENA region perspective”
- **Mr. Tabani Moyo**, Regional Director at Media Institute of Southern Africa, “Southern Africa region perspective” (via Zoom)

11:45 - 12:00

Closing remarks by **Ms. Maria Ressa**, Co-founder, CEO & President of Rappler, digital news site, and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (by video message)