



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

8-9 November 2012

Hofburg, Vienna

Biographical Information: Speakers and Moderators

Keynote Speaker:

Maina Kiai

Mr. Maina Kiai is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. A lawyer trained at Nairobi and Harvard Universities, Mr. Kiai has spent the last twenty years campaigning for human rights and constitutional reform in Kenya – notably as founder and Executive Director of the unofficial Kenya Human Rights Commission, and then as Chairman of Kenya’s National Human Rights Commission (2003-2008). From July 2010 to April 2011, Mr. Kiai was the Executive Director of the International Council on Human Rights Policy (Geneva). Mr. Kiai was also the Director of Amnesty International’s Africa Programme (1999-2001), and the Africa Director of the International Human Rights Law Group (now Global Rights, 2001-2003). He held research fellowships at the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Copenhagen), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington), and the TransAfrica Forum (Washington).

SESSION I: **Freedom of Association: obstacles to the full realization of this right and ways to overcome them**

Serghei Ostaf (Introducer)

Serghei Ostaf is a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly. He is Director of the Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO) – a nonprofit organization that advocates for democratic change in Moldova. He is involved in human rights advocacy work in Moldova, as well as advocacy activities with the Council of Europe, UN human rights bodies and OSCE/ODIHR, through presenting research and shadow reports, and bringing human rights cases to national courts and the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Ostaf’s current activities include advocating for the adoption of democratic public policies by the government of Moldova, and consulting on the effective implementation of such policies through legal and institutional mechanisms.

Emel Kurma (Moderator)

Emel Kurma has been working as the Executive Coordinator of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (Turkey) since 2000. Ms. Kurma studied political science at Boğaziçi University and pursued graduate work at Middle East Technical University on urban studies, and later at Istanbul Bilgi University on cultural studies. She was among the founders of Amnesty International in Turkey and the Civic Network Initiative in the 90s. She has delivered seminars and training on civil society, civic initiative/agency and NGO practices at many places, such as the İstanbul Bilgi University, at EDAM, a non-profit consultancy center for NGOs.

SESSION II: Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: new challenges and opportunities for dialogue

Neil Jarman (Introducer)

Neil Jarman is the Chairman of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly. He is the Director of the Institute for Conflict Research in Belfast, United Kingdom. His academic interest is primarily in peace-building activities and conflict mitigation, with a specific focus on public assemblies and their policing, and community-based responses to violence and public disorder. He is the author of numerous publications on issues such as policing public order, human rights and conflict resolution, and combating hate crime.

Dmitry Makarov (Moderator)

Dmitry Makarov is one of the leaders of the Coordinating Council of the International Network - Youth Human Rights Movement - and a Program Coordinator for Moscow Helsinki Group. He coordinates joint activities of these organizations for promoting freedoms of assembly and association as well as protecting human rights defenders. Mr. Makarov has a degree in law and specializes in administrative cases. He has been one of the initiators of the Legal Team for activists, a legal support group for grass root activist groups, as well as of a team of public observers at mass rallies. Mr. Makarov is part of the organizing team of the International School of Human Rights and Democracy in Russia. He is currently coordinating the programme entitled "Defending Civil Society in the Newly Independent States" and actively works at both regional and international levels.

SESSION III: Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association: the role of new technologies

David Moore (Introducer)

David Moore is the Vice President for Legal Affairs of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL). On behalf of ICNL, Mr. Moore has conducted legal assessments of civil society laws and/or provided technical assistance on law reform projects in a diverse range of contexts, including Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Laos, Mauritius, Moldova, Russia, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Vietnam, among others. Mr. Moore has published extensively on issues of civil society law, and has served as a trainer on civil society legal issues for government officials, civil society

representatives, and UN civil society staff. Mr. Moore also serves as a professor at the Central European University in Budapest, where he teaches Civil Society Law.

Oleksandra Matviychuk (Moderator)

Oleksandra Matviychuk is the Chairwoman of the Board of the Center for Civil Liberties, a non-governmental organization aimed at promoting democratic development and human rights. She has provided training on a number of human rights-related issues. She participates in several working groups involved in drafting legislation, including draft laws aimed at bringing the Ukrainian legislation in line with international human rights obligations. Ms. Matviychuk is the Member of the Advisory Council under the Ukrainian Parliament's Commissioner for Human Rights. She has authored several publications on different human rights-related topics, as well as the Monitoring Report on "Political Persecutions of Civil Society in Ukraine in 2011", one chapter of which is dedicated to the persecution of participants and organizers of peaceful assemblies.