Cordial invitation to a side event on

**Freedom of Assembly and Association: Countering Persecution and Pushback on Civil Society**

Friday, 22 June 2012, 12h00 - 14h00
Palais des Nations, Room XXV

The freedoms of peaceful assembly and association are fundamental to civil society and citizen action but continue to be widely violated through suppression of protests and restrictions on the formation, advocacy and resources of civil society organisations. Democratic and authoritarian states alike have increasingly erected extralegal and legislative barriers limiting the scope and reach of civil society. This event brings together the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association with key national and international civil society leaders to engender discussion on how persecution and pushback on civil society can be countered.

**Speakers:**

- **Maina Kiai**
  (UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association)
- **Netsanet Belay**
  (Policy and Research Director, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation)
- **Nozima Kamalova**
  (Legal Aid Society of Uzbekistan)
- **Adilur Rahman Khan**
  (Odhikar, Bangladesh)
- **Ryota Jonen**
  (Senior Manager, World Movement for Democracy)
- **David Moore**
  (Vice President-Legal Affairs, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law)

**Moderator:**

**Gerald Staberock**
(Secretary General, World Organization against Torture)

*Refreshments will be provided*

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