

**fidh**

International Federation for Human Rights



CIVIL SOCIETY  
INSTITUTE

# 37th CONGRESS - FORUM JUSTICE, NEW CHALLENGES

The right to an effective remedy  
before an independent Tribunal  
Armenia, Yerevan – 6-8 April 2010

## MEDIA KIT

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security



# 37<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS - FORUM JUSTICE, NEW CHALLENGES

## The right to an effective remedy before an independent Tribunal

**Shirin Ebadi, Luis Moreno Ocampo, Abdou Diouf, Françoise Tulkens\***: these are a few names among the list of key personalities and renowned national and international experts participating in the FIDH Forum alongside human rights defenders from the 155 FIDH member organisations throughout the world. This forum, entitled “JUSTICE: New Challenges – the Right to an Effective Remedy before an Independent Tribunal”, will take place in Yerevan (Armenia) from 6th to 8th April 2010.

*“This forum will represent a unique opportunity for debate and exchange of experiences and analysis relating to the fight against impunity, access to justice for victims of human rights violations and prevention of the most serious crimes”,* declared Souhayr Belhassen, FIDH President. *“Bringing together so many personalities around this issue shortly before the commemoration of the first genocide of the 20th century, takes on a strong symbolic importance in our eyes, in particular in the context of continued dialogue between Turkey and Armenia”,* she explained.

This forum, organised in partnership with the Civil Society Institute (CSI), FIDH member organisation in Armenia, within the framework of the 37th FIDH Congress, will indeed constitute an opportunity to work on the different remedies available to victims of human rights violations in the course of their struggle for truth, justice and reparations on a national, regional and international level, and to look into the issue of the prevention of international crimes, on the basis of the exchange of experiences between participating NGOs from every continent.

*The FIDH 37<sup>th</sup> Congress pays tribute to Natalia Estemirova, Russian human rights defender, assassinated on the 15th July 2009.*

\* Respectively, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Secretary General of La Francophonie, and Judge at the European Court of Human Rights.



Child's drawing of Darfur Killings. Around 500 drawings from Darfuri refugee children have been accepted by the ICC as contextual evidence to be used in any trial.

# FIDH Forum's programme

**Day 1: Tuesday, 6 April 2010**

**Venue:** Philharmonic Hall

<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>2:00 – 3:30 pm</b>	<p><b>OFFICIAL CEREMONY</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Artak Kirakosyan</b>, Chairman of the Board, Civil Society Institute (CSI)</p> <p><b>Mrs. Souhayr Belhassen</b>, President, FIDH</p> <p><b>Mr. Gagik Harutyunyan</b>, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia</p> <p><b>Mr. Stefan Füle</b>, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, European Commission</p> <p><b>Mr. Janez Lenarcic</b>, Director, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe</p> <p><b>Mr. Abdou Diouf</b>, Secretary General of La Francophonie</p>
<b>3:30 – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>4:00 – 6:00 pm</b>	<p><b>OPENING OF THE FORUM</b></p> <p><b>Master of ceremonies:</b> <b>Ms. Soraya Gutierrez Arguello</b>, FIDH Vice-President, CCAJAR (Colombia) and <b>Mr. Sidiki Kaba</b>, FIDH Honorary President (Senegal)</p> <p><b>Testimony:</b> <b>Ms. Ekaterina Sokiryanskaya</b>, <b>Human Rights Center Memorial</b>, "The Victims' Search for Justice"</p> <p><b>Ms. Françoise Tulkens</b>, Judge, European Court of Human Rights, "<i>The Role of the Regional Protection Systems in the enforcement of National Justice Systems/ The role of the Universal Jurisdiction</i>"</p> <p><b>Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo</b>, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court, "<i>International and National Justice: The use of the ICC Complementarity Principle</i>"</p> <p><b>Testimony:</b> <b>Ms. Shirin Ebadi</b>, Human rights advocate and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, "<i>Independence of justice and separation of powers</i>"</p> <p><b>Mr. Gevorg Danielyan</b>, Minister of Justice of Armenia, "<i>Administration of Justice and the challenges of the National Reforms</i>"</p> <p><b>Mr. Sergey Kapinos</b>, Head of the Office of the OSCE in Yerevan, Armenia</p> <p><b>Mr. Patrick Baudouin</b>, FIDH Honorary President, "<i>Objectives and methodology of the Forum</i>"</p>

## Day 2: Wednesday, 7 April 2010

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
<b>9:00 – 10:30 am</b>	<p><b>PANEL I</b></p> <p><b>International Justice: a tool for domination or for progress?</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Manuel Ollé (President, APDHE/Spain)</p>	<b>9:00-10:30 am</b>	<p><b>PANEL II</b></p> <p><b>The challenges of national judicial systems: their willingness and capacity to investigate and prosecute</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Driss El Yazami (Secretary General, FIDH / Morocco)</p>
<b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Erebuni Conference Room	<p><b>Suggested debaters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Sidiki Kaba (Honorary President, FIDH / Senegal)</li> <li>- Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili (HRIDC/ Georgia)</li> <li>- Mr. Hassan Jabareen (Adalah/ Israel)</li> <li>- Mr. Amady Ba (Office of the Prosecutor, ICC)</li> </ul>	<b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Tigran The Great	<p><b>Suggested debaters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Arman Danielyan (President CSI / Armenia)</li> <li>- Mr. Dismas Kitenge (Vice President, FIDH, President, Groupe Lotus / DRC)</li> <li>- Ms. Shirin Ebadi (Iran)</li> <li>- Mr. Janez Lenarcic (OSCE)</li> <li>- M. Mario Eduardo Minera (Director, CALDHE / Guatemala)</li> <li>- Mr. Eldar Zeynalov (HRC / Azerbaijan)</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 10:45 am</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>		
<b>10:45 – 12:30 am</b>	<b>4 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS</b>		
<b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Suite 902	<p><b>A) Triggering national justice</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Fujimori (Peru / Chile): Mr. Francisco Soberon (APRODEH / Peru); Cavallo (Mexico / Argentina / Spain): Ms. Paulina Vega (President, CMDPDH / Mexico)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Ishai Menuchin (Director, PCATI / Israel)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Kristina Kouros (FLHR / Finland)</p>		
<b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Erebuni Conference Room	<p><b>B) Measuring the capacity and the willingness of national justice systems</b></p> <p><b>List of criteria by the ECHR:</b> Ms. Françoise Tulkens (Judge, ECHR)</p> <p><b>List of criteria by the ICC:</b> Mr. Amady Ba (Office of the Prosecutor, ICC)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Anton Giulio Lana (UFTDU/Italy)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Florence Bellivier (Secretary General, FIDH / France)</p>		
<b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Queen Erato	<p><b>C) The needed involvement of victims: between participation and other ways for victims to contribute to justice</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), Mr. Thun Saray (ADHOC / Cambodia), the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Mariana Pena (FIDH/Argentina), and the Colombian experience, Ms. Soraya Gutierrez Arguello (CCAJAR/Colombia)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Patrick Baudouin (FIDH Honorary President / France)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr. Roger Bouka (OCDH / Republic of Congo)</p>		
<b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Tigran The Great	<p><b>D) Extraterritorial Jurisdiction</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Gaza (Spain / United Kingdom): Mr. Raji Sourani (FIDH Vice-President, President, PCHR/Palestine) and Rwanda/European Union: Ms. Carla Ferstman (REDRESS)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Arnold Tsunga (FIDH Vice President, President, HRA / Zimbabwe)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Katie Gallagher (CCR / USA)</p>		
<b>12:30 – 2:00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>		

2:00 – 3:30 pm	<p><b>PANEL III</b></p> <p><b>Obtaining truth, justice and reparation: complementary systems to criminal justice</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Diego Morales (CELS / Argentina)</p>	2:00-3:30 pm	<p><b>PANEL IV</b></p> <p><b>Justice and the responsibility of non-state actors</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Alice Mogwe (DITSHWANELO / Botswana)</p>
<p><b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Erebuni Conference Room</p>	<p><b>Suggested debaters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Nassera Dutour (SOS Disparus / Algeria)</li> <li>- Ms. Elsie Monge (President of the Truth Commission in Ecuador, CEDHU / Ecuador)</li> <li>- Mr. Mabassa Fall (FIDH Representative to the AU / Senegal)</li> <li>- Ms. Jacqueline Moudeïna (Director, ATPDH / Chad)</li> <li>- Mr. David Avetisyan (Judge, Armenia)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Tigran The Great</p>	<p><b>Suggested debaters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Katie Gallagher (CCR / USA)</li> <li>- Ms. Maria Natividad Hernandez (PAHRA / Philippines)</li> <li>- Ms. Asma Jahangir (Pakistan)</li> <li>- Mr. Alirio Uribe (CCAJAR / Colombia)</li> </ul>
3:30 – 3:45 pm		<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
3:45 – 5:45 pm		<b>4 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS</b>	
<p><b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Erebuni Conference Room</p>	<p><b>E) The role of regional human rights protection systems in the reinforcement of national justice</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Chechnya (ECHR): Ms. Ekaterina Sokiryanskaya (HRC “Memorial” / Russia) and Mr. Kirill Koroteev (FIDH Mission delegate / Russia) ; and Peru (ICtHR): Ms. Gloria Cano (APRODEH / Peru)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. JuanCarlos Capurro (FIDH VicePresident / Argentina)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Anne Le Huérou (FIDH Mission delegate / France)</p>		
<p><b>Erebuni Plaza Business Center</b> Suite 902</p>	<p><b>F) The establishment of the truth: a strategic issue</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Burma: Ms. Debbie Stothard (Altsean-Burma/Burma) and Kenya: Ms. L. Muthoni Wanyeki (KHRC / Kenya)</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Mr. Zoran Pusic (CCHR/Croatia)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Khadija Cherif (ATFD / Tunisia)</p>		
<p><b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Tigran The Great</p>	<p><b>G) Respect of Human Rights in the fight against terrorism</b></p> <p><b>CASE STUDY:</b> Human rights challenges from the situation in Yemen, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and China: Ms Amal Basha (SAF/ Yemen), Ms Guissou Jahangiri (Armanshahr/Iran), representative of FIDH member organisation in Uzbekistan and Ms Sharon Hom (HRIC/China)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Luis-Guillermo Perez (FIDH Secretary general / Colombia)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr. Dan Van Raemdonck (FIDH Vice-President / Belgium)</p>		
<p><b>Hotel Marriott Hall:</b> Queen Erato</p>	<p><b>H) Accountability of multinationals: the need for common strategies</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the discussions and conclusions of the Nairobi and Bogota seminars:</b> Mr. Emmanuel Daoud (FIDH Mission Delegate, France)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr. Alirio Uribe (CCAJR / Colombia)</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Kek Galabru (LICADHO / Cambodia)</p>		

**On Wednesday evening the FIDH Congress will be visiting the Museum of Genocide.**

## Day 3 : Thursday, 8 April 2010

**Venue:** Hotel Marriott, Hall: Tigran The Great

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:15 am</b>	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Karim Lahidji (FIDH Vice-President / Iran)</p> <p><b>A) Triggering national justice</b></p> <p><b>B) Measuring the capacity and the willingness of national justice systems</b></p> <p><b>C) The needed involvement of victims: between participation and other ways for victims to contribute to justice</b></p> <p><b>D) Extraterritorial Jurisdiction</b></p>
<b>10:15 – 10:40 am</b>	<p><b>TESTIMONIES</b></p> <p><b>Filling the protection gap for human rights defenders fighting impunity</b></p> <p>Mr. Amir Suleiman (ACJPS/Sudan) et Ms. Vilma Nuñez (FIDH Vice-President, President, CENIDH/ Nicaragua)</p>
<b>10:40 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>11:00 am – 12:15 pm</b>	<p><b>... PLENARY SESSION</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Fatimata Mbaye (FIDH Vice-President, AMDH / Mauritania)</p> <p><b>E) The role of regional human rights protection systems in the reinforcement of national justice</b></p> <p><b>F) The establishment of the truth: a strategic issue</b></p> <p><b>G) Respect of Human Rights in the fight against terrorism</b></p> <p><b>H) Accountability of multinationals: the need for common strategies</b></p>
<b>12:15 – 12:30 pm</b>	<p><b>CONCLUSION</b></p> <p>Mr. Ales Bialiatski (FIDH Vice-President, HRC “Viasna” / Belarus)</p>

# Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

## PREAMBLE

### **The States Parties to this Statute,**

- Conscious that all peoples are united by common bonds, their cultures pieced together in a shared heritage, and concerned that this delicate mosaic may be shattered at any time,
- Mindful that during this century millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity,
- Recognizing that such grave crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world,
- Affirming that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and that their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national level and by enhancing international cooperation,
- Determined to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes and thus to contribute to the prevention of such crimes,
- Recalling that it is the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for international crimes,
- Reaffirming the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations,
- Emphasizing in this connection that nothing in this Statute shall be taken as authorizing any State Party to intervene in an armed conflict or in the internal affairs of any State,
- Determined to these ends and for the sake of present and future generations, to establish an independent permanent International Criminal Court in relationship with the United Nations system, with jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole,
- Emphasizing that the International Criminal Court established under this Statute shall be complementary to national criminal jurisdictions,
- Resolved to guarantee lasting respect for and the enforcement of international justice,

Have agreed as follows:

## **PART 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COURT**

### **Article 1**

#### **The Court**

An International Criminal Court («the Court») is hereby established. It shall be a permanent institution and shall have the power to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern, as referred to in this Statute, and shall be complementary to national criminal jurisdictions. The jurisdiction and functioning of the Court shall be governed by the provisions of this Statute.

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<http://coalitionfortheicc.org/documents/rome-e.pdf>

# Some keynote speakers

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## **Luis Moreno-Ocampo**, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)



On 21 April 2003, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, meeting in its second resumed first session, unanimously elected Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo of Argentina as first Prosecutor of the Court. Between 1984-92, as a Prosecutor in Argentina, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo was involved in precedent-setting prosecutions of top military commanders for mass killings and other large-scale human rights abuses.

In 1992, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo resigned as Prosecutor of the Federal Criminal Court of Buenos Aires, and established a private law firm, Moreno-Ocampo & Wortman Jofre, which specializes in corruption control programmes for large firms and organisations, criminal and human rights law. Until his election as Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo worked as lawyer and as Private Inspector General for large companies.

He also took on a number of pro bono activities, among others as legal representative for the victims in the extradition of former Nazi officer Erich Priebke to Italy, the trial of the chief of the Chilean secret police for the murder of General Carlos Prats, and several cases concerning political bribery, journalists' protection and freedom of expression.

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## **Françoise Tulkens**, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights



Françoise Tulkens is one of the world's foremost penal law experts. Early in her career, she became a member of the bar in Brussels, was named research fellow at the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique and, subsequently, professor in the law faculty of the Université Catholique de Louvain. Throughout her years of dedicated work, she earned an enviable reputation through her articles and reference volumes, and her collaboration with academic colleagues on research projects dealing with penal law and immigration. In fact, the University of Ottawa has had the pleasure of receiving her several times as an invited professor. In 1998, she moved to Strasbourg as a member of the panel of the European Court of Human Rights. She became President of section in 2007.



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## Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize, 2003



Shirin Ebadi, was awarded the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote human rights, in particular, the rights of women, children, and political prisoners in Iran.

Dr. Ebadi was one of the first female judges in Iran. She served as president of the city court of Tehran from 1975 to 1979 and was the first Iranian woman to achieve Chief Justice status. She, along with other women judges, was dismissed from that position after the Islamic Revolution in February 1979. She was made a clerk in the court she had once presided over, until she petitioned for early retirement. After obtaining her lawyer's license in 1992, Dr. Ebadi set up private practice. As a lawyer, Dr. Ebadi has taken on many controversial cases defending political dissidents and as a result has been arrested numerous times. Dr. Ebadi is also a university professor and students from outside Iran often take part in her human rights training courses. She has published over 70 articles and 12 books dedicated to various aspects of human rights, some of which have been published by UNICEF. Dr. Ebadi's latest book, *Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope*, was published by Random House in May 2006 in English, French and German. Its publication in 13 other languages is also underway. In 2004, she was named by Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world. In January 2006, along with sister Laureate Jody Williams, Dr. Ebadi took the lead in establishing the Nobel Women's Initiative.

Shirin Ebadi has also established non-governmental organizations in Iran, the Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child (SPRC) and the Defenders of Human Rights Center (DHRC), FIDH member organization and the Million Signatures Campaign, a campaign demanding an end to legal discrimination against women in Iranian law.

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## Abdou DIOUF, Secretary General of La Francophonie



**Abdou Diouf was elected as Secretary General of La Francophonie at the Beirut summit in October 2002 and then re-elected at the Bucarest Summit in 2006. He is the former President of the Republic of Senegal (1981 – 2000).**

Abdou Diouf led a career as a high-ranking civil servant. In 1963 he became Director of the Cabinet of President Léopold Senghor. In 1964 he became Secretary-General of the Presidency, serving in that post until 1968, when he became Minister of Planning and Industry. He remained in the latter position until February 1970, when he was named Prime Minister.

In 1981, President Senghor resigned in favor of Diouf, who became president of Senegal. Abdou Diouf was reelected in 1983, 1988 and 1993. Abdou Diouf successive mandates were marked by efforts to move towards multiparty democracy.

He served two terms as Organization of African Unity (OAU) chairman, and he was also chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

# The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



Working with a mandate to assure the respect of all rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) was established in 1922.

It is currently a federation of 155 member organizations in over 100 countries around the world. FIDH is the only international human rights NGO with a federalist structure, acting through and for its local member and partner organisations. This “bottom up” approach governs all aspects of decision making, action and operation of FIDH. We provide daily support to our local member and partner organisations, in order to respond effectively to human rights violations in their countries and to strengthen their capacity to act and enhance their impact.

## **FIDH main activities:**

### **– Establishing the facts: investigative and trial observation missions**

Through activities ranging from sending trial observers to organizing international fact finding missions, FIDH has over the past fifty years and more, developed rigorous and impartial procedures to establish the facts and identify those responsible for human rights violations.

### **– Supporting civil society: training and exchange**

FIDH organizes numerous activities in partnership with its organizations aiming to strengthen the influence and capacity of human rights activists to boost changes at the local level.

### **– Mobilising the community of States**

FIDH has representation offices at the UN, EU, Arab League, African Union, ASEAN, and ICC in order to support its member organisations in their advocacy before the intergovernmental organisations. It alerts the international bodies to violations of human rights and refers specific cases to them. It takes part in the development of international legal instruments and develops strategies on both thematic issues alongside strategies on specific countries.

### **– Informing and reporting: mobilizing public opinion**

FIDH informs and mobilizes public opinion through the production of press releases, press conferences, open letters to authorities, mission reports, urgent appeals, petitions, campaigns, website... FIDH makes full use of all means of communication to raise awareness of human rights violations across the globe.

FIDH publications are available at the following link: [www.fidh.org/-Human-Rights-News](http://www.fidh.org/-Human-Rights-News)

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## Souhayr Belhassen, FIDH president



As a journalist and writer, Souhayr Belhassen has always wished to “give a voice to the voiceless”, whether via her professional activities or in her commitment to human rights. A former political science student and a correspondent for Reuters and *Jeune Afrique*, in 1978 she was the first to highlight the existence of a strong Islamist component in Tunisian society, in the columns of the *Jeune Afrique* weekly. But her great achievement was her leadership of the campaign by the “Ligue Tunisienne de Défense des Droits de l’Homme” (Tunisian League for Human Rights) to save 18 young Tunisians from the gallows after they had been found guilty of taking part in the bread riots of 28 January 1984.

In 1993, Souhayr Belhassen issued a petition in support of Algerian women, in which she denounced the Tunisian regime’s culpable silence with regard to its neighbour’s situation, and the alibi that the Tunisians’ relatively privileged situation prevented them from taking action. Following this petition she was expelled from Tunisia; her exile was to last five years.

Back in Tunis, she founded the weekly cultural magazine *7sur7*. In 1998, after Souhayr Belhassen gave an interview to the French public TV channel, France 2, that displeased the Tunisian authorities, the latter took steps to block the external financing of *7sur7*, which then went bankrupt.

In the course of her work as an activist, Souhayr has on several occasions been attacked by plain-clothes police officers and, like many Tunisian human rights defenders, she has been subject to constant surveillance (phone-tapping, shadowing, interception of mail, etc).

Souhayr Belhassen has taken an increasingly active role in the Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l’Homme (LTDH), the oldest human rights organisation in the Arab world. The organisation has to cope with constant intimidation by the authorities (legal harassment, beatings, threats, etc). She became the organisation’s vice president in November 2000, then joined the FIDH’s international office at the Quito congress in 2004. She became president of the FIDH in April 2007, at the Lisbon congress. She then decided to centre her mandate around two major themes: women’s rights and international migration. During her mandate, Souhayr Belhassen has carried out many missions to support human rights defenders (Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, etc).

# The Civil Society Institute (CSI)



Civil Society Institute (CSI) is a non-governmental organization based in Yerevan which aims at assisting and promoting the establishment of a free and democratic society in Armenia. Established in 1998, CSI has implemented a series of programs, researches and publications related to the principles of democracy and human rights.

Since its establishment CSI carries out programs revolving around the following initiatives: civil society development, penal system reform, human rights advocacy and awareness, peace-building and conflict resolution, freedom of information and anti-corruption, internship opportunities for the youth, secondary education reform, political advocacy and lobbying.

The activities of CSI are geared towards increasing the efficiency of governmental bodies as well as non-governmental organizations while simultaneously supporting the development of civil society. It seeks to accomplish its goals and tasks within the framework of Human rights and Peace-building and conflict resolution departments.

## **Human Rights Department**

**Monitoring of detention places** aimed at ensuring protection of rights of persons deprived of their liberty by regular visits, identification of problems and elaboration of recommendations.

**Elaboration and lobbying of legislative amendments** directed to improvement of national legislation regulating different aspects of human rights, effective implementation in practice and harmonization with international standards.

**Reporting on human rights violations** aims at bringing attention of wide public and professionals to the particular cases and give solutions and support for persons suffered the violations as well as to contribute to the dissolution of atmosphere of impunity and bring perpetrators to justice.

**Coverage of human rights issues** through the web portal Human Rights in Armenia [www.hra.am](http://www.hra.am). The web portal is aimed at increasing attention and respect for human rights and mobilizes resources for protection of human rights in Armenia through educational, analytical and promotional tools of updated Internet site.

**Public awareness** through publishing of guidebooks, brochures, leaflets on the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, conducting media campaigns in order to increase knowledge of the public on the basic rights, training for professionals on human rights issues, hotline for free legal assistance on the basic rights.

## **Peace-building and Conflict Transformation Department**

Conducting workshops, lectures, trainings, seminars, meetings with experts, conferences, book presentations, film screenings on conflict management, as well as utilizes various methods of non-formal education. A special focus is given to the resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh issue,

mutual relations of Armenia with its neighboring countries and international political developments. The Peace-building and Conflict Transformation Department is collaborating with internationally well-known conflict management specialists and institutions.

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**Artak Kirakosyan**, Civil Society Institute,  
*Chairman of the Board of Civil Society Institute*



Artak Kirakosyan has led a number of projects devoted to the protection of human rights in Armenia since 2000. The projects were focused on the reform of penitentiary system, reform of secondary education, freedom of information and peace building initiatives. Artak Kirakosyan is the author of publications on conflict management and human rights. From 2001 to 2008 Artak Kirakosyan served as President of Civil Society Institute. In November 2008 Artak Kirakosyan was elected Chairman of the CSI Board at the general meeting of CSI. Currently Artak Kirakosyan provides counseling and trainings regarding conflict management and organizational development aimed at supporting the youth, as well as non-governmental and international organizations.

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**Arman Danielyan**, Civil Society Institute, *President*



Arman Danielyan has been engaged in the protection of human rights since 2000, and was elected a Vice President of Civil Society Institute NGO (CSI), which is one of the most dynamic and active human rights organizations in Armenia. In 2008 he was elected as President of CSI. From the outset of his career, Arman Danielyan has been committed to combating against impunity, prevention of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, human rights protection in closed institutions, freedom of information.

Arman Danielyan was one of the key actors of Armenian civil society during the implementation of the successful campaign for ratification of the Optional Protocol to UN Convention against Torture in Armenia. He continues his activities towards creation of the effective torture prevention national mechanism after the ratification of the OPCAT by the Armenian National Assembly in 2006.

Since 2001 Arman Danielyan has been involved in the process of establishment of independent public supervision mechanisms over the penitentiary institutions of Armenia. As a result of joint efforts currently one of the most efficient public monitoring groups in the post Soviet region is functioning in Armenia. In 2008 Arman Danielyan was elected the Chairman of the Public Monitoring Group over the Penitentiary Institutions under the Ministry of Justice. As a regional expert in the field of monitoring of closed institutions Arman Danielyan continues to provide his expertise both in Armenia and other CIS countries.

Arman Danielyan has participated as an expert in a number of research activities and is a co-author of many publications devoted to the norms of conditions in detention facilities, problems of preliminary detention, monitoring of closed institutions and anti-corruption issues.

Arman Danielyan's devotion is geared towards establishment of a more open, transparent and human penitentiary system in Armenia. His ideas of outside scrutiny of closed institutions are spread and Mr. Danielyan continues his contribution to the creation of schemes of Public Observers to other type of institutions in Armenia.

# Forum organised

## With the support of:

- The International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)
- The Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Yerevan, Armenia
- The European Union
- The Council of Europe
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- The Ford Foundation (Chile, Brazil)
- The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- The Harvard University (Hauser Center) and the other organisers of the Conference on international criminal justice held from 9-11 September 2009 in New York
- Internet-agency Caucasian Knot - [www.caucasianknot.info](http://www.caucasianknot.info)

# FIDH represents **155** human rights organisations on **5** continents



of person. Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms. Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination. Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law. Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest,

## ABOUT FIDH

- FIDH takes action for the protection of victims of human rights violations, for the prevention of violations and to bring perpetrators to justice.
- A broad mandate  
FIDH works for the respect of all the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights.
- A universal movement  
FIDH was established in 1922, and today unites 155 member organisations in more than 100 countries around the world. FIDH coordinates and supports their activities and provides them with a voice at the international level.
- An independent organisation  
Like its member organisations, FIDH is not linked to any party or religion and is independent of all governments.