PROGRAMME

Political Transition from a Human Rights Perspective: Experiences and Challenges

FORUM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 38TH FIDH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
23 - 24 MAY 2013, ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Thursday 23 May 2013

Morning (09:00-12:30)

Plenary session

08:00 Participants’ registration

09:00-11:00 Opening session

• Beşir Atalay, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey
• Souhayr Belhassen, FIDH President
• Öztürk Türkdoğan, Chair of the Human Rights Association (İHD)
• Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of International Organization of La Francophonie (tbh)
• Sang-Hyun Song, President of the International University, Istanbul

11:15-11:45 “New power balances: actors for the future and challenges ahead”

Ahmet Insel, Political scientist, Galatasaray University, Istanbul
Fatou Bensouda, International Criminal Court Prosecutor

11:45-12:30 Testimonies

Afternoon (14:30-18h30)

Two Parallel panel sessions

PANEL 1. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS AS A CONDITION FOR THE RULE OF LAW

SESSION 1: Institutional reforms for the Rule of Law

Moderator: Mabassa Fall, FIDH Permanent Representative to the African Union

14:30-15:15 Introductory addresses

• Priorities for establishing long-lasting rule of law in countries in transition, Luis Guillermo Perez Casas, FIDH Secretary General (Colombia)
• Which leverages to encourage reforms in repressive contexts, Tolekan Ismaïlova, Chairperson of Human Rights Movement in repressive contexts, Tolekan Ismaïlova, Chairperson of Human Rights Movement in Kyrghizistan
• Elections during transition: the experience of Tunisia, Kamel Jendoubi, former President of the High Authority for elections (Tunisia)

15:15-16:00 Debate, with presentations from the floor:

• Strategies for working under severe restrictions in Belarus (Viasna)
• How to support forces for change inside China (HRIC)
• The role of sanctions in the transition in Zimbabwe (Zimrights)

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

SESSION 2: Reform of Justice for the Rule of Law

Moderator: Amina Bouayach, FIDH Vice-President (Morocco)

16:15-17:00 Introductory addresses

• From transitional justice to justice in transition, Sidiki Kaba, FIDH Honorary President (Senegal)
• Which guarantees for an independent judiciary?, Gaston Chililler, Director of CELS (Argentina)
• How to reform the security sector, Navaz Kotwal, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (India)

17:00-18:30 Debate, with presentations from the floor:

• Transition in Peru, obstacles and good practices (APRODEH)
• Transitional justice in Tunisia: Overview and perspectives (FIDH office in Tunis)
• Georgia: How to build an independent justice in times of transition (Human Rights Center)

PANEL 2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS, AND THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ACTORS

SESSION 1: Economic and social rights in political transition

Moderator: Debbie Stoithard, FIDH Deputy Secretary General (Malaysia/Burma)

14:30-15:15 Introductory addresses

• Social protest as a vector for change, Cai Chongguo, Deputy Director, China Labour Bulletin (China)
• Human rights, a tool for social demands, Jacob van Garderen, National Director, Lawyers for Human Rights (South Africa)
• The impact of the economic and financial crisis in Europe on human rights and democracy, Dimitris Christopoulos, Vice-Chairperson, Hellenic league for Human Rights (Greece)

15:15-15:45 Debate with presentations from the floor:

• Ecuador: role of peasants and indigenous people in the transition (CEDHU)
• How to promote economic and social rights of migrants in Russia (ADC Memorial)

15h45-16h: Coffee break

SESSION 2: The role of economic and financial actors during political transition

Moderator: Yusuf Alatas, FIDH Vice-President (Turkey)

16h00-16h30: Introductory addresses

• Foreign investments and international trade: obstacle or vector for political transitions, Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (Belgium)
• Bringing corporations to account, Alirio Uribe, Colectivo de Abogados (Colombia)

16:30-17h00: Debate with presentations from the floor:

• Land-grabbing in Cambodia and link with EU trade preferences (LICADHO)
• Kenya and the Economic partnership agreements (KHRC)
• The Amesys case (FIDH Litigation Action Group)

17.00-18h30 Participants split into two functional workshops

FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 1
The human rights movement and marginalised or vulnerable communities
Moderator: Raji Sourani, FIDH Vice-President (Palestine)
Experiences:
- Mobilisation strategy against a hydro power plant project in Tajikistan (BHRRL)
- Forest exploitation and the rights of local communities in Congo Brazzaville (ODCH)

FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 2
Rights in times of economic and financial crisis which human rights response ?
(English only)
Moderator: Meric Ozgunen, Hellenic League for Human Rights (Greece)
Experiences:
- Key human rights violations resulting from austerity policies , FLAC (Ireland) and APDHE (Spain)
- Response from the human rights movement (ITUC and LDH Belgium)
- Looking back at the Argentinian debt crisis (CELS)
- Which alliances to develop (LDL, Quebec)
- Concluding remarks: Olivier de Schutter
Friday 24 May 2013

Morning (09:00-13:00)

9:00-10:30 Plenary Session

**PANEL 1: INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL AND THEIR ROLE IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RULE OF LAW**

Moderator: Dan Van Raemdonck, FIDH Vice-President (Belgium)

**Introductory addresses**
- Religion, the public sphere and the rule of law, Asma Jahangir, FIDH Vice-President (Pakistan)
- Women drivers of transitions: for which rights?, Sophie Bessis, FIDH Deputy Secretary general (Tunisia/France)
- Minority rights: universality or communitarianism?, Nancy Yanez Fuenzalida, Observatorio Ciudadano (Chile)

**Debate, with presentations from the floor:**
- Strategies to defend minorities in Egypt (EIPR) tbc
- Litigation for Roma rights in Belgium (LDH)
- Discriminatory governance in Mauritania (AMDH)

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-13:00 Functional workshops
Participants split into three workshops to discuss experiences on building democracy.

**FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 1**
Ensuring respect of freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Moderator: Harris Azhar, Kontras (Indonesia)

Presentations:
- Religion and the public sphere in the USA (CCR)
- Freedom of expression and religion (EMHRN)
- Religion and conflict in the two Sudans (ACJPS)
- Freedom of religion and laicism in Turkey: Yılmaz Ensaroğlu (SETA)

**FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 2**
Promoting women as drivers of transition

Moderator: Guissou Jahanguiri, Director of Armanshahr/OpenAsia (Afghanistan)

Presentations:
- Women’s representation in the peace process in Turkey, Fatma Sahin, Ministry of Family and Social Affairs (Turkey) tbc
- Women’s participation in transition institutions in Tunisia (ATFD)
- Guatemalan experience on women’s access to justice (CALDH)
- Advancing women’s rights in Ireland (CAJ or FLAC) tbc

**FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 3**
How to promote the rights of minorities and fighting discrimination

Moderator: Alice Mogwe, Director of Ditswanhelo (Botswana)

Presentations:
- How to promote the rights of LGBT in Senegal (LSDH)
- Afro minorities in Latin America, speaker tbc
- Promoting the rights of Roma people in Eastern Europe (ADC Memorial, Russia)
- Democracy and plurilinguism, Levent Korkut, Member of the Steering Committee of Human Rights Joint Plateform (IHOP, Turkey)

Afternoon (14:30-19h00)

14:30-16:00 Plenary Session

**PANEL 2: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: LEGAL FRAMEWORK, PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION**

Moderator: Karim Lahidji, FIDH Vice-President (Iran)

**Introductory addresses**
- What legitimacy for limits to freedom of expression in a democratic society?, speaker tbc
- The experience of trade unions on alliances and partnerships, Alison Tate, Director of External Relations, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- To expose gongos or (un)civil society, Adilur Rahman Khan, Secretary of Odhikar (Bangladesh) tbc

**Debate, with presentations from the floor:**
- Freedom of expression in the US (CCR)
- The experience of alliances concerning Uzbekistan (Burning Hearts Club)

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:45 Functional workshops
Participants split into two workshops to exchange about concrete experiences on building democracy.

**FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 1**
Ensuring respect of freedom of expression

Moderator: Souhayr Belhassen, President of FIDH

Presentations:
- When IT companies serve censorship: Nokia in Iran (DHRC)
- Freedom of expression and film broadcasting in Kyrgyzstan (Human Rights Movement)
- Fight against terrorism and freedom of expression in Turkey, Fikret Ilkiz, Bianet legal adviser (Turkey)

**FUNCTIONAL WORKSHOP 2**
New tools, new partnerships and the promotion of convergences for universal rights

Moderator: Ezzedin El Asbahi, (Yemen)

Presentations:
- Alliances with social movements (MNDH, Brazil)
- Using social networks to document human rights violations (Syrian center for media, SCM)
- Social networks as a tool to alert and mobilise in Bahrain (BCHR)
- Role and responsibilities of the media during transition, Nadire Mater, Chair of Bianet (Turkey)
- The experience of GNI/Google in China (HRIC)

17:45-18:00 Coffee break

Late afternoon (18:00-19:00)

18:00-19:00 Forum closing session

highlighting the main lessons learned from the Forum

- Driss El Yazami, President of the National Human Rights Council (Morocco)
- Leyla Zana, (Turkey) tbc
- Souhayr Belhassen, President of FIDH
- Şebnem Korur Fincanci, Chair of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT)
Titre du rapport – FIDH