



Forum for victims of systemic crimes in Africa

13-14 April 2012, Banjul, The Gambia

Background

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), the Independent Medical- Legal Unit (IMLU), REDRESS and the Victims Rights Working Group (VRWG) will organise a 1.5 days regional meeting on victims and justice processes in Africa in the margin of the NGO Forum/ the 51st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in April 2012. The main focus of the meeting is to bring together approximately 15-20 experts/ representatives of civil society from African countries to discuss and exchange on experiences of victims of systemic crimes in accessing justice at the national, (sub-) regional and international levels.

The meeting will provide a platform for lawyers, activists and others to exchange on experiences made and discuss strategies for the way forward. We expect that the meeting also serves as an opportunity for networking with a view to establishing a network of national and international civil society groups and experts to ensure that victims' rights are effectively protected at the national, regional and international levels.

Agenda

Day 1: Friday 13 April 2012

9:00 – 9:15 Introduction, Opening [IHRDA, IMLU, REDRESS]

09:15-09:30 Keynote Speech: [Souhayr Belhassen, President of FIDH]

09:30-10:45 Panel 1: Victims in justice processes

[Moderator: Hannah Forster, Director, African Centre for Human Rights and Democracy Studies]

- Victims' experiences of access to rehabilitation in Africa (Uju Osude, Assistant Programme Officer, PRAWA)
- Comparative analysis of victims' protection in Africa (Diana Watila, Legal Advisor, Independent Medico Legal Unit)
- Comparative analysis of reparation processes (Jürgen Schurr, Legal Advisor, REDRESS)

Discussion

10:45 – 11:00 Tea Break

11:00 – 12:45 Panel 2: Domestic frameworks for addressing mass/systemic crimes in Africa Part1

[Moderator: Marjorie Jobson, Khulumani Support Group]

- Experiences in Uganda (Joseph Manoba, Legal Advisor, Uganda Victims Foundation)
- Experiences in DRC (Prof. Niabirungu Songa, Parliamentarian DRC)
- Experiences in Rwanda (Francoise Umurungi, Avega Coordinator in Kigali)
- Experiences in Burundi (Eugene Ntaganda, Expert on Transitional Justice Processes in Burundi)

Discussion

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch Break

13:45- 15:30 Panel 3: Domestic frameworks for addressing mass crimes in Africa Part 2

[Moderator: Dadimos Haile, REDRESS]

- Experiences in Sierra Leone (Rosaline McCarthy, Sierra Leone Women's Forum)
- Experiences in Chad (Jaqueline Moudeina, Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights)
- Experiences in Morocco (Abdel Majid Bilghazal, Moroccan Organization for Human Rights)
- Experiences in Tunisia (TBC)

Discussion

15:30 – 15:45 Tea Break

15:45 – 17:15 Panel 4: Regional and Sub-regional experiences in Africa

[Moderator: Kameldy Neldjingaye, Legal Officer, IHRDA]

- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: Experiences in Sudan (Osman Humeida, Director, African Centre for Peace and Justice)
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights : Experiences in Algeria (Nassera Dutour, Director, Collectif des Familles de Disparus en Algérie, CFDA)
- East African Court of Justice : Experiences in Kenya (Diana Watila, Legal Advisor, IMLU)
- SADC Tribunal: Experiences in Zimbabwe (Susan Chenai Mutambasere, Active Head Litigation Unit, Zimbabwe Forum for Human Rights)

Discussion

17:15 Closing remarks

Day 2 : Saturday 14 April 2012:

9:00 – 9:30 Introduction & Objectives for day two [IHRDA, IMLU, REDRESS]

9:30 – 11:00 Panel 5: Challenges to engage with international justice processes

[Moderator: Elham Saudi, Lawyers for Justice in Libya]

- Challenges for victims' engagement with the ICC in Kenya (Carole Theuri, Kenyan for Peace Truth and Justice)
- The ICC and victims' in the DRC (Gilbert Angwandi, APPRODIVI)
- Upcoming challenges for victims in Ivory Coast (Ali Ouattara, Ivorian Coalition for the ICC)
- Victims' engagement in CAR (Marie Edith Douzima, Victims' Legal Representative in the *Bemba case*)

Discussion

11:00 – 11:15 Tea Break

11:15-13:00 Panel 6: Networking for victims' rights

[Moderator: Jürgen Schurr, Legal Advisor, REDRESS]

- Role and goals of the Victims Rights Working Group (Dadimos Haile, REDRESS)
- The experiences in South Africa (Marjorie Jobson, Khulumani Support Group)
- Potential role of the NGO Forum at the African Commission (Humphrey Sipalla, Communications Officer, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa)
- The Experiences of Victims' groups in Uganda (Joseph Manoba, UVF)

Discussion

13:00 Closing remarks