



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER THREAT

The “war on drugs” and the shrinking space for civil society

Monday, 12th March 2018, 13:10 - 14:00 | Conference Room MOE79

Side event at the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Around the world, NGOs and human rights defenders are facing increasing risks and challenges for speaking out against injustice and standing up for human rights.

Human rights defenders across the globe are facing an onslaught of harassment, intimidation, ill-treatment, restrictions, unjust prosecution and detention. The so-called “war on drugs” has been a particular driver of threats and attacks against human rights defenders. The increase in powerful, armed non-State actors and rising levels of violence have created an increasingly complex context for human rights defenders, at a time when States are imposing more restrictions on civil society.

This event will invite human rights defenders at risk to analyse the increasing risks and challenges that civil society organizations and human rights defenders are facing in their respective countries in the context of the “war on drugs”, and explore the opportunities for increasing their protection at the national, regional and international level.

Panellists:

- **Maricela Orozco Montalvo (Mexico)**, Familiares en Búsqueda María Herrera
- **Carlos Ellecer (Philippines)**, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA) and In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (IDFEND)
- **Peter Sarosi (Hungary)**, Rights Reporter Foundation

Moderator:

- **Daniel Joloy**, Amnesty International

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