



Human rights impact of overuse of detention

Thursday 19 March 2015, 13 – 14.30, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

“The phenomenon of ill-treatment in prisons should not be viewed in isolation from the penitentiary system and criminal justice policy in general... [reiterating] the importance of (...) reducing resort to detention on remand and imprisonment.” (Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks)

Overcrowding is a global problem and one of the systemic causes of deplorable prison conditions. At this side event, panelists will illustrate various human rights violations that result from the disproportionate use of imprisonment causing overcrowding, and discuss how the Human Rights Council, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies can address this issue systematically and effectively.

Strategies to reduce overcrowding should be at the heart of preventive efforts to address human rights violations from detention conditions.

A light lunch will be available.

Welcome address

H.E. Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva

Over-incarceration from a human rights perspective

Jane Connors, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, OHCHR

Human rights impact of overcrowding/ overuse of detention

Fair trial implications of detention

Sir Nigel Rodley, Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee

Access to legal representation in detention

Jennifer Smith, International Legal Foundation

The right to health in overcrowded facilities

Dr. Éamonn O'Moore, Director of the UK Collaborating Centre for the WHO Health in Prisons Programme in Europe (TBC)

Impact of overcrowding on safety and security

Anabella Museri, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), video

Preventive strategies: reducing overcrowding

Andrea Huber, Policy Director, Penal Reform International

Moderated debate and conclusions