

## Home

### **The Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation based in Geneva.**

As an academic study and research institution, its key objective is to raise awareness and understanding about human rights. GIHR works for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, seeking to ensure that the principles of equality, dignity and respect are incorporated into all levels of public service. The Geneva Institute offers seminars, lectures, national and international programs and trainings in the field of human rights education since its foundation in 2004.



### **A unique service in Geneva**

The GIHR is based in Geneva, as this is a central place for human rights activities in the intergovernmental system, with the meetings of the UN bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council and the treaty monitoring bodies.

The GIHR fulfills an indispensable role in assisting human rights defenders to make an effective use of the UN human rights procedures to more effective protection of human rights.

Annually we provide advice, logistic and strategic support to governmental and nongovernmental actors in defining and implementing their strategies in using international human rights procedures.

GIHR has been able throughout the years to distinguish its trainings from other organizations by being in both Arabic and English and by its commitment to networking and continual partnership.

The Institute has built and maintained long term relationships and trust with countries in the Middle East and the African Regions. Our work has become crucial as a non political, human rights organization providing the much needed capacity building on international human rights standards and their principles to civil society organizations, governmental and non governmental organizations.

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[Pillay: States must “act now”](#) [1]

2012 Feb 13 - 20:37

13 February 2012

States must “act now” to protect Syrian population, Pillay tells General Assembly

NEW YORK – Citing the onslaught on Homs, and reports suggesting widespread and systematic attacks on civilians amounting to crimes against humanity, as well as the rising risk of a humanitarian crisis, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on Monday urged states to “act now” to protect the Syrian population.

[Read more](#) [1]

[New Roadmap](#) [2]

2012 Feb 13 - 20:33

A new roadmap for human rights mechanisms in Africa

[Read more](#) [2]

[UN Expert on Right to Housing to visit Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#) [3]

2012 Jan 31 - 00:01

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Raquel Rolnik, is conducting a visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory from January 29 to February 12 to examine challenges in access to adequate housing and housing affordability, groups vulnerable to discrimination, forced evictions, and access to construction materials.

[Read more](#) [3]

[Pillay raises concerns about armed brigades holding detainees in Libya](#) [4]

2012 Jan 30 - 23:46

UN Human Rights chief Navi Pillay raised concerns about Libya's armed brigades and the treatment of more than 8,500 detainees, majority of whom are from sub-Saharan Africa, in an address to the Security Council on January 27.

"Lack of oversight by the central authorities creates an environment conducive to torture and ill treatment," Pillay warned the Security Council, speaking about the situation in Libya. She urged the Libyan ministry of justice and the prosecutor's office to assume control of the detention centers.

[Read more](#) [4]

[Jordan: GIHR attends conference on violence in Arab Spring](#) [5]

2012 Jan 19 - 12:47

On Tuesday, January 17, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights participated in "Violence and Non-Violence in the Arab spring," a seminar organized by Foundation for the Future in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

The seminar pulled together representatives from human rights organizations in Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Tunisia, and Palestine to establish a consensus about non-violence in the Arab region and to facilitate networking and communication among civil society organizations, especially among the young people working in them.

[Read more](#) [5]

[Two rights council vacancies filled at ICCPR meeting](#) [6]

2012 Jan 19 - 12:28

The Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on January 18 elected Walter Kälin (Switzerland) and Marat Sarsembayev (Kazakhstan) to the Human Rights Committee, replacing two members who, in a rare move, resigned before completing their four-year terms of office.

[Read more](#) [6]

[GIHR to hold Cairo workshop on legal empowerment of the poor](#) [7]

2012 Jan 18 - 10:41

The Geneva Institute for Human Rights participated in a regional workshop on the legal empowerment of the poor, held in Cairo from January 15-17 and organized by the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme.

Workshop participants aimed to build the concept of legal empowerment of the poor at the Arab regional level, a concept formulated by a high-level international committee - with Arab participation - in 2008. Its "law in the service of everyone" was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009.

[Read more](#) [7]

[CALL FOR APPLICATIONS](#) [8]

2012 Jan 11 - 12:27

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted the deadlines for the following calls for applications:

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic - deadline for applications is 12 January 2012, midnight (GMT)

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan - deadline for applications is 23 January 2012, midnight (GMT)

For more information, please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/> [9]

[Read more](#) [8]

[Pillay: No Amnesty for gross Human Rights Violations in Yemen](#) [10]

2012 Jan 9 - 11:42

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on January 6 urged Yemeni authorities to respect international laws prohibiting amnesties in cases of gross human rights violations. Yemeni politicians are currently debating an amnesty law soon to be presented to Parliament.

[Read more](#) [10]

[Saudi Arabia: OHCHR condemns increase in executions, cruel punishment](#) [11]

2012 Jan 9 - 11:12

Spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Rupert Colville issued a statement on January 6 condemning cruel and unusual punishments imposed by the government of Saudi Arabia, including a sharp uptick in the number of executions in the past year.

[Read more](#) [11]

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**Source URL (retrieved on 2012 Feb 22 - 23:19):** <http://gihr.org/en/home>

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[2] <http://gihr.org/en/news/2012/02/13/new-roadmap>

[3] <http://gihr.org/en/news/2012/01/30/un-expert-on-right-to-housing-to-visit-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory>

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