

Speakers

Lucy Claridge is a practising human rights lawyer and is currently Head of Law at Minority Rights Group International, an international human rights NGO based in London, which promotes and protects the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide. She has worked within the voluntary sector for over 10 years, for a variety of human rights organisations. She has also spent several years in private practice, where she focused on media litigation and professional negligence.

Thea Gelbspan has worked as an independent consultant for a number of NGOs, universities and independent experts. Since early 2011, she has worked as a Program Officer at the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net). At the Network, she coordinates the Working Group for Social Movements and Grassroots Groups, a project on development-induced displacement and a global rapid response system to respond to imminent violations of human rights or threats against human rights defenders.

Jérémie Gilbert is Reader in Law at the School of Law & Social Sciences, University of East London. His main area of research is on international human rights law, and more particularly the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. He has published various articles and book chapters on the rights of indigenous peoples, looking in particular at their right to land. Jérémie often works with indigenous communities and representatives NGOs on cases involving land rights. He is the vice-chair of the international board of the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), a member of Minority Rights Group International's Advisory Board on their Legal Cases Programme and also regularly works with the Forest Peoples' Programme and the Rainforest Foundation UK and Norway.

Georges Thierry Handja is a Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist. He has worked with the Centre for Environment and Development, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Cameroon and is currently the Mapping Advisor for the Rainforest Foundation UK, based in London. His areas of interest are Participatory Mapping, issues affecting indigenous peoples and environmental protection.

Prof. Vinodh Jaichand was the former Director of the International Human Rights Exchange in the School of Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand and prior to that Deputy Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights for nine years. He is the author of Restitution of Land Rights and has co-edited 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Europe and Anti-Discrimination for the Judiciary. In August 2013 he was appointed, by the President of South Africa, as Commissioner to the Law Reform Commission. He has served on the Standards Generating Body on Legal Education and Training of the South African Qualifications Authority and as an Independent Assessor by the Council on Higher Education: Department of Education and as the Ministerial Representative on the Council of Technikon Pretoria. He is an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

John Kabia is Program Officer at the Fund for Global Human Rights where he is responsible for managing grant making, capacity building and outreach programs in West Africa. The Fund supports the work of human rights activists and organizations across 19 countries in 6 regions. In West Africa, Fund grantees are involved in addressing a wide range of human rights issues, such as defending land rights of communities threatened by mining and agro-business concessions, promoting women's and children's rights, pressing for accountability for war crimes, combating corruption, and pushing for government policies that promote the economic, social and cultural rights of citizens. John has authored a series of research publications on human rights, conflict and peacebuilding in West Africa and holds a PhD in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford.

Ahmed Khanou is the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Lands, Country, Panning and the Environment, Sierra Leone.

Marco Lankhorst is a senior researcher at The Hague Institute for Global Justice. has lived and worked in various African countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri), and Namibia, where he was active as a scholar, consultant, and development practitioner. Thematically, his work centers on bottom-up rule of law promotion (access to justice and legal empowerment), company-community conflicts, and the governance of access to and disputes over natural resources. Marco specializes in developing both a macro (policy maker) and a micro (beneficiary) perspective on the problems he works on, and to find solutions that are practical and meaningful at both levels. He combines this with extensive experience in designing and implementing pilot projects aimed at testing and refining innovative rule of law interventions.

Fred Pearce is an author and journalist based in London. He is a science writer and has reported on the environment, popular science and development issues from 64 countries over the past 20 years. He specializes in global environmental issues, including water and climate change. He is currently the environment consultant of New Scientist magazine and a regular contributor to the British newspapers Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent, and Times Higher Education. He has also written for several US publications including Audubon, Foreign Policy, Popular Science, Seed, and Time.

Melissa Riess-James works with Namati's Community Land Titling Initiative coordinating the Community Land Rights Casebase. Previously she worked with the Norwegian Refugee Council's international legal assistance programme. She is a lawyer qualified in California with a background in regulatory and administrative law. She lives in London.

Clara Sandoval is a qualified lawyer and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at Essex University and Director of the Essex Transitional Justice Network. She teaches and researches on areas related to the Inter-American System of Human Rights, Legal Theory, Business and Human Rights and Transitional Justice. Most of her recent scholarship has been focused on reparations for gross human rights violations by the State and by TNCs and on transitional justice and violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including dealing with land dispossession in times of transition. She has been a consultant for the ICC and REDRESS in the area of reparations. She is the author of the recently released OHCHR special issue on Transitional Justice and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-13-05.pdf>

Joseph Schechla is coordinator of the Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN), which supports member organizations in their development, advocacy and various struggles to realize the human right to adequate housing and equitable access to land in the Middle East/North Africa and other regions across the globe. The HLRN, an umbrella for nongovernmental member organizations, is based in Santiago, Chile, and links some 450 affiliates in over 100 countries promoting the human right to adequate housing. Joseph is a specialist in economic, social and cultural rights, concentrating on land and productive resources in situations of conflict, occupation and war, as well as Transitional Justice.

Camilla Toulmin is Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development based in London. (IIED). An economist by training, she has worked mainly in Africa on agriculture, land, climate and livelihoods. This has combined field research, policy analysis and advocacy. Her work has aimed at understanding how environmental, economic and political change impact on people's lives, and how policy reform can bring real change on the ground. This has combined field research, policy analysis, capacity building and advocacy. It

has involved engaging with people at many different levels from farmers and researchers, to national governments, NGOs, donor agencies and international bodies.

Rhodri C Williams currently works as a Rule of Law Program Manager for the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) in Stockholm, and is an Associate of Inclusive Development International (IDI). He has worked as a consultant, researcher and lecturer on human rights protection with a specialty in land and property issues, humanitarian response, transitional justice, and minority rights. Prior to becoming a consultant in 2004, he worked for four years with the OSCE in Bosnia on property restitution for displaced persons. He is a lawyer by training.