

Invitation

Symposium on Fact-Finding on and Documentation of Human Rights Violations

Friday, 22 March 2024, 1:30 – 5:30 pm

Aula of the University of Graz, Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz

Organised by the University of Graz and its European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) at the occasion of awarding the Human Rights Prize of the University of Graz to the International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB).¹

Participants are also invited to attend the award ceremony at 11:00 am at the Aula Magna, followed by a reception.

Programme of the Symposium

Session I: International Fact-Finding and Preservation of Evidence: Focus on Belarus

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Speakers:

- Therese Rytter, Director of Prevention and Accountability, DIGNITY, IAPB; Vice President of CPT
- Pavel Sapelko, Human Rights Center Viasna, Belarus, IAPB
- Victoria Federova, International Committee for the Investigation of Torture, Belarus, IAPB
- Anais Marin, UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus (online)
- Wolfgang Benedek, OSCE Moscow Mechanism Rapporteur for Belarus

Facilitator: Rasmus Grue Christensen, CEO DIGNITY

¹ The International Accountability Platform for Belarus (IAPB) is a coalition of independent non-government organisations that have joined forces to collect, consolidate, verify, and preserve evidence of gross human rights violations constituting crimes under international law allegedly committed by Belarusian authorities and others in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath. The IAPB was launched in 2021 and is led by DIGNITY – Danish Institute against Torture, Human Rights Center Viasna (co-lead), International Committee for the Investigation of Torture in Belarus (co-lead) and REDRESS (co-lead). It cooperates with a number of international and local human rights organisations and is supported by a wide range of states. The work of the IAPB is carried out by a Secretariat composed of legal and medical practitioners with expertise and experience in international criminal investigations and prosecutions located at DIGNITY's headquarters in Copenhagen.

Questions:

- What are the innovations of the IAPB for international human rights fact-finding and preservation of evidence to enable accountability for the violations and justice for the victims?
- What is understood by a survivor-centred approach?
- Can the experience of the IAPB also be relevant for other situations, such as Ukraine?

Coffee Break: 3:00 – 3:30 pm

Session II: How to use New Technologies in International Human Rights Fact-Finding

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Speakers:

- Kate **Vigneswaran**, Acting Head of IAPB
- Nick **Waters**, Bellingcat
- Olha **Opalenko**, Truth Hounds
- Andrea **Huber**, Head of Human Rights Department of OSCE/ODIHR
- Peter **van Huis**, Digital forensic expert of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine
- Anastasiia **Kruope**, Associate Director, Human Rights Watch Europe and Central Asia Division.

Facilitators: Wolfgang Benedek and Gerd Oberleitner, ETC, University of Graz

Questions:

- What new opportunities are opened by user-generated content and open-source investigations?
- How are these opportunities used by international and local fact-finding bodies?
- What are the experiences with applying the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open-Source Investigations?
- How can cooperation/coordination between stakeholders involved in human-rights fact-finding be improved?

Farewell reception

The symposium will also be streamed online.

Please register with elias.faller@uni-graz.at for physical and online participation.