Improving the Human Rights Dimension of the Fight against Corruption

Speakers biographies

José Ugaz

Lawyer and criminal law professor in Peru
José Carlos Ugaz Sánchez- Moreno is a Peruvian jurist. He was appointed as Ad-Hoc State Attorney of the Republic of Peru in several corruption cases, including the investigation of former President Fujimori and his chief of intelligence, Vladimiro Montesinos. During Ugaz’ administration, more than 200 judicial cases were opened against more than 1,500 members of the Fujimori’s network. During his mandate, US$205 million were frozen abroad and US$150 million were recovered from the United States, Switzerland, Grand Cayman and Peru.

Ugaz is a member of the group of experts for the “Second Session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Negotiation of a United Nations Convention against Corruption” (2002). Since 2008, he is member of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) Council, and Individual Member of Transparency International. He is a representative of Transparency International at the expert meeting of the MESCIC (follow Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, Washington DC, March 22, 2010) and an expert member of the working group that prepared the “Asset Recovery Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners” (World Bank/UN, Vienna 2009, Marsella 2010).

José Ugaz is speaker in different events and countries on Corruption and Money Laundering. He was elected as member of the Transparency International Board in 2011, and as chair of the board in 2014.

Sihem Bensedrine

Chair of the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia
Writer and Journalist, Sihem Bensedrine is also a prominent human rights activist; she has worked for more than three decades to expose human rights violations in Tunisia and defended freedom of expression. Under the autocratic rule of President Ben Ali, ousted in early 2011, she was jailed, subjected to smear campaigns and endured persecution.

Her fight for human rights, women’s rights and press freedom did not end with the revolution. Since the revolution, she has been lobbying for free elections and democracy as spokesperson for the National Council for Liberties in Tunisia (CNLT) and president of the Tunisian Center for transitional justice (CTJT) and deeply involved in institutional reforms in Tunisia.

Bensedrine has received several awards for her courage and long fight against human rights abuses. She was nominated on June 2014 as President of the Tunisian Truth and Dignity commission, a body responsible for implementing the law on transitional justice.
Marcia Kran

Member of the UN Human Rights Committee

Marcia is an experienced international human rights lawyer and political scientist specializing in women’s rights and democratic governance who has over 35 years professional experience with the United Nations at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Government of Canada. Until the end of 2013, she was the Director of OHCHR’s Research and Right to Development Division in Geneva. The Division advises the UN High Commissioner on policy and positions in the areas of women’s human rights, gender equality and other key rights issues.

Marcia was formerly the Head of Policy and Programmes at UNDP’s Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok supporting development programming in 27 countries in line with UNDP’s Gender Strategy. Before that, she led UNDP’s Democratic Governance Practice Team for Europe and the CIS Commonwealth in Bratislava serving 25 countries. She directed the national justice programming team at the Open Society’s legal programme based in Budapest, covering Eastern Europe and the CIS. She was also an adjunct professor of international human rights law at the Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, and Policy Counsel at the Department of Justice - Canada in Ottawa.

In 2005 Marcia was awarded the Walter S. Tarnopolsky Prize by the International Commission of Jurists (Canada) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to international human rights. The following year, she received a Celebrated Alumnus Award from the Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba. She was elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Committee in 2017.

Dr. Zdzislaw Kedzia

Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Professor constitutional law and human rights law at WSB University (Wroclaw) and Adam-Mickiewicz-University (Poznan), Poland; Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Nations); President of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization in Venice; former senior adviser to the High Commissioner of Human Rights and chief of branch in OHCHR; General Rapporteur of the II World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

Bamariam Koita

Member of the UN Human Rights Committee

Bamariam Koita is a Mauritanian jurist. He is member of the Constitutional Court of Mauritania since 2013 and was president of the National Commission of Human Rights from 2010 to 2013. Before that, Koita was a member of the subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (2011-2013). Furthermore, he has been very active on the national level regarding human rights protection and played an important role in Mauritania’s review by the UN Treaty Bodies and the UPR. He was elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Committee in 2017.
**Rev. David Ugolor**

**Executive Director, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) and Convener, Nigerian Civil Society Network on Stolen Asset (NNSA)**

David Ugolor is one of the leading Nigerian anti-corruption and environmental justice activists based in Nigeria with over two decades experience in promoting social justice. Rev. David Ugolor is an ordained Minister of the New Apostolic Church and the Executive Director of Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) which is based in Abuja, Nigeria promoting research, Campaign, Policy Advocacy and training on governance and corruption, environmental justice and International Financial Institution (IFIs) policies in the West Africa region. He is also the Convener of several national and International civil society platforms which includes the Nigerian Civil Society Network on Stolen Assets (NNSA), Publish What You Pay Nigeria Campaign, Ecowas Network on Debt and Development (ECOWAS), Jubilee 2000 Nigeria Campaign and Niger-Delta Budget and Transparency Network.

As the Executive Director of ANEEJ, David Ugolor initiated several anti-corruption projects which include the innovative Civil Society Advocacy to Support Anti-Corruption in Nigeria (CASAN) with support from the European Union, Federal Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and transparency in the extractive sector through advocacy for the rigorous implementation of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the civil society initiative, Publish What You Pay Nigeria Campaign.

David Ugolor also provided leadership in convening the first global civil society initiative in monitoring recovered stolen assets of former military Nigerian Head of State, Gen. Sanni Abacha from Switzerland. The initiative lead to the publication of civil society report titled: ‘Shadow Report on Abacha Loot’, which graphically document the lack of transparency and accountability in the management of recovered stolen assets to Nigeria from Switzerland in 2004/5.

Currently, David Ugolor is involved in the coordination of civil society engagement in the monitoring of the second review cycle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the Post-GFAR Implementation in Nigeria.

**Susan Hawley**

**Policy Director of Corruption Watch in the UK**

Susan Hawley is Policy Director of Corruption Watch in the UK - an anti-corruption NGO that works to end impunity for grand corruption in the UK particularly by corporate actors. It does this by investigating and exposing bribery, and monitoring the enforcement and regulatory framework in the UK to ensure it is robust enough to hold those who engage in grand corruption to account. She is also on the Coordinating Committee of the UNCAC Coalition and coordinates the Coalition’s Working Group on Accountable Asset Return, in which role she helped coordinate CSO input into the Global Forum on Asset Recovery organised by the World Bank's StAR and UNODC in December 2017.
Olivier De Schutter

Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Olivier De Schutter teaches human rights at the University of Louvain (UCL) and at SciencesPo (Paris). A specialist in economic and social rights in the context of economic globalization, he was appointed the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food between 2008 and 2014, as is now a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He was Secretary-General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) between 2004 and 2008, and chaired the UN Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, a high-level group of experts advising the EU institutions on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, between 2002 and 2007.

Richard Messick

Consultant on legal development and anticorruption issues
Richard E. Messick consults for governments, international organizations, development agencies, and non-governmental organizations on legal development and anticorruption issues. As Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, he crafted the strategy that led the Senate to approve ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, breaking a 36-year deadlock and opening the way for Senate approval of other human rights treaties. He later joined the World Bank where he worked until his retirement on legal and judicial reform and anticorruption projects. His writings have appeared in scholarly and popular publications including the American Political Science Review, the World Bank Research Observer, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. He is Senior Contributor to the Global Anticorruption Blog.

Anar Mammadli

Founder of the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center in Azerbaijan
Anar is a human rights activist with more than 15 years of professional experience in election monitoring and promotion of human rights in Azerbaijan and Post-Soviet countries. He has spent more than two years in jail on trumped up charges and has been awarded a prestigious Václav Havel Award for Human Rights of the Council of Europe in 2014 for his work in human rights and democratic elections.

He was arrested in December 2013 and sentenced to five and a half years on politically motivated charges. Following the international outrage, he was released on 17 March 2016.

He began his activism in the late 1990s and in 2001, founded the Election Monitoring Centre, which succeeded to mobilize more than 1000 domestic election observers across the country for all elections since. Five months before the Azerbaijani Presidential Elections in 2008, the registration of this organization was cancelled to prevent us from carrying our work, but together with his colleagues, he established the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS) in December 2008. EMDS is a member of the European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE), European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO), Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM), Network of Parliament Monitoring Organizations and the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership Program of the European Union.
He took part in numerous election observation missions as an expert, including that of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR).

Anne Scheltema Beduin

Executive director of Transparency International Nederland
Since 2013, Anne (1984) is executive director of Transparency International Nederland. Her special interest goes to whistleblower protection, ethical lobbying and (victims of) grand corruption. Between 2013-2015 she combined working at TI-NL with being an assistant professor International Law and Human Rights Law at the University of Amsterdam.

Previously, Anne worked as an attorney at law at Prakken d'Olivieira Lawyers, as part of the section international law and human right law. She was attorney in the Srebrenica case (genocide), the Rawagedeh case (war crimes) and the cases of Nigerian farmers and Friends of the Earth Netherlands against Shell (oil leakages in Nigeria). She further tried cases concerning torture and other human rights violations at international tribunals (HRC and ACHPR).

Anne studied law, and graduated in three masters (Public International Law, Military Law and (Dutch) Criminal Law (cum laude)) at the university of Amsterdam. She further attained a propaedeutics in Latin language and culture. Anne is married and has a son.

Elias Mateus Isaac

Country-Director for Open Society Foundation, Angola
Elias Isaac has over 25 years of experience working in humanitarian projects and management of development programmes in the areas of democracy, governance, human rights and anti-corruption in Angola.

He started in 1991 as the Director for Administration in the Department of Humanitarian Assistance, Social Studies and Projects of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola. In 1997 he worked as a Programme Officer for the International Republican Institute (IRI). Then in 1998 he joined the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID) as Deputy Director for Programmes with the responsibility of developing and implementing projects to promote community civic education, citizens’ participation in community development and training of local government officials.

In 1999, Elias Isaac worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as Senior Democracy and Governance Specialist and later as Team Leader. He served as a senior advisor and resource person in the areas of civil society and political party development, media development, elections, rule of law, governance and anti-corruption activities.

He joined the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) in 2005 as Angola’s Country Director with the responsibility of providing strategic management and programmatic leadership. Elias Isaac holds a Masters´ Degree in Theology (major in Social Ethics) with honours: Magna Cum Laude from the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana-USA; Diploma in Theology from Makerere University, Kampala-Uganda; Currently, finalizing a Masters´ Degree in Development Studies with the University of Free State, Bloemfontein-South Africa.
Gubad Ibadoghlu

Senior analyst for social and economic studies at Azerbaijan’s Economic Research Center

Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu is an economist and civil society activist from Azerbaijan. He has commenced his career at Economic Research Center since 1999. He is senior policy analyst for social and economic studies at Azerbaijan’s Economic Research Center, a Baku-based NGO that promotes economic development and good governance.


Dr. Ibadoghlu was a member of the Steering Committee of the EU Eastern Partnership Program’s Civil Society Forum (CSF) and he was a country coordinator of National Platform of the CSF, he helps to facilitate greater collaboration among the 71 participating NGOs in Azerbaijan. He has also served as a coordinator of “For Improving Transparency in Extractive Industries,” a 142-member Baku-based NGO Coalition, and has been re-elected on behalf of Eurasian’s civil societies representative to the international board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for 2016-2019.

Currently, he is visiting professor on economy at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. USA.

Ilze Brands Kehris

Member of the UN Human Rights Committee

Ilze Brands Kehris is member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2017-2020) and Senior Research Fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights at Lund University. From February 2011 until August 2014 she was the Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, after which she spent September 2014-August 2016 as Visiting Scholar at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York. She was previously a member of the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and served as the First Vice-President of that Committee from June 2006 until June 2010. In the EU context, she was the independent member from Latvia of the Management Board of the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), where she was elected Vice-Chairperson from 2004 to 2007. She was a member of the Management Board of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) since its inception and was its Chairperson from December 2009 until July 2012.

With a background in political science, her fields of academic and policy expertise are civil and political rights, minority rights and human rights-based approach to conflict prevention. She is a member of several related independent institutions’ boards and scientific committees. At the national level, she was Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights from November 2002 to February 2011, where her work focused on rights of persons belonging to national minorities, citizenship, anti-discrimination, hate crime and racism, fundamental freedoms and civil and political rights.

Umida Niyazova

Director Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights

Umida Niyazova is director of the Berlin-based NGO Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights (UGF). She worked as human rights advocate in Uzbekistan from 2000 - 2009 when
she was forced to flee her country because of her work. She has worked in the Tashkent offices of organizations such as Internews Network and Freedom House.

In 2007 Umida Niyazova was arrested in Tashkent and sentenced to seven years imprisonment on charges of the “production or distribution of materials that threaten public safety and public order” and for “smuggling extremist religious materials”. After widespread protests and with the help of international organizations, she was finally released after 4 months in prison. In September 2009, Umida left Uzbekistan and sought political asylum in Berlin where she founded the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights. The organization with its team of monitors inside Uzbekistan, have been carrying out meticulous research, collecting witness testimonies and conducting advocacy on the issue of child and forced labour in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan for the past seven years.

As a member of the Cotton Campaign, a global coalition of human and labour rights organizations, The Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights has participated in international outreach campaigns to raise awareness among retailers and consumers and was successful in forcing the Uzbek government to put an end to the recruitment of children in its cotton industry. More recently, The Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights co-authored a report with Human Rights Watch, highlighting the role of international financial institutions such as the World Bank in labour rights abuses in Uzbekistan’s cotton sector.

In 2008, Human Rights Watch honoured Umida with its prestigious Human Rights Defender Award. In 2015 Umida had the privilege of accepting the International Labour Rights Forum’s award for Labour Rights Defenders on behalf of prominent Uzbek activists.

**Yevgeniy Zhovtis**

**Director of the International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Kazakhstan**

Yevgeniy Zhovtis is a prominent human rights lawyer and the current co-chairman of the Working Group of the Consultative Body “Dialogue on Human Dimension” under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Zhovtis is also the director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (which he co-founded in 1993), a member of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy and a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Assembly and Association. Before he graduated with honors from the High Law School “Adilet” in 1999, Zhovtis served as one of independent trade union leaders in the early 1990s and has been an outspoken critic of human rights violations in Kazakhstan for the past 25 years.

Zhovtis has been the recipient of numerous human rights awards, including the EU and US Democracy and Civil Society Award in 1999, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Human Rights Award in 2007, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee Andrey Sakharov Freedom Award and the Freedom Award for Kazakhstani Democratic Activists, both in 2010, the Moscow Helsinki Group Human Rights Award in 2011 among several others. Zhovtis has published extensively on the problems of democratization and economic transformation, human rights and the rule of law in Kazakhstan and post-Soviet space.

**Kristian Lasslett**

**Head of the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences at the Ulster University**

Professor Kristian Lasslett is Head of the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences at the Ulster University, and sits on the Executive Board of the International State Crime Initiative. He is joint Editor-in-Chief of State Crime, a leading international peer reviewed
journal, and Editor of The State Testimony Project, the first online casebook for state crime studies. Kristian’s research focuses on criminogenic intersections of state-corporate power, and the communities of resistance that emerge in opposition. This focus has been operationalised through fieldwork on the extractive industries - with a landmark study on the Bougainville conflict - in addition to corruption, land-grabbing and forced eviction. Kristian has published on a range of subjects in leading international journals and edited collections, including scientific method, state theory, action research methodologies, state-corporate crime, state terrorism, and forced eviction. He is also a regular commentator in the international media, and has issued two reports on corporate criminality through the International State Crime Initiative. His first book State Crime on the Margins of Empire was published by Pluto Press in August 2014. His second book, Uncovering the Crimes of Urbanisation, was published by Routledge in 2018.

Carmen Rueda

Independent consultant on international human rights law
Carmen Rueda is a lawyer from Spain and currently an independent consultant on international human rights law. Former staff member at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she occupied, among others, the posts of Secretary of the working group on communications of the Human Rights Committee, Secretary of the Committee against Torture and Secretary of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Maggie Murphy

Senior Global Advocacy Manager at Transparency International
Maggie Murphy is Senior Global Advocacy Manager at Transparency International (TI), the global movement against corruption. She leads the organisation’s advocacy efforts targeting international bodies such as the G20, G8 and OECD with a focus on closing loopholes in the international financial system to stem the flow of criminal and corrupt money, and is a designated TI spokesperson. Prior to Joining Transparency International, she worked in human rights advocacy roles for Minority Rights Group International and Amnesty International amongst others, on issues ranging from ending torture to increasing political participation of marginalised groups. Maggie has worked in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Rwanda and Senegal. She holds a BA from Oxford University and an MSc from the London School of Economics.

Wendy Abbey

Technical Advisor at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Ghana
She has been involved in civil society work for the past nine years with particular focus on policy advocacy, community systems strengthening and research on human rights, Statelessness, Gender and HIV. Ms. Abbey has coordinated Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) and their engagements with the Human Rights Committee on ICCPR as well as a follow-up mission by a member of the Human Rights Committee in collaboration with the Centre for Civil and Political Rights. She is currently working with CSOs in Liberia to draft report in Reply to the List of Issues ahead of the assessment of Liberia in the 122nd Session of the Human Rights Committee. She holds a Degree in Political Science from the University of Ghana and a Master’s Degree in International Relations from Webster University.
Aaron Bornstein

Civil society and anti-corruption expert
Aaron Bornstein is a civil society and anti-corruption expert, with expertise in creating and leading the first foundation in the world established with funds from a US Foreign Corrupt Practice Act settlement, the BOTA Foundation. Aaron has managed grants programs around the world in a wide range of areas including improving governance, child and youth welfare, and higher education strengthening. Over the two years he has collaborated closely with the Center for Civil Society Studies at the Johns Hopkins University on writing a case study on BOTA, and a “how to” paper on stolen asset return. Aaron has also been a consultant to the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative of the World Bank, and is currently exploring collaboration with the Netherlands Helsinki Committee on developing a victims relief project connected to corruption penalties levied on Dutch based corporations. Aaron is available for speaking and consulting assignments on stolen asset return mechanisms and can be reached at abornstein19@gmail.com.

Julio César Arbizu González

Peruvian lawyer specialized in public law, human rights and corruption
Julio César Arbizu González is a Peruvian lawyer specializing in public law, human rights and anti-corruption fight. He has been a parliamentary advisor, commissioner of the Ombudsman's Office, Anticorruption Prosecutor of Peru and Director of LIBER, an NGO dedicated to improving standards of transparency and access to public information. He is currently Chief of Staff in the Mission of Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras. (MACCIH).

He has also been a professor of different subjects at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, the School of Officers of the National Police of Peru and the Academy of Magistracy. He is a frequent lecturer in the subjects of his specialty in different countries of the world.

Mark L. Wolf

Judge and Chair of Integrity Initiatives International, USA
The Chair of Integrity Initiatives International, Mark L. Wolf, is a Senior United States District Judge, and the former Chief Judge, of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. In 1984, he received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for exceptional success in prosecuting public corruption in Massachusetts.


A graduate of Yale College and the Harvard Law School, Judge Wolf is an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he teaches a seminar on Combatting Corruption Internationally. In addition, Judge Wolf is a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and
a Distinguished Non-Resident Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He has frequently spoken on the role of the judge in a democracy, human rights issues, and combatting corruption in foreign countries, including Russia, China, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Egypt, Cyprus, and Panama.

In 2014, Judge Wolf published a Brookings Institution article and a Washington Post Op-Ed piece advocating the creation of an International Anti-Corruption Court to combat grand corruption -- the abuse of public office for private gain by a nation's leaders. The proposal quickly gained the support of, among others, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Transparency International, Human Rights Watch, leading international prosecutors, and courageous young people throughout the world. In 2016, Judge Wolf, Justice Richard Goldstone of South Africa, and other colleagues created Integrity Initiatives International: to advocate for the creation of the International Anti-Corruption Court; to develop and strengthen other measures to combat grand corruption; and to forge a network of young people dedicated to combatting corruption in their own countries and around the world.

Hans Fridlund
Programme Manager at UPR-info
Hans joined UPR Info as Follow-Up Project Manager in 2016. Previously to this commitment he worked extensively on strengthening the capacity of national NGOs and advancing domestic human rights implementation, paying particular attention to minority rights. He first got acquainted with Geneva through his position with WFUNA where he conducted human rights trainings for member organisations in parallel to engaging with the Human Rights Council. Hans holds an M.A. in Human Rights from the University of Essex and his dissertation addressed the charge on the universal application of human rights from proponents of cultural relativism.

Hans has a keen interest in human rights implementation on the ground and values the impact local experiences have on global efforts to promote and protect human rights. He speaks Swedish, German, and English.

Brian Campbell
Legal advisor to the Cotton Campaign
Brian Campbell is a legal advisor to the Cotton Campaign, a global coalition of over 25 labor, human rights and business organizations committed to ending state-sponsored forced labor in Uzbekistan’s cotton industry. Brian has experience representing victims of human rights abuses in legal and administrative proceedings, both in U.S. courts and before the U.S. Congress. He also serves as a legal advisor to several grassroots and community-based organizations in Africa and Asia.