

**« ÉTATS GÉNÉRAUX » ON HUMAN RIGHTS 2007
Geneva – Thursday 15th of March 2007**

**« WITHOUT THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES, THE
EFFICIENCY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL WILL BE
SEVERELY COMPROMISED ! »**

Facing the 4th session of the Human Rights Council, the “Etats généraux” on Human Rights wish to show their support to the special procedures, reconsidered during the last sessions. The Special Procedures are at the core of the UN's human rights machinery. They are among the most innovative, responsive and flexible tools of the human rights machinery, and they play a critical and often unique role in protecting and promoting human rights. Without independent and objective experts who are able to monitor and respond rapidly to allegations of violations occurring anywhere in the world, the ability of the UN – in particular the Human Rights Council - to respond to violations will be severely compromised.

The “Etats généraux” on Human Rights is an initiative of the Geneva Film Festival on Human Rights (FIFDH) and was formally established in early 2006. The aim is to offer a platform to all persons and organizations actively engaged in the defense of human dignity and fundamental rights. Most Geneva based international organizations that actively promote human rights are part of it. The overall aim is to give a voice to civil society as well as to national and international NGOs.

Press conference Thursday, March 15th:

11:00 am, Maison des Arts du Grütli, salle Simon, Geneva

Speakers :

- Irène Khan, Secretary General Amnesty International
- Peggy Hicks, Director Global Advocacy Human Rights Watch
- Simia Ahmadi, représentante permanente auprès de l'ONU de la Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH)
- Anne-Laurence Lacroix, directrice adjointe de l'Organisation mondiale contre la torture (OMCT)
- Anselmo Lee, Executive Director Forum Asia

Moderation : Daniel Bolomey, président des Etats généraux des droits humains

NGO discussion Thursday, March 22nd:

The “Etats généraux” on Human Rights invite all NGOs representatives attending the 2007 Human Rights Council to a discussion on NGO claimings about special procedures on Thursday 22th of March.

18h-20h : The “Etats généraux” on Human Rights, International Conference Centre (CICG), rue Varembe, Geneva

Etats généraux
Avec le soutien de la Ville et de l'Etat de Genève