On the occasion of the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council

29TH TRAINING COURSE FOR DEFENDERS FROM THE REGIONS

'Course on the Human Rights Council, international human rights and humanitarian law, international procedures and diplomacy'

(Geneva, 25 February – 15 March 2013)

The 29th Geneva Course of '*Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training*' (*GHR*) takes place **from 25 February to 15 March 2012**. The Course is conducted on the occasion of the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council (25 February to 22 March 2013).

GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (*GHR*)

GHR is an international training organization contributing to human rights **implementation** in the countries. It trains human rights NGOs and defenders and all those involved in human rights at national level, to **empower** them in the elaboration and realization of strategies, and in the use of domestic, regional and international procedures.

Since the creation of the Human Rights Council ('*HR-Council*'), *GHR* conducted its 3-week *Geneva Course* **at each** HR-Council's **ordinary session**. With its partners in the field, *GHR* also animated in the recent years dozens of (3-4 days) In-Country *Courses* for defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Russia, Kenya, Bangladesh, Indonesia (Papua), Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Sri-Lanka.

GHR also gives *Geneva Seminars* (especially for national NGOs coalitions) during sessions of the treaty bodies and of the Working group on the Universal Periodic Review (*UPR*). It convenes *Experts Seminars* on the main issues on the agenda of the HR-Council.

THE GENEVA COURSE (*GSC*)

The *Geneva Course* takes place at each ordinary session of the HR-Council. It is an **interactive and intensive training**. Trainees acquire basic knowledge in international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; the theory of inter-governmental organisations (IGOs); the UN, its structure, its reform and the role of its main organs; the trends in international relations; the functioning of the HR-Council and its mechanisms; the human rights standard setting process; and treaty bodies.

With the wide training experience of its trainers in Geneva, *GHR Geneva Courses* are unique. They combine the **theory**, the exchanges on the experience of the participants (**field situations**) and the **exposure** to the multilateral **reality**, which the trainees monitor. Composed of its researchers and interns from different universities, *GHR Department of Human Rights Policy Studies* (*HPS*) assists the trainees during the HR-Council's session.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 29TH GENEVA COURSE

The *Geneva Courses* are part of *GHR* Programme '*Participation of the Regions in the Human Rights Council*', which aims at a **full and effective participation** of **defenders from the regions** in the work of the HR-Council. This is essential for quality of the HR-Council's deliberations. Priority in the **selection** is given to defenders and NGOs from the regions. *GHR* also welcomes members of national and regional NGOs delegations attending the session of the HR-Council, and trainees from regional and international human rights organisations having their seat or representation at the UN Office in Geneva.

PROGRAMME OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The Course takes place in Geneva **during** the 22nd HR-Council's session. It has **two parts**: the General Course (25 February to 1 March) teaches the international system; and the Course on the proceedings of the Council (4 to 15 March) has **daily morning classes** to analyze the debates in the HR-Council (which the trainees learn to monitor) and to learn drafting communications to the UN special procedures. During the classes, the trainers present summaries of the reports submitted by the Experts and the Office of the High Commissioner (*OHCHR*), and explain the ongoing negotiations.

GENERAL COURSE

The **General Course** (25 February to 1 March) present an overview on international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; transitional justice; international relations; the UN mechanisms and procedures; the work of the HR-Council and of the *OHCHR*; the use of the special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR; and the strategies to foster human rights implementation inside countries and to protect human rights defenders.

Special classes will be given on international humanitarian law, international criminal law, transitional justice, women's rights, religious freedom, transitional justice, the action of the *OHCHR* and the protection of human rights defenders.

DAILY MORNING CLASSES

During the **morning classes** (Weeks 2 and 3), **thematic reports submitted to the 22nd session** of the HR-Council by *OHCHR* and the Special Rapporteurs will be introduced and analysed (arbitrary detention; enforced or involuntary disappearances; freedom of religion or belief; human rights and counter-terrorism; torture; right to food; human rights obligations and sustainable environment; adequate housing; situations of human rights defenders; reprisals; minority issues; child prostitution and pornography; foreign debt).

The **country reports** will also be commented. During this 22nd session, experts will submit reports on the situations in Iran, North Korea, Myanmar, Palestine and Syria, together with *OHCHR* reports on Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia, and Sri Lanka.

The morning classes will also address the 4 specific themes of the three panels of this HR-Council's session, on the rights of **persons with disabilities** (focus: work-employment); on the negative impact of **corruption**; on the 20th anniversary of the **Vienna** World Conference, and of the full-day on the **children's rights** (focus: right to health).

The *Geneva Course* will end with a the Course on **human rights implementation in the countries** (MDG's, national plans, technical assistance, NGOs strategies inside the countries), the **assessment and follow-up**, and the general recapitulation of the Course.

*To obtain the **Course's certificate**, trainees have to comply with several tasks, including reading reports submitted to the HR-Council, drafting reports on the deliberations of the HR-Council and preparing a draft communication to the UN thematic procedures.*

FINANCE AND REGISTRATION

1. **Deadline for applications** is 31 January 2013. *GHR* wishes to **train trainers**. It therefore requests a recommendation from the NGO and/or network of the applicant. Please note that obtaining a Schengen visa takes time.

2. **Tuition fees** for the Course is 1'200.- Swiss francs, CHF. Applicants form the regions having no sponsor may request a reduction for the registration fees (500.- CHF).

3. It is a 3-week Course. **Accommodation and living expenses in Geneva** often constitute an obstacle for defenders from the regions to attend the entire session of the Council. For three weeks in Geneva, expenses are estimated 2'370 CHF.

4. After the Course, those staying in Geneva to attend the 4th week of the HR-Council will receive a daily briefing from *GHR* to follow the deliberations. The **additional week** is **optional** and implies additional charges for accommodation and living expenses, estimated at 690.- CHF.

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