

INVITATION

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND THE RISKS OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS ABROAD

● Geneva Press Club – 25th June 2019, 12:00 to 14:00 ●

Omnia Strategy LLP invites you to a panel discussion, “Arbitrary Detention and the Risks of Conducting Business Abroad”, to coincide with the UN Human Rights Council, 41st Session in Geneva. The Panel discussion will be moderated by John Simpson CBE, BBC News world affairs editor.

There are increasing, and worrying, trends towards the arbitrary detention of business executives abroad. The high-level panel will discuss recent cases in which a State’s justice system has been used to further powerful vested interests. It will also examine what can be done to ensure States uphold fundamental human rights and the rule of law, as well as the recourse available to the individual.

Presentations from panellists and Q&A will take place 12:00 – 13:15, followed by a reception and light refreshments.

Speakers will include:

Cherie Blair CBE, QC - Cherie Blair is the Founder and Chair of Omnia Strategy LLP, advising clients on complex issues relating to international dispute resolution, the rule of law and capacity building, corporate responsibility and human rights. She is a renowned international lawyer, Queen’s Counsel and wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Mrs Blair and her team at Omnia Strategy represent Marsha Lazareva, a Russian business executive currently arbitrarily detained in Kuwait. Mrs Blair is also closely involved with various charities and a strong advocate for women’s rights. Among other roles, she is the Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, Vice Chair of the International Council on Women’s Business Leadership founded by Hillary Clinton, and Chancellor of the Asian University for Women.

François Zimeray - François Zimeray is a leading international lawyer, formerly serving as the French Human Rights Ambassador-at-large. He has conducted more than 100 field missions covering a wide range of human rights challenges, mostly in conflict or post conflict zones. He also attended special UN sessions and presented France’s UPR twice in Geneva. Mr Zimeray is a former Member of the European Parliament, where he took part in the reflections for the adoption of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. As a lawyer, Mr Zimeray currently represents Carlos Ghosn (former chairman of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance), who has filed a complaint with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Mads Andenas QC – Mads Andenas is a Professor of Law at the University of Oslo and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London. He is a barrister in Brick Court Chambers London and an Advokat in Norway with many cases before international courts and UN bodies. He was the Président rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2009-2015) and as such successfully intervened in the Belhaj case in the UK Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. He is a former Director of both the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the Centre of European Law at King’s College London.

Randa Fahmy – Randa Fahmy is an internationally recognised expert in global government affairs, energy policy and national security. Ms Fahmy has more than 30 years of legal and public policy experience, including service in the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government. Presently, Ms Fahmy is President of Fahmy Hudome International (FHI), a strategic consulting firm, which provides critical advice and counsel to international and domestic clients with an interest in international business transactions, global government affairs, and energy policy.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event. Space is limited so please RSVP to genevahrc@omniastrategy.com to secure your place.

Date: 25 June 2019, 12:00-14:00

Venue: Geneva Press Club, Route de Ferney 106, La Pastorale, 202 Genève
Omnia Strategy LLP