

Side event on the margins of the UN General Assembly Third Committee

WEAPONISING COUNTER-TERRORISM & NATIONAL SECURITY TO IMPRISON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

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29 October 2024

1:15 pm - 2:30pm

**The Church Center, 11th floor
777 UN Plaza, New York**

IN PERSON

This event will address the misuse of counterterrorism policies to oppress human rights defenders. Many activists, lawyers, and journalists face arbitrary arrests, torture, and imprisonment under the guise of national security. The session will highlight these abuses, particularly the use of sophisticated surveillance tools like Pegasus spyware, and will call for the release of detained defenders.

Speakers:

- **Ben Saul**, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
- **Dr. Hala Al-Dosari**, Woman Human Rights Defender, Saudi Arabia
- **Widad Franco**, UN Advocacy Officer, Human Rights Watch
- **Yasmin Omar**, International Women's Rights Lawyer, Middle East Democracy Center, Egypt

Moderator: **Khalid Ibrahim**, Executive Director, Gulf Centre for Human Rights

Lunch will be served at 1:00PM.

[RSVP here](#)

