



**The New Human Rights Dialogue Series Presents:**

**Fortress or Sand-Castle? Human Rights in the Age of Counter-Terrorism**

The panel discussion is the 7<sup>th</sup> installment of the *New Human Rights Dialogue Series*, a collaborative initiative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member States, the NGO Committee on Human Rights (CONGO), and the Department of Public Information. The Series is a 12-part, monthly series of discussion at United Nations Headquarters, leading up to the celebration on 10 December 2008 of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The 7<sup>th</sup> installment will examine the impact of counter-terrorism on the realization of human rights worldwide. The panel is titled “*Fortress or Sand-Castle? Human Rights in the Age of Counter-Terrorism*”.

Panelists include Emi MacLean, Center for Constitutional Rights, Joanne Mariner, Human Rights Watch, Robert Orr, Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, Margaret Satterthwaite, New York University School of Law, and Joanna Weschler, Security Council Report. The discussion will be moderated by Craig Mokhiber, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The panelists will address the following key issues:

- **The global situation and impact of counter-terrorism on human rights:** major patterns of violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the rule of law. State policies and measures that should be rescinded.
- **The international human rights legal framework:** the nature of States’ obligations to protect human rights while countering terrorism. The nexus between international humanitarian, human rights and criminal law.
- **The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:** its human rights provisions and progress in implementation, challenges and next steps. The role of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.
- **The role of the Security Council and its counter-terrorism mechanisms:** legal framework for the Council’s work on counter-terrorism and human rights and the Council’s responsibility to respect due process and the rule of law.
- **The role of the international human rights mechanisms:** the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and special procedures.
- **The way forward:** what are the critical steps that need to be taken by States and international actors in order to ensure that “effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing”<sup>1</sup>.

The panel will take place **on 30 July 2008 at the UN Headquarters, Conference room 2, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** It will be broadcast via the [United Nations Web cast](#).

All are invited to attend. Those without a UN Grounds Pass should contact the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **no later than 25 July 2008.**

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<sup>1</sup> GA Res. A/60/288, section IV, preambular paragraph.