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# DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS:

## Countering Sanctions and Coercive Measures against the International Criminal Court and those Supporting its Mandate

On the margins of the 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council, this side event will examine the growing use of sanctions and coercive measures against the International Criminal Court (ICC) and those working to support international justice. Bringing together UN experts and human rights defenders, the discussion will explore the real-world impact of these measures on judges, civil society organisations and the documentation of international crimes, highlighting how the Court and its partners continue their work despite unprecedented pressure. The event will call for the urgent adoption of concrete countermeasures to safeguard the independence and functioning of the international justice system.

**MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026**  
**12:00 – 13:00 CET**

**ROOM XII,**  
**PALAIS DES NATIONS,**  
**GENEVA**

**THIS EVENT WILL BE**  
**LIVESTREAMED**

# SPEAKERS



**H. E. Mr. Gustavo Gallon**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNOG



**H. E. Mr. Ibrahim Khraishi**

Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to UNOG



**Mr. Niccolò Figà-Talamanca**

Secretary General, No Peace Without Justice



**Ms. Francesca Albanese**

UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories



**Mr. Shawan Jabarin**

Director General, Al-Haq



**Mr. Issam Younis**

Director General, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights



**Mr. Raji Sourani**

Founder and Director, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)



**Ms. Zoé Paris**

Advocacy Coordinator, Coalition for the International Criminal Court