



We cordially invite you to a panel discussion on

Armed Non-State Actors and Forced Displacement

Thursday, 30 June 2011, 13:00 – 15:00

Room 18, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

17 rue de Varembé, 1211 Genève

Modern conflicts, involving one or more armed non-State actors (ANSAs) fighting government forces or each other, continue to cause large-scale and prolonged displacement, both internally and into neighboring States. Efforts to assist and protect displaced persons must therefore not only address the conduct of States, but equally that of ANSAs. This panel discussion aims to foster an interactive dialogue on the value of engaging ANSAs on humanitarian and human rights norms with regards to forced displacement in their areas of operation. In particular, it will provide an opportunity to share the findings of an expert meeting on internally displaced people and ANSAs which took place in March, and to hear from humanitarian actors about their experience in engaging ANSAs on displacement issues, as well as the challenges faced on the ground.

Taking place on the margins of the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs, this event will gather representatives from NGO and UN agencies, but also reach out to the broader diplomatic, donor and policy community interested in ANSA and displacement issues.

Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided, and following the presentations there will be an opportunity for further discussions over coffee and dessert.

Welcome Address:

Elisabeth Decrey Warner, Geneva Call

Panelists:

Ewen Macleod, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Kate Halff, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Simon Bagshaw, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (tbc)

Moderator:

Kathrine Starup, Danish Refugee Council

To register, or should you have any questions or requests about this event, please contact Mr. Reno Meyer (+41 22 879 94 37 or rmeyer@genevacall.org)

Registration deadline is 20 June COB.

The panel discussion is hosted by Geneva Call, in collaboration with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, and with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It is the fourth panel discussion of a series, organized by Geneva Call with the support of the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs, on the issue of humanitarian engagement with ANSAs. Earlier events took place in New York in July 2010, in Brussels in October 2010 and in Geneva in December 2010 (see summary reports of these events on www.genevacall.org).