



The Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College presents:

# TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL NETWORKING  
PLATFORMS IN MOBILIZING PEOPLE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011,  
6:00–8:00 P.M.**

**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**  
BMW Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 615/616  
555 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019  
(Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues)

**Welcoming Remarks: Professor George Andreopoulos, Director, CIHR**  
**Moderator: Aferdita Hakaj, Assistant Director, CIHR**

### **Panelists:**

#### **Mr. Fred Kirungi**

Fred Kirungi is a Public Information Officer at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office in New York. Before joining the UN, he practiced journalism and taught International Studies at Makerere University in Kampala. Fred holds an LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in the UK, as well as a BA in Political Science from Makerere University in Kampala.

#### **Mr. Shahram Hashemi**

Shahram Hashemi is a Board of Directors Executive at Amnesty International USA, member of Finance Committee, Investment and Development Subcommittees. Shahram has been involved in human rights activism for over a decade, working with various human rights organizations. Shahram currently serves as Executive Director of the Student World Assembly, an international grassroots network of student activists. Student World Assembly is currently the largest student organization dedicated to democratic values, human rights, and youth leadership.

#### **Professor Sylvia Maier**

Sylvia Maier joined the Center for Global Affairs (CGA) at NYU-SCPS and the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at NYU as an assistant professor/faculty fellow in September 2007. Sylvia's research focuses on gender and multiculturalism, honor-based violence against women, the legal accommodation of Muslim minority rights in Western Europe, and the role of ICTs in women's empowerment in the global south. Sylvia is currently completing a book tentatively titled, *Mainstreaming Muslims: Islam, Culture, and the Law in France and Germany*.

#### **Ms. Raja Althaibani**

Raja Althaibani is a college student, human rights defender and photographer. A proud Yemeni-American, she recently spent four months in Yemen, covering the revolution as a media stringer and freelance photographer for international media. Most recently, Raja joined WITNESS as their Middle East and North Africa Program Associate working to ensure that video is used effectively to take advantage of the critical moment of transition in the region.

#### **Ms. Sally Abdelghafar**

Sally Abdelghafar is a Middle East social-empowerment Activist. Sally founded an initiative called Youth International Empowerment (YIE), whose goal is to facilitate peer-driven space for sharing both struggles and solutions issues' impacting the youth around the world. YIE's first trip was to Cairo, Egypt last January to facilitate a series of workshops that encompassed different ways of organizing through social media, outlined numerous methods for blogging and used videos to show the commonality of oppression around the world. YIE's venture was extraordinary and successful as the group's ten day trip contributed to a collective call for change that was witnessed worldwide through the use of technology.

**Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Sarah Guillet at [sarah.guillet@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:sarah.guillet@jjay.cuny.edu)**