



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Sweden



## Internet Rights Are Human Rights

As part of APC's **Connect your rights!** campaign, APC is co-hosting a side-event with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs at the Human Rights Council's 17th session:

**Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13:00 – 15:00, room XXV, Palais des Nations - Lunch will be provided**

Issues to be addressed include the criminalisation of online expression, blocking and manipulating of internet content, invasion of privacy and data protection, unlawful surveillance and limitations on internet access. The panel will also focus on the specific impacts on freedom of expression, freedom of association and women's human rights.

Frank La Rue, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, will present his annual report which focuses primarily on the internet. The report outlines the growing trend of restricting freedom of expression and association online, and the importance of reaffirming these rights and freedoms in the online sphere.

The **Human Rights Council** meeting is an appropriate venue to raise these issues, as they are not just questions of internet governance, but crucial and inalienable rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

APC calls on States and relevant non-state actors to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and freedom of their citizens online. This includes the repeal of laws restricting free speech, ending practices of unlawful surveillance, establishment of clear and transparent legal procedures for the blocking of illegal content and the passing of laws that protect the security and privacy of citizens' personal information.

The event will be chaired by **Anriette Esterhuysen**, Executive Director, APC and **Johan Hallenberg**, Special Adviser, Department for International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Closing remarks will be made by **Joy Liddicoat**, APC's Internet Rights Project Coordinator. Guest panellists include:

**Frank La Rue**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression,

**Desiree Zeljka Miloshevic**, Senior Public Policy and International Affairs Adviser at Afiliias,

**Marina Maria**, Project Assistant and Communication Officer at the Brazilian secretariat of SPW (Sexuality Policy Watch, headquartered in the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA),

**Manal Hassan**, Arab Techies Coordinator, activist and blogger, Egypt and

**Shahzad Ahmad**, Bytes 4 All, Pakistan

**Remote Participation will be available:** details will be announced on [www.apc.org](http://www.apc.org)

If you do not have an UN pass **you will need to register for this event no later than 4pm 31 May.**

For more information and to confirm your attendance please contact:

Henrik Almström, Internet Rights and Democracy Programme Officer: [henrik@apc.org](mailto:henrik@apc.org)

For more information about APC and our Internet Rights are Human Rights campaign contact:

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