

41st session of the Human Rights Council

# The violation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in Spain

**Tuesday 25th June 2019 · Room XXVII, 17:00-18:00 hours · Palais des Nations, Geneva**



The European Language Equality Network ((ELEN) ECOSOC NGO) is pleased to invite you to a side-event on the limitation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression taking place in Spain.

The judicial process against political and social Catalan leaders has led to the arbitrary detention of 9 of them, already for 20 months, accused of rebellion and sedition for having organised, or called to participate in, a self-determination referendum 1st October 2017.

In this regard, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has determined that Jordi Cuixart, Jordi Sanchez and Oriol Junqueras (first set of cases submitted) are arbitrary detentions, that they should be released immediately and compensated for having had violated their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and political participation.

The panel will also examine the attempt to stop the referendum by the Spanish State through the limitation of fundamental rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Spain on 30th April 1977.

## Speakers:

**Duncan McCausland**

Former Assistant of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Security and Justice Consultant. Co-author of the expert evidence on the behaviour of the demonstrators in the events of 20 September and 1 October 2017 in Catalonia.

**Dominique Noguères**

Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and international observer of the 20907/2017 trial on the 1 October 2017 Referendum in Catalonia.

**Txell Bonet**

Journalist and cultural activist, partner of the activist Jordi Cuixart, President of the cultural NGO Òmnium Cultural , who has been in pre-trial detention since October 2017.

## Moderator:

**Jean Philippe Ceppi**

Journalist, producer of Temps Présent, Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS).