

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva 3 March 2023 – A parallel event was organised under the auspices of International Human Rights of American Minorities (IHRAAM) co-sponsored by INTLawyers and OCCAPROCE at the 52nd session of the United Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations in Room XXII. The title of the event being “*Self Determination and Human Rights*”. The event was attended by civil society, non-governmental organisations, academics and diplomats among others.

The event was moderated by Barrister A Majid Tramboo of IHRAAM and he was joined by fellow panellists Professor Alfred de Zayas (First Independent Expert on the Promotion of Equitable and Democratic International Order and visiting professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations), Ambassador Ronald Barnes (Chair – Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition – Alaska Decolonisation Movement) Rania Madi via video (Human Rights Activist for Palestine) and Professor Curtis Doebbler (Research Professor of Law at the University of Makeni and Proprietor of the Law Offices of Dr Curtis FJ Doebbler) via written presentation.



Barrister Tramboo in his opening remarks highlighted that in essence the right of self-determination means that individuals and peoples should be in control of their destinies and should be able to live out their identities, whether within the boundaries of existing States or through the process of referendum to determine their future exercising political choice. He identified that duty bearers of the right to self determination are all State Members of the United Nations, who must recognise and promote this right. Referring to the Indian nationalist government at New Delhi, Barrister Tramboo emphasised that whatever legal changes are being made and demographic change in the pipeline nothing will diminish the Kashmiris right to self determination bearing in mind that there are the UN resolutions on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and those are not subject to any domestic law.

Professor Alfred de Zayas enunciated that every state in their plight for self determination has the fundamental duty to fair vote and the hard law by virtue of Article 1 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant for Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the UN Charter exists for everyone for their own rights and that is inclusive of the right to self-determination. He referred to the classic situations of the Kashmiris plebiscite as per the UN resolutions and Alaska and Hawaii.



Ambassador Barnes lamented the silence of the international community on Alaska's human rights, security and people's democratic right to self-determination. He insisted that Alaska and Hawaii should be referred to the UN Decolonisation Committee and that the international community, its members and institutions have an obligation to act where international law, including human rights and especially the right to self-determination is violated.

Rania Madi referred to the recent violence against Palestinians particularly in Jerusalem.

Dr Doebller in his written presentation provided insight into the history of self determination and its continued relevance in today's world order.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks to all the participants and panellists.

