



In countries such as Tunisia, South Sudan, Syria or Egypt, social protest movements have been at the forefront of demands for political transitions and changes of regimes. Such movements have been, at times, violently repressed by the police or the army, putting an end to social protests or dragging the country into a violent armed conflict.

This online short course will examine the protection afforded by international human rights law in these contexts, with a specific focus on the right to peaceful assembly – which is at the heart of such movements –, and the right to life – which is often violated during such transitional moments. The course will also look at so-called violence reduction approaches and their role in complementing human rights approaches to violence.

More specifically, the course will address the scope and limits of the right to life and the right of peaceful assembly and their relevance and application in relation to the kind of violence that often accompanies transitions. It will also examine when the police may use force and the legal framework for the investigation of potentially unlawful death.

## AUDIENCE

This short course forms part of the Geneva Academy's MAS in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law (MTJ). It is open to professionals – diplomats, lawyers, legal advisers, judges, NGO staff, human rights advocates, media specialists, professionals working in transitions, UN staff and staff from other international organizations – who are not enrolled in the MTJ and who want to deepen their expertise in this specific issue.

## SCHEDULE

---

- Wednesday 2 December, 12:15 – 14:00 and 15:15 – 17:00
- Friday, 4 December, 12:15 – 14:00 and 15:15 – 17:00
- Tuesday 8 December, 12:15 – 14:00 and 15:15 – 17:00
- Wednesday 9 December, 12:15 – 14:00

## LECTURER

---

### **Christof Heyns**

#### **Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Pretoria**

Christof Heyns is recognized internationally as a leading expert in the field of international human rights law, including right to life issues and regional human rights mechanisms, and has published widely on these matters.

## TEACHING MODALITIES

---

The course will be conducted online using the ZOOM platform. It will run for 14 hours, divided into six classes (each of two or three hours). It will be delivered through interactive seminars where participants will be expected to read the essential reading for the class and to participate in the classroom discussions.

## DEADLINES AND TUITION FEE

---

Fee: **CHF 1,250**

Deadlines: • Application end: 18 November 2020

## HOW TO APPLY

---

Application for this short course must be submitted via an online form available on the Executive Education section of our website.

## CERTIFICATE

---

Participants obtain a certificate at the end of the course (no ECTS credits are gained)