

Editorial

This is the second issue of the first volume of the *Global Campus Human Rights Journal*. It consists of three parts: a part containing articles of a general nature; a part consisting of articles all centred around a special focus; and a part discussing recent developments in human rights and democratisation in various regions of the world.

The first part, 'Articles', contains three contributions. Two articles relate to intractable conflicts, while the third investigates the possibility of the *ChevronTexaco* case in Ecuador being characterised as 'cultural genocide'.

In the second part, 'Special focus: Securitisation', the focus falls on the phenomenon of securitisation and its impact on human rights. The articles in this part were peer-reviewed and reworked after initially having been presented as part of the Global Classroom, a project of the Global Campus of Human Rights. The Global Campus of Human Rights is a unique network of more than 100 universities around the world, seeking to advance human rights and democracy education. It comprises seven Master's programmes – stretching across Western Europe, South East Europe, the Caucasus, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Asia Pacific – with a common emphasis on human rights and democratisation. One of the activities of the Global Campus is an annual 'Global Classroom', bringing together some of the staff and students from the various programmes, to reflect on a contemporary issue of global concern. The discussion is enriched by the participation of experts, including representatives of states, United Nations agencies, European Union experts and civil society organisations. The Global Classroom aims at facilitating closer interaction between students of the different programmes.

In 2017, the issue identified for deliberation was securitisation, and the event was hosted by the Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University, from 22 to 26 May in Bangkok, Thailand. It brought together academics, researchers and students from the seven regions of the Global Campus network. Professor Anna Krasteva, who acted as co-editor of the *Journal* for this issue, assisted in overseeing the peer-review process and liaising with authors contributing to the special focus. This part of the *Journal* is introduced by an editorial by Professor Krasteva, followed by some introductory remarks about the topic by Professor Manfred Nowak, the Secretary-General of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation. With staff and students from each of the seven Master's programmes authoring an article, the 'Special Focus' section provides a unique array of perspectives on the issue of securitisation, covering Africa, the post-Soviet space, the Balkan states, Europe, the Asia Pacific, the Arab world and the Americas.

The third section, 'Recent regional developments', covers selected regional developments in human rights and democratisation during 2016 in the Arab region, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the Asia Pacific.

Although a number of contributors are authors associated with the Global Campus of Human Rights, the editors wish to highlight that the *Journal* is open and welcomes scholars from institutions in any region of

the world to submit their manuscripts for consideration. Further guidelines appear elsewhere in the *Journal*.

The editorial team wishes to thank and gladly acknowledges all the reviewers of manuscripts submitted to the *Journal* for their invaluable assistance.

Editors