

Advisory Council Bios

Yaman Akdeniz

Yaman Akdeniz is an Associate Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University, where he teaches about Internet-related legal and policy issues. He is also the founder-director of Cyber-Rights & Cyber-Liberties (UK), a non-profit civil liberties organization. Dr. Akdeniz was an international policy fellow of the Open Society Institute working on a project about the development of an Information Society in Turkey. His publications include *Sex on the Net? The Dilemma of Policing Cyberspace* (1999); *The Internet, Law and Society* (ed. with C. Walker and D. Wall, 2000); and *Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Bigbrother.gov.uk: State Surveillance in the Age of Information and Rights*. His forthcoming publications include *Internet Child Pornography and the Law: National and International Responses* (to be published in early 2005).

Eduardo Bertoni

Eduardo Bertoni is the Director of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (CELE) at Palermo University School of Law, Argentina. He was the Executive Director of the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) until May 2006. Previously, he was the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights at the Organization of American States (2002-2005) and a former fellow of the Human Rights Institute at Columbia University School of Law. Eduardo has also worked as a private lawyer in Argentina and has been a legal advisor for several nongovernmental organizations in his country. He has also worked as an advisor to the Department of Justice and Human Rights in Argentina. He holds a Masters in International Policy and Practice from the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. Eduardo was appointed Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at the School of Law of Universidad de Buenos Aires, where he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses. He was also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Law, George Washington University. Eduardo has written several publications on the right to freedom of expression, judicial reforms and international criminal law and has given lectures and conferences in several countries on these issues.

Mukelani Dimba

Mukelani Dimba is the Deputy Executive Director of the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC), which specialises on Freedom of Information and Whistleblower Protection Laws in South Africa. He is also the co-convener of South Africa's National Information Officers Forum, a body of government officials tasked with implementation of South Africa's Freedom of Information law. Mukelani's research experience in monitoring implementation of access to information laws or policies includes acting as African regional coordinator for the Open Society Justice Initiative's 14-country Freedom of Information monitoring study from 2003 to 2006. Countries under his responsibility in terms of this project were Ghana,

Senegal, Nigeria, Mozambique, Kenya and South Africa. He is also project manager and lead researcher for the Institute for Democracy in Southern Africa (Idasa) to coordinate the conduct of similar monitoring studies in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia under the auspices of their Right to Know-Right to Education project. Mukelani has worked on Freedom of Information issue not only in South Africa but also in Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana. Sierra Leone. He is the Chairperson of the Africa Freedom of Information Centre, a pan-African Freedom of Information (FOI) advocacy organisation based in Uganda. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Parliamentary Monitoring Group in South Africa and member of the faculty of the International Transparency School, which is joint project of the University of Cape Town (South Africa) and the Södertörn University (Sweden).

Andrea Figari

Andrea is the Advocacy and Global Programmes Manager at Transparency International. She holds a degree in Political Science, specialised in International Relations from the Catholic University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with postgraduate studies in Harvard University's Hauser Center for Non Profit Organisations. From 1986 until 1999 she was a senior political advisor to Greenpeace and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), as part of an international team focusing on international treaties and conventions, such as the UN Convention for Environment and Development and the Antarctic Treaty. Andrea was also the Executive Director for Greenpeace Argentina, from 1992 until 1994. During these years she did advocacy work in Latin America and coordinated national, regional and international campaigns for Greenpeace and ASOC. From 1994 until 2002 she was a consultant on organisational development and training for small and medium companies and entrepreneurs in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. Andrea speaks Spanish, English, German, Portuguese, Italian and French.

Katleen Janssen

Katleen Janssen obtained her law degree at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in 2001 (cum laude), spending some time as an exchange student at the University of Melbourne. After graduating, she joined ICRI in August 2001. While working at ICRI, she also completed a DES-degree in corporate law at the K.U.Brussel. From August 2009 until January 2010, she worked as a policy advisor for the Geographic Information Policy Cel of the Ministry of the Flemish Government. Katleen specialises in access to and use of public sector information. In 2009, Katleen obtained her PhD with a thesis about the legal framework for the availability of public sector spatial data, mainly dealing with the relationship between INSPIRE, PSI and access to environmental information. Katleen has worked on several projects concerning public sector information. From 2002 to 2004, she provided legal advice for the BRIDGE-IT project, funded by the European Commission, and aiming to provide innovate technologies for the use of geographic information in various application fields. From 2004 until 2007, she coordinated the legal research in the Walkonweb project, which defined a new publishing model for walking and tourist information. From May 2007, she coordinated the legal research for the

Cascadoss project on Open Source Licensing for geo-applications, and from September 2007, she is part of the research consortium of the IWT project. Since December 2002, Katleen has been a regular columnist for VI Matrix, a Dutch magazine on geographic information, and Geoplatform, its Flemish counterpart. She is also a member of the editorial board of Burger, Bestuur en Beleid.

Alexander Kashumov

Alexander Kashumov is Head of the Legal Team of Access to Information Programme (AIP) in Bulgaria, an NGO which promotes the right to access to information. He works for AIP since 1997 and provides legal advice and representation in courts; analyses and comments on legislation and practices, lectures and trainings (in Europe and Latin America) on access to information; an expert on personal data protection, freedom of expression and anti-corruption. Awarded as Bulgarian top lawyer for 2008 by the magazine "Legal World".

Dani Kaufman

Dani Kaufman is a well-known researcher and practitioner on governance and development, with experience in practical and analytical challenges of development. Until November 2008, he led the work on governance at the World Bank Institute and after that he took up a position as a Senior Scholar at the Brookings Institution. Working with colleagues, he developed new survey methodologies and indicators to measure governance and corruption around the globe. He has also published empirical writings and analysis on many development topics. A Chilean, with research and hands-on experience in emerging economies, Dani is passionate about development, and also about music, art and sports. He is a strong advocate for freedom of expression, protection of human rights, transparency and the right to information. He was also an early believer in the IT revolution as tool to combat censorship and the control of information, empowering all to share knowledge and debate on sensitive and frontier topics. These include corruption, press freedom, human rights, elite capture and civil society voice.

Johan Lidberg

Johan Lidberg is a Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. His research projects have laid the foundation for the Freedom of Information Index, ranking a number of FOI regimes according to how well they work in practice. He has published one book and a number of articles describing the FOI Index. Johan Lidberg is a founding member of the Global Environmental Journalism Initiative, GEJI, which has received funding from the European Union and the Australian government. He has worked in print and broadcast journalism since 1989, most recently for the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation (SR) in 2006 as Senior Political Reporter in the lead-up to the national general elections. He has previously held positions at SR and Swedish Public Service Television (SVT) as reporter, producer, presenter, foreign correspondent and news editor. He has also worked for Radio National, Australia, on a freelance basis.

Marcos Mendiburu

Marcos Mendiburu joined the World Bank in 1999, managing and supporting several initiatives on access to information, transparency, and demand side of governance in different regions of the world such as Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, Africa, and Europe and Central Asia. In implementing the above activities, he forged partnerships with international institutions, local public bodies and NGOs. In 2006, he joined the Access to Information (ATI) Program of the World Bank Institute (WBI), which he currently coordinates. Within the broader framework of promoting good governance, he has focused on initiatives fostering access to public information through policy dialogue, and technical assistance, as well as knowledge development and sharing. Among others, he currently supports the strengthening of coalitions that aim to enhance access to information through the adoption and implementation of ATI legislation. Currently he is engaged in efforts in Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, El Salvador, and Ghana, among others, and is the coordinator of the Access to Information Working Paper Series at WBI. Marcos holds a Master's degree in Public and International Affairs, with a major in Economic and Social Development from GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh.

Venkatesh Nayak

Venkatesh Nayak is Programme Coordinator, Access to Information Programme, with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). CHRI is an international, independent, non-profit NGO working for the practical realisation of human rights of people in the Commonwealth. CHRI is headquartered in New Delhi with offices in Gujarat in India and London in the UK and Ghana in Africa. Venkatesh was closely associated with the public education process and the lobbying of Members of Parliament for the Right to Information Act, 2005. He is a member of the Working Committee of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information. Venkatesh has designed and conducted training programmes for implementing the RTI Act 2005 for senior and middle level officers of government serving in various states in India. He has also conducted FOI sensitisation workshops for Members of Parliament in Tanzania and in the Caribbean region. He has provided technical advice to the Government for Uganda for implementing its information access law. The World Bank has commissioned him to undertake scoping studies and provide technical advice for implementing information access laws in Bangladesh and Nepal. He also conducts training and capacity building workshops on using RTI laws for NGOs and the media in Commonwealth countries and has assisted appellants pro bono to present their case before the Central Information Commission in India. He has developed objective indicators for assessing compliance with the RTI Act in India.

Priscilla Nyokabi

Priscilla Nyokabi has since 2009 been the Executive Director of Kituo cha Sheria, a Kenyan non-governmental donor-funded organisation that defends rights of people who make less than Kenyan Sh8,000 a month. It also defends the rights of refugees. As Executive Director, she supervises and coordinates a 45-strong staff team which includes a strong legal contingent. Prior to taking over Kituo cha Sheria, Priscilla worked at the Kenyan branch of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). She

started at ICJ as an intern, but quickly became a Supervisor, responsible for spearheading the freedom of information campaign, before being appointed acting Director. After graduating from the Kenya School of Law in 1999, Priscilla worked for various law firms as a commercial lawyer. Priscilla holds a Master's degree in Law, is an advocate of the High Court and also sits in the Africa Union's Civil Society Assembly.

Darian Pavli

Darian Pavli is legal officer for the Freedom of Information and Expression Program of the Open Society Justice Initiative. Based in the New York office, he has been involved, among other things, with impact litigation before international human rights mechanisms, and has played a leading role in efforts to establish the right of access to government information as a basic human right internationally. Pavli works closely with human rights groups in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and elsewhere to address a broad range of freedom of expression and information deficits, and writes and speaks extensively on these issues. Prior to joining the Open Society Justice Initiative, Pavli was the Southern Balkans researcher for Human Rights Watch and a senior attorney for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Mission in Albania. He taught constitutional law in his native Albania, and holds advanced law degrees from NYU Law School and Central European University. Pavli is a founder and steering committee member of the International Media Lawyers' Association.

Nataša Pirc

Nataša Pirc Musar graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana in 1992, and passed the national bar examination in 1997. After completing her studies, she was employed for six years at the Slovenian national television station as a journalist and news presenter for the main news programme. Subsequently, she worked for five years as a news presenter on "24 ur", the primary information programme of the largest commercial television broadcaster in Slovenia, POP TV. She gained additional experience in journalism at CNN, and studied at the Media Department of Salford University in Manchester in the UK. Striving for new knowledge, in 2001 she moved to the financial sector, where she joined the largest Slovenian private financial corporation, Aktiva Group, as Head of Corporate Communications. In April 2003 she became the Director of the Training and Communications Centre of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia. On July 15 2004, the National Assembly elected her Slovenian Commissioner for Access to Public Information. Since 31 December 2005, when the Office of the Commissioner for Access to Public Information merged with the Inspectorate for Personal Data Protection, Nataša has held the office of Information Commissioner. On 21 May 2009, the National Assembly elected Nataša to an additional five-year term as Information Commissioner. In October 2009, Nataša was elected Vice President of the Europol Joint Supervisory Body, as a representative of a national supervisory authorities for the protection of personal data.