



# ADDRESSING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE IN CONFLICT AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

THE  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE  
GENEVA

GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
CENTRE

SAFEGUARDING  
HEALTH  
IN CONFLICT



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

## SPEAKERS

### NORA KRÖNIG ROMERO

Ambassador for Global Health; Vice Director General of the Federal Office of Public Health and Head of the International Affairs Division, Swiss Confederation



Nora Krönig Romero is the Head of the International Affairs Division of the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland. She served as Deputy Head of the Multilateral Division of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the Office of the United Nations and to other International Organisations in Geneva from 2016-2017. From 2012–2016, she was Chief of staff of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Yves Rossier and Diplomatic Assistant of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Peter Maurer between 2010 and 2012. She also served as the Alternate Regional Coordinator for South and Central America, FDFA.

### PIERRE SOMSE

Minister of Health, Central African Republic



Pierre Somse is the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He is a medical doctor, and specialises in public health and community medicine. He has spent the majority of his career working in the field of HIV and AIDS. His work with UNAIDS over the past 14 years includes an assignment as the UNAIDS country coordinator (UCC) for Jamaica responsible for the Bahamas and Belize. Prior to this, he was UCC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; UNAIDS inter-country programme advisor for Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles; and programme development officer at UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva. He has consistently contributed to the efficient implementation of UNAIDS

strategies in the areas where he has served. He has also worked as an international consultant for WHO, UNICEF, GTZ and the Organisation for the Coordination of Endemic Diseases in the Central African Region.

### CHRISTINA WILLE

Director, Insecurity Insight



Founder of the Aid in Danger Project and the Security in Numbers Database (SiND) along with Larissa Fast, Christina oversees the organisation of all Insecurity Insight and Aid in Danger projects. Her work is on the use of data for improving and developing human security, with a particular focus on the monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian information generation.

## LEONARD RUBENSTEIN

Chair, Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition



Leonard Rubenstein is a lawyer who has spent his career in human rights, and now focuses particularly on health and human rights, especially the protection of health in armed conflict, and the roles of health professionals in human rights. At Johns Hopkins, he is core faculty of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights and the Berman Institute of Bioethics. Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins, he served as Executive Director and then President of Physicians for Human Rights, as a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, and as Executive Director of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. His current work includes advancing protection of health

facilities, patients, and health workers in situations of conflict, advancing refugee and migrant health and rights, exploring the ethical responsibilities of health professionals to advance human rights including in situations of violent conflict. He also founded and chairs the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition.

## MASOOD NASIM

Deputy Medical Coordinator, Médecins sans Frontières, Afghanistan



Masood Nasim is Deputy Medical Coordinator at Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in Afghanistan. Born in Takhar province, Afghanistan, Dr Nasim lost his father to the conflict in 1979, when he was just one year old. Prior to this role, he was Deputy Hospital Director at MSF in Kunduz, Afghanistan. Before joining MSF, he was Project Manager at the Organization for Health Promotion and Management and was also based in Afghanistan. He studied at Balkh province medical university and worked with different NGOs before joining MSF in 2012.

## Moderator

## SUSANNAH SIRKIN

Director of Policy and Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights



Susannah Sirkin is director of policy and a senior advisor at Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), where she has worked since 1987. She oversees PHR's policy engagement, including with the United Nations, domestic and international justice systems, and human rights coalitions. She has organised health and human rights investigations in dozens of countries. These include the documentation of genocide and systematic rape in Darfur, Sudan; exhumations of mass graves in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda for the International Criminal Tribunals; and documentation of Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the 1980s. She has played a lead role in

PHR's extensive documentation of attacks on health care facilities and personnel in conflict

zones, including Syria and Yemen. She initiated PHR's programme to train doctors, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and judges to respond to sexual violence in conflict zones, initially working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and Kenya. She has authored and edited numerous reports and articles on the medical consequences of human rights violations, physical evidence of human rights abuses, and physician complicity in violations. Susannah Sirkin represents PHR as a member of the Steering Committee for the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition and served as PHR's representative from 1992 to 2001 as a member of the Coordination Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Peace. From 2017 to 2019, she was a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and is a recipient of Tufts University's Jean Meyer Global Citizenship Award. She holds a BA in European studies from Mount Holyoke College and an MEd from Boston University.

