

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**



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Portuguese version, see below

### **UN rights expert to visit to Portugal to assess independence of the justice system**

GENEVA (23 January 2015) – United Nations Special Rapporteur Gabriela Knaul will carry out an official visit to Portugal from 27 January to 3 February 2015, to assess the independence of judges, lawyers, and prosecutors, as well as the functioning of the justice system.

"My visit will focus on both the achievements and challenges of the country in ensuring the independence of the judiciary, the free exercise of the legal profession, and access to justice for all," said Ms. Knaul, who is visiting Portugal at the invitation of the Government.

"I will also concentrate on key issues regarding the administration of justice, such as guarantees of due process and fair trial, including undue delays, and equal access to justice and legal aid, in particular for vulnerable members of the population, such as children, migrants, the Roma community, or women victims of domestic violence," she explained.

During her eight-day visit, Ms. Knaul will meet representatives from the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, as well as prosecutors and lawyers in Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra. She will also meet with the Ombudsman, legal experts and academics, and representatives of civil society.

Based on the information collected during the visit, the Special Rapporteur will prepare a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June of this year.

At the end of the visit on Tuesday 3 February, Ms. Knaul will hold a press conference to present her preliminary observations. The press conference will be held at 11:00 am at Lisbon Real Pálcio Hotel, rua Tomás Ribeiro 115.

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*Gabriela Kaul was appointed by Human Rights Council took up her functions as UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers on 1 August 2009. In that capacity, she acts independently from any Government or organization. Ms. Knaul has a long-standing experience as a judge in Brazil and is an expert in criminal justice and the administration of judicial systems.*

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*The Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.*

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## **Especialista em direitos humanos da ONU visita Portugal para avaliar a independência do judiciário**

GENEBRA (23 de Janeiro de 2015) – A Relatora Especial das Nações Unidas, Gabriela Knaul, inicia uma visita oficial a Portugal entre 27 de Janeiro e 3 de Fevereiro de 2015, para avaliar a independência dos juizes, advogados e procuradores, bem como o funcionamento do sistema de justiça.

"Minha visita se concentrará nas conquistas e nos desafios do país para garantir a independência do poder judiciário, o livre exercício da profissão de advogado, e o acesso à justiça para todos", disse a Sra. Knaul, que vai estar em Portugal a convite do Governo.

"Eu também irei me concentrar em questões-chave relativas à administração

da justiça, tais como as garantias do devido processo legal e de um julgamento justo, incluindo atrasos indevidos, a igualdade de acesso à justiça e a assistência jurídica, em especial para os membros mais vulneráveis da população, como as crianças, os migrantes, a comunidade Roma, ou as mulheres vítimas de violência doméstica", explicou a Relatora.

Durante sua visita de oito dias, a Sra. Knaul se reunirá com representantes do executivo, legislativo e judiciário, bem como procuradores e advogados em Lisboa, Porto e Coimbra. Ela também deve reunir-se com o Provedor de Justiça, peritos e acadêmicos, e representantes da sociedade civil.

Com base nas informações recolhidas durante a visita, a Relatora Especial irá preparar um relatório a ser apresentado ao Conselho de Direitos Humanos em Junho deste ano.

No final da visita, na terça-feira, 3 de Fevereiro, a Sra. Knaul vai realizar uma conferência de imprensa para apresentar suas observações preliminares. A conferência de imprensa será realizada às 11:00 horas no Hotel Real Palácio Lisboa, rua Tomás Ribeiro 115.

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