

# TOWARDS GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY WITH OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION

IN GENEVA (VILLA MOYNIER, RUE DE LAUSANNE 120B) AND ONLINE | 14 DECEMBER | 2022 | 18:30 - 20:00



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Open-source information is increasingly referred to as a landmark innovation in efforts to promote accountability. When it is gathered accurately, used responsibly and stored safely, such data can greatly contribute to documenting, investigating and prosecuting international crimes and serious human rights violations, including during armed conflict.

Reliance on open-source information also raises concerns, however, for instance around information veracity, the right to privacy, conditions for courtroom admissibility and protecting the fundamental rights of the accused. This IHL Talk will explore the practices, opportunities and challenges stemming from the open-source character of information and will notably discuss the following issues:

- **Understanding technology:** To add value to accountability processes, digital open-source information must be collected, analysed and managed according to strict standards. This raises important questions around both opportunities (data overlays, geolocation and identity verification), as well as challenges (safeguarding, manipulation and mishandling) for using open-source data in legal processes.
- **Open-source data in international organizations and/or NGOs:** Open-source information is already being used by international commissions of inquiry, different special procedures and NGOs to document international crimes and serious human rights violations. Important lessons should be gleaned from such experiences, including around sourcing and

verification methodologies, how a ‘do no harm’ approach is integrated into data collection, and how findings are fed into accountability processes or otherwise used in practice.

- **User-generated evidence:** While user-generated evidence may play an important role in the prosecution of international crimes, key procedural questions remain. These include the threshold for admissibility, what status is attributed to the owners of such information and the level of credibility attached to such evidence in determinations.

## MODERATION

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- Ana Srovin Coralli, Teaching Assistant, Geneva Academy and PhD Candidate, Graduate Institute
- Francesco Romani, Research Fellow, Geneva Academy

## PANELISTS

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- Jacqueline Geiss, Chief Executive Officer, Videre Est Credere
- Sam Dubberley, Managing Director, Digital Investigations Lab, Human Rights Watch
- Ukrainian Prosecutor (TBC)

## REGISTRATION

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This event will take place at the Villa Moynier (Rue de Lausanne 120B) in Geneva and online. To follow this event, you need to register via an online form on our website.

## ABOUT IHL TALKS

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The IHL Talks are a series of events, hosted by the Geneva Academy, on international humanitarian law and current humanitarian topics. Every two months, academic experts, practitioners, policymakers and journalists discuss burning humanitarian issues and their regulation under international law.