

Special Rapporteur
on the human rights
to safe drinking water
and sanitation
Pedro Arrojo-Agudo



Newsletter

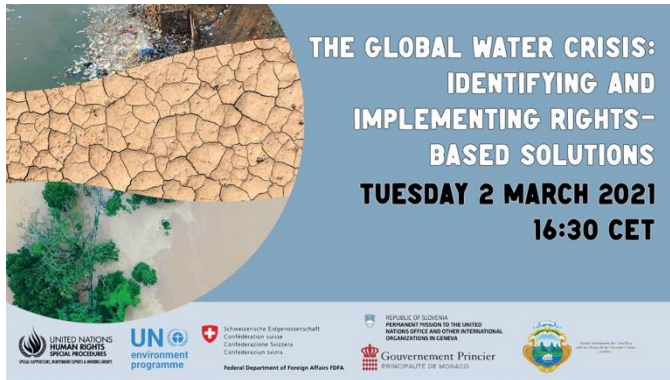
March 2021

The newsletter cover features a dark blue background with a subtle pattern. At the top is the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures logo. Below it, the title "Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation" and the name "Pedro Arrojo" are displayed. The word "Newsletter" is centered below the name. The cover is divided into several colored sections: a red section for "REPORT ON PLANNING AND VISION" (report to the 48th session of the Human Rights Council, 2021) with a calendar icon; a red section for "REPORT ON WATER COMMODIFICATION" (report to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, 2021) with a stack of coins icon; a large blue section for "CALL FOR INPUT" (deadline: 15 April 2021) with the subtitle "Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation"; and a dark blue section for "OPEN CHANNEL OF DIALOGUE" with the subtitle "with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo". A photo of Pedro Arrojo-Agudo is shown in the bottom right. A speech bubble contains the text "Wednesdays 10.30 am or 4.30 pm CET". At the bottom, it says "Register for the online bilateral meeting".

[First newsletter](#) covering the period from November 2020 to February 2021.

[Call for input](#) for his HRC48 report on planning and GA76 report on water commodification. The deadline for submission is 15 April 2021.

["Open Channel of Dialogue"](#) defenders of human rights to water and sanitation are invited to register for a bilateral meeting with the Special Rapporteur to discuss specific issues



2 March 2021

"The Global Water Crisis: Identifying and Implementing Rights-based Solutions", organised by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and environment.



4 March 2021

HRC46 side-event "Agua y derechos humanos en Colombia".



10 March 2021

Meeting with the members of the Commission of Hydraulic Resources of the Senate of Mexico.



11 March 2021

Addressed [inquiry committee](#) of the French Parliament about appropriations of water resources by private sector.



15 March 2021
 “[El Valor del Agua en tiempos de pandemic](#)”. - Opening Conference of the Water Week of the National University of Costa Rica: Cooperation for Management.

17 March 2021
 34th UN-Water Meeting.



MODERATOR
 Ms Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and former Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2008 - 2014).

PANEL PARTICIPANTS
 Mr Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
 Mr Léo Heller, former Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (2014-2020)
 Mr Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing
 Mr David R. Boyd, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
 Ms Maude Barlow, Canadian author and activist, co-founder of the Blue Planet Project. Formerly a Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly (2008-2009).
 Mr Juan Laborda, Associate Professor in Financial Economics and Derivatives, University Carlos III in Madrid, Spain. He has been Chief Economist and Chief of Global Macro Strategist in different financial institutions.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Human rights under the pressures of speculative strategies

18 MARCH 2021, 5 P.M. CET

Debate in anticipation of World Water Day
 Organised by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

18 March 2021
 Webinar titled “Speaking about the elephant in the room: human rights under pressure of speculative strategies” [Video](#)



19 March 2021
 Agua Publica Europea Board members.



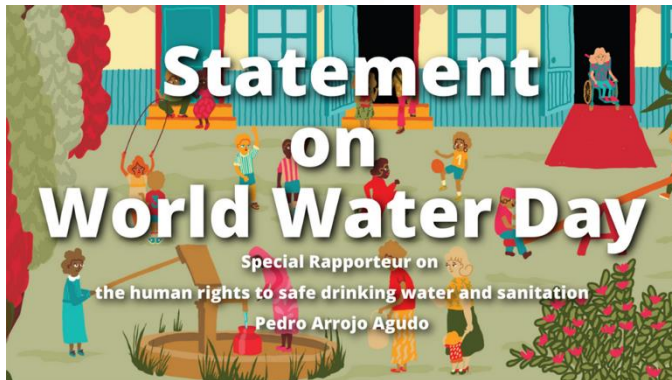
19 March 2021

Virtual [public hearing](#) of the Colombia Senate on right to water, in accordance with Proposition No. 56 of 2021, presented by the Honorable Senator Guillermo García Realpe, and approved in a virtual session of the Committee, Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

22 March 2021

World Water Day Statement
[\(English Spanish French\)](#)

- Values of water ([English](#) [Spanish](#))
- Water for life ([English](#) [Spanish](#))
- Water for public interest ([English](#) [Spanish](#))
- Water for economy ([English](#) [Spanish](#))
- Crime water ([English](#) [Spanish](#))
- Message to faith based organizations ([English](#) [Spanish](#) French)
- Message on COVID19 ([English](#) [Spanish](#))

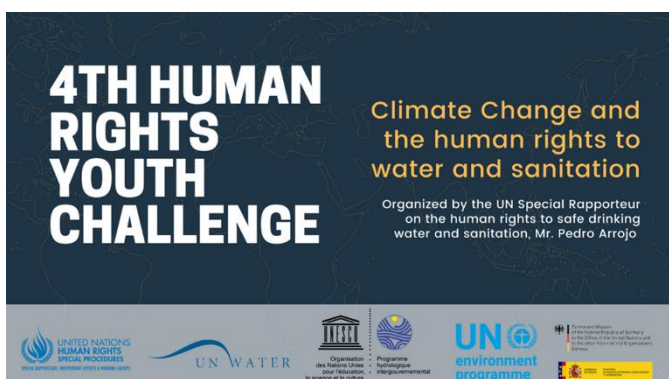


Launch of 4th Human Rights Youth Challenge

Video message ([English](#) [Spanish](#) [French](#))

Flyer ([English](#) [Spanish](#) [French](#))

[About Youth Challenge](#)



GIORNATA MONDIALE DELL'ACQUA
Il futuro dell'acqua non è in borsa
 Lunedì 22 Marzo 2021 - ore 18.30
 Dibattito on line su Zoom

Interverranno:

Pedro Arrojo-Agudo
 Presidente del Consejo de Regentes de Aguas de España
Dacia Maraini
 scrittrice
Padre Alex Zanotelli
 sacerdote

Emilio Molinari
 Presidente del Consiglio del Dipartimento per l'Acqua
Luca Celada
 scrittore
Renato Di Nicola
 filosofo

Liberrimo L'Acqua
 Diretta Facebook su: @acquabenecomune

22 March 2021

Online debate: "[Il future dell'acqua non è in borsa](#)"

Organized by Acqua Bene Commune on the occasion of World Water Day

Dr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo | Dr. Eloy Garcia-Cabeo | Dra. Cristina Villanueva | Dr. Hervé Jacques Jégat | Dra. Maritza Acuña

22 March 2021

International Seminar: "[El Valor Del Agua](#)"

Seminario Internacional EL VALOR DEL AGUA
 Investigación, calidad y Huella Hídrica
 22 marzo, Día Mundial del Agua
 10am Caracas / 15hrs Madrid / 11am Bs. Aires

Moderadores:
 Zaida Martínez (UNEP/UNESCO/UNUCLAH)
 Ricardo J. Argente
 Alexis González (CINVA)

Organized by the Global Water Partnership on the occasion of World Water Day

Vanessa - Coordination Eau Ile-de-France | Celia Blaizel | Pedro Arrojo | Jean-Cloude Oling

22 March 2021

Online conference: "[L'eau pour moi, c'est...](#)"

Organized by Coordination Eau IDF

Spiritual and Ethical Values of Water: A faith perspective
 22 March - 3:00 PM CET | Follow at www.okoumene.org/live

SPEAKERS

- Prof. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, UN Special Representative for Human Rights to Water and Sanitation
- Sushri Bhagwati Sarin, Secretary General, GWRA
- Rev. Dr. Richard Mkhari, Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Kiran Bell, Chair United Nations Initiative
- Bishop Amos Temple, Chair of WCC-EEM, President, AMCC
- Dr. Huana Arnold, CEO, Global One, UK
- Rabbi Avraham Steinbock, The Netherlands
- Devin Sims, Coordinator WCC-EEM

22 March 2021

Webinar : "[Spiritual and Ethical Values of Water: A faith perspective](#)"

Organized with the World Council of Churches on the occasion of World Water Day



22 March 2021

FENTAP (Peru's main water and sanitation workers' union) [40th anniversary celebration](#)



LE PRINTEMPS DE L'EAU

DU 22 AU 27 MARS, CONFÉRENCES ET ATELIERS EN WEBINAIRE POUR L'EAU COMME DROIT HUMAIN ET BIEN COMMUN !

23 March 2021

Webinar "Le Printemps de l'Eau" on the financialization of water

Organized by Coordination Ile-de-France



23 March 2021

Virtual Conversation: "[El Valor del Agua para la vida](#)"

Organized by Latin WASH on the occasion of World Water Day



25 March 2021

Webinar: "El valor del agua en la gestión comunitaria de agua y el saneamiento"

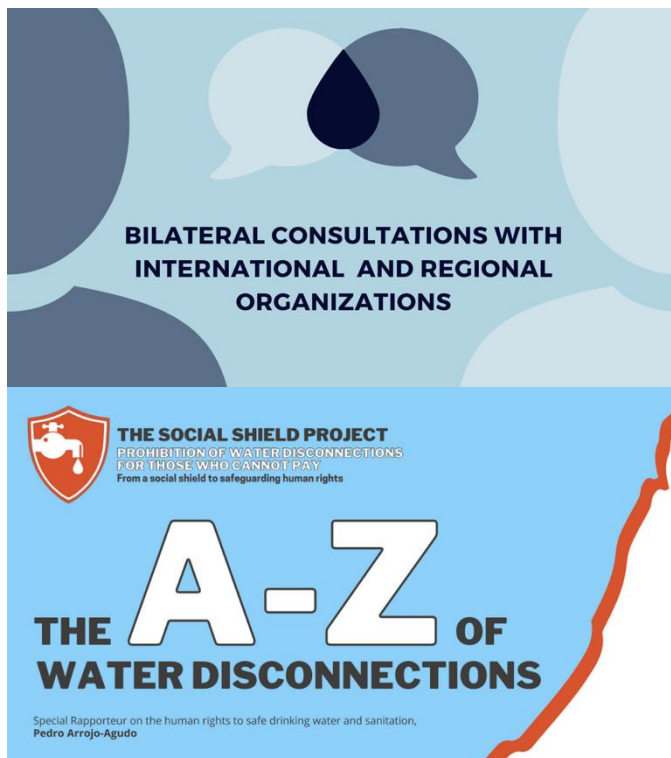
Organized by CLOCSAS on the occasion of World Water Day



26 March 2021

Closing ceremony of the 15th Water Congress with the theme “**For a water policy in Portugal**”

Organized by APRH (Professional Association of Water and Sanitation Management) - Portugal



March 2021

Bilateral consultations with international and regional organizations including: WHO, IADB, UNFCC, ITU, WMO

Social Shield Project (A to Z of disconnections)

See the twitter thread [here](#).



Social Shield Project (Communications to States)

[Ecuador \(24 February 2021\)](#)

[Colombia \(24 February 2021\)](#)

[Bolivia \(Plurinational State of\) \(24 February 2021\)](#)

[Argentina \(1 March 2021\)](#) –
Response [3 March 2021](#)

[Costa Rica \(5 March 2021\)](#)

[Chile \(5 March 2021\)](#)

[Peru \(9 March 2021\)](#)

[Uruguay \(16 March 2021\)](#)



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Letters of allegation

[Spain \(18 December 2020\)](#) – Concerning the situation of the residents of the informal settlement "Cañada Real Galiana", particularly 1,812 children, affected by power cuts during months marked by low temperatures.

[Egypt \(20 December 2020\)](#) – Concerning the serious human rights violations that women detainees face in Al-Qanater prison and the deplorable conditions of their detention, which could amount to gender-based discrimination and violence as well as torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments.

[Mexico \(23 December 2020\)](#) – Concerning the situation of migrants and asylum seekers detained in immigration detention centers in Mexico. [Response: 12 February 2021](#)

[Japan \(13 January 2021\)](#) - Concerning the management of contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) by the Government of Japan and TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power) and the serious risks posed to the enjoyment of human rights of affected populations, the grave consequences which nuclear contamination poses to the

physical and mental health and wellbeing of affected populations, including children, recent developments concerning the lifting of a number of evacuation orders, resignation of highly contaminated areas as well as the lack of access to information, and lack of public consultation regarding data, envisaged solutions, past and future decisions affecting directly the wellbeing and human rights of concerned segments of the population. [Response : 11 March 2021](#)

[United States of America](#) and [LaSalle Southwest Corrections](#) (15 January 2021) - Concerning the lack of appropriate protection measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of access to healthcare, ill-treatment, and medical abuses, including unwarranted gynaecological surgeries performed on migrant women without their fully informed consent at the Irwin County Detention Center.

[South Africa](#), [Russian Federation](#), [India](#), [Denmark](#), [China](#), [Australia](#), [Yemen](#), [Viet Nam](#), [Uzbekistan](#), [United States of America](#), [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#), [Ukraine](#), [Turkey](#), [Tunisia](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Switzerland](#), [Sweden](#), [Sudan](#), [State of Palestine](#), [Spain](#), [Somalia](#), [Serbia](#), [Senegal](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Romania](#), [Portugal](#), [Poland](#), [Philippines](#), [Pakistan](#), [Norway](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Netherlands](#), [Morocco](#), [Maldives](#), [Malaysia](#), [Libya](#), [Lebanon](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Iran \(Islamic Republic of\)](#), [Indonesia](#), [Germany](#), [Georgia](#), [France](#), [Finland](#), [Estonia](#), [Egypt](#), [Canada](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Belgium](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Austria](#), [Algeria](#), [Albania](#), [Afghanistan](#) (26 January 2021) - Concerning a registration and verification exercise in Al-Hol and Roj camps located in North-East Syria where many nationals, primarily women and children, are currently deprived of their liberty. In these makeshift locked camps made up of unstable tent-like structures which collapse in strong winds or flood with rain or sewage, hygiene is almost non-existent: limited drinking water is often contaminated, latrines are overflowing, mounds of garbage litter the grounds, and illnesses including viral infections are rampant. Food, water, health care and essential non-food supplies are provided by under-resourced humanitarian groups and organisations. According to the Kurdish Red Crescent, at least 517 people, 371 of them children, died in 2019, many from preventable diseases, in Al-Hol camp alone. In August 2020, eight children under the age of five died in that camp in less than a week, with four caused by malnutrition-related complications and the others were due to dehydration from diarrhoea, heart failure, internal bleeding and hypoglycaemia, according to UNICEF. Covid-19 has increased these difficulties, with a reduction in the number of workers operating in the camp. Responses : South Africa ([4 March 2021](#)), Viet Nam ([26 March 2021](#)), Turkey ([26 March 2021](#)), Switzerland ([26 March 2021](#)), Spain ([25 March 2021](#)), Saudi Arabia ([4 February 2021](#)), Romania ([22 March 2021](#)), Portugal ([1 February 2021](#)), Pakistan ([29 January 2021](#)), Malaysia ([8 February 2021](#)), Indonesia ([22 March 2021](#)), Germany ([25 March 2021](#)), France ([26 March 2021](#)), Finland ([26 March 2021](#)), Estonia ([25 March 2021](#)), Austria ([15 March 2021](#)), Algeria ([28 January 2021](#), [19 March 2021](#))

[Colombia \(27 January 2021\)](#) – Concerning allegations about the lack of effective inclusion of the migrant population in the Colombian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic; the disproportionate impact of the latter on the effective access of this population to health services, including sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescents, housing, water and sanitation; as well as the possible discrimination that

would result from the alleged exclusion of migrants who have not regularized their migratory status from the vaccination program of the Colombian Government.

[Saudi Arabia \(28 January 2021\)](#) - Concerning the current situation of migrants who are stranded in overcrowded detention centers for prolonged and indefinite periods. These migrants have been held in unsanitary and dehumanizing conditions without adequate healthcare access nor necessary protection measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Follow the mandate!  

The [website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) remains the number one place to discover the mandate's past and upcoming activities.

The mandate is also present on major social media platforms [Twitter](#) and [Youtube](#) (@SRWatSan), where it actively engages with the global community on issues related to the human rights to water and sanitation.