

## Youssef Laaraj



Youssef Laaraj is a research fellow and director of the Citizen School of Political Studies, initiated by the Council of Europe following the 'South Programme' on Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights in the southern Mediterranean. He was also responsible for the management of the Officers Development Training Institute and has worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a local coordinator of a campaign against poverty in urban areas. Mr Laaraj is a representative of the civil society and the human rights movement in Morocco: he was leader and member of the team that designed a parallel report on the situation of cultural and linguistic rights. The report was presented and discussed in front of experts of CERD Committee at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2010. He is a coordinator of a coalition of 34 Moroccan NGOs specialized in issues of development and human Rights.