



Enhancing Visits to Places of Detention: Promoting Collaboration

PUBLIC CONFERENCE

March 18, 2011 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Cosponsored by American University Washington College of Law
and the Association for the Prevention of Torture

*American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Room 603, Washington, D.C.*

Overview:

Visits to places of detention play a critical role in assisting states to comply with their international human rights obligations. Rapporteurships, treaty organs and other bodies working nationally and internationally are entrusted with carrying out this key function and have developed a rich body of principles and practices. Yet there has been a scarcity of fora for sharing experiences and increasing collaboration to learn from each other, avoid duplication and enhance efficiency. This conference will convoke top experts including mandate holders, policymakers, lawyers, NGOs, scholars and practitioners from around the world to analyze, from a comparative perspective, key challenges confronting detention visits today, and establish channels for enhancing collaboration.

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION (and Continental Breakfast)

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. OPENING REMARKS

- **Claudio Grossman**, Dean, American University Washington College of Law and Chairperson, UN Committee against Torture
- **Mark Thomson**, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture

9:50 - 11:20 a.m. PANEL 1: PROMOTING SAFEGUARDS THROUGH DETENTION VISITS

*Moderator: **Claudio Grossman**, Dean, American University Washington College of Law and Chairperson, UN Committee against Torture*

- Safeguards for preventing disappearances and torture (**Ariela Peralta '05**, Deputy Director, Center for Justice and International Law)
- Access of independent health professionals to places of detention and the role of NGOs (**Suzanne Jabbour**, Director, Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture and Vice-president, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture)
- Safeguards for preventing sexual violence in prisons (**Brenda V. Smith**, Professor of Law, Director of Project on Addressing Prison Rape, American University Washington College of Law)
- Protecting safeguards of detained persons with disabilities (**Alison Hillman '02**, Open Society Foundations, Program Officer, Disability Rights Initiative)



11:30 – 1:00 p.m. PANEL 2: PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS THROUGH DETENTION VISITS

*Moderator: **Hernan Vales**, Secretariat of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

- Specificities of visits to particular vulnerable groups, including juveniles and pretrial detainees (**Haritini Dipla**, 2nd Vice-President, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Lawyer, Professor of international law, University of Athens)
- Detention visits and vulnerable groups in Africa (**Catherine Dupe Atoki**, Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa and Chairperson, Committee on the Prevention of Torture, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights)
- Migrant detention center visits: enhancing protection of asylum seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR (**Pamela Goldberg**, Acting Senior Protection Officer, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Regional Office, Washington, D.C.)
- Visits to jails, prisons, and immigration detention facilities in the U.S. (**Alison Parker**, Director, U.S. Program, Human Rights Watch)

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. LUNCHEON WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Mary Wertz**, Head of Regional Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross: "The Impact of Visiting Mechanisms in Torture Prevention"

2:45 – 4:15 p.m. PANEL 3: COLLABORATION TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF DETENTION VISITS

*Moderator: **Cynthia Totten**, Program Director, Just Detention International*

- Collaboration between UN, regional and national visiting bodies for the planning of visits and the follow-up to recommendations (**Víctor Rodríguez**, Member, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture)
- The application of international, regional and national standards on persons deprived of liberty (**Andrés Pizarro**, Attorney Specialist, Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights)
- Effective collaboration among national actors and their relationship with international and regional mechanisms (**Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa**, Director, Monitoring and Inspections, Uganda Human Rights Commission)
- The United Nations Committee against Torture (**Alessio Bruni**, Member, UN Committee against Torture)

4:30 p.m. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Claudio Grossman**, Dean, American University Washington College of Law and Chairperson, UN Committee against Torture

Please register by going to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration
General registration is free but required. For further information, please contact:
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