

2012

Founders
Celebration



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FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

Presented by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and
American University Washington College of Law

February 15 - 16, 2012 (9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, D.C.

Stakeholders across the globe will participate in this conference to enhance the use of forensic evidence to expose torture. The conference concludes a three-year global project to strengthen the collaboration of practitioners in the use of medical expertise for strategic litigation cases and the fight against torture. Topics will include survivors' perspectives, national, regional and international best practices, challenges and emerging developments. American University Washington College of Law (WCL) has developed numerous initiatives to help contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Convention against Torture including conferences on the prevention of torture, reparation for torture victims, and strengthening visits to places of detention, as well as special programs on the study and research of the prevention of torture including the United Nations Committee against Torture Project.

I. DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:30am REGISTRATION (and Continental Breakfast)

9:00am OPENING REMARKS

- **Claudio Grossman**, Dean and Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law and Chairperson, United Nations Committee against Torture (UN CAT)
- **Brita Sydhoff**, Secretary General, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
- **Mohamud S.N. Said**, President, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Conference Moderator : Jonathan Beynon, Medical Expert, IRCT

9:30-12:45 pm SESSION 1: USING FORENSIC MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN COURT

Torture often takes place in secrecy with methods designed to be as painful as possible without leaving physical marks. Presenters will discuss how forensic examination reports and medical expertise can provide crucial evidence in court cases to help hold perpetrators accountable and provide reparations to the victims.

Session Chair: **Duarte Nuno Vieira**, National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Presenters: **Hans Petter Hougen**, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Mostafa Hussein, El Nadim Center for Psychological Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, Egypt
Juan Mendez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and WCL Visiting Professor of Law
Claudio Grossman, WCL Dean and Professor of Law, and UN CAT Chairperson
Phil Shiner, Public Interest Lawyers, UK

12:45–1:45pm LUNCHEON

2pm-5:30pm SESSION 2: CONCURRENT PANELS ON GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES: GLOBAL VIEW ON TORTURE CASES

Direct support has been given to 30 torture cases worldwide through an established network of forensic experts. Presenters will discuss these cases and share good practices in two rounds of three parallel sessions each.

2pm-3:30pm CONCURRENT PANEL I – EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

<u>Group A: ROOM 600</u> Cases Involving Marginalized Groups	<u>Group B: ROOM 504</u> Cases Related to the So-called War on Terror	<u>Group C: ROOM 603</u> Cases Related to Political Engagement
Mariam Jishkariani , Empathy, Georgia - Children Maria Natividad P. Hernandez , Medical Action Group, The Philippines - Poverty and Torture Pierre Duterte , Parcours d'Exile, France - Indigenous People in Peru	Daniel Carey , Public Interest Lawyers, UK- UK Forces in Afghanistan Christian Harlang , Lawyer, Denmark - Danish Forces in Iraq Irit Ballas , PCATI, Israel – Physicians' Involvement in Torture: The Israeli Case	Dr. Ala'a Shehabi , Political Engagement in Bahrain Felicitas Treue , Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad, Mexico - Cases in Mexico Frances Lovemore , Counselling Services Unit, Zimbabwe - Statistical Analysis of Systematic and Targeted Torture in Zimbabwe

4pm-5:30pm CONCURRENT PANEL II – EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

<u>Group D: ROOM 602</u> Examples in the Inter-American System	<u>Group E: ROOM 600</u> UN Treaty Bodies	<u>Group F: ROOM 603</u> Asylum Proceedings
Ana Deutsch , Program for Torture Victims Los Angeles, USA/Argentina - Situation in Colombia Rafael Garrido Álvarez , Red de Apoyo – Cases in Venezuela Silvia Serrano Guzmán , Human Rights Specialist, IACHR, USA - Use of Medical Evidence at the Inter-American Commission	Jürgen Schurr , REDRESS, UK - Application to the Human Right Committee Rupert Skilbeck , OSI Justice Initiative, USA - Medical Reports and the Committee against Torture	Mechthild Wenk-Ansohn , BZFO, Germany - Documenting Cases in Europe Rodger Haines , Lawyer - New Developments in New Zealand Christy Fujio , Physicians for Human Rights, USA - Using the Istanbul Protocol in the US

5:30pm RECEPTION

II. DAY 2: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00-9:15am WELCOME REMARKS

- **Jonathan Beynon**, Conference Moderator and IRCT Medical Expert

9:15-11:00am SESSION 3: VOICES OF THE SURVIVORS: INVOLVEMENT IN LEGAL TRIALS

Survivors of torture may experience both healing and negative effects from involvement in the legal process. Torture survivors will share their perceptions and care-givers will present approaches to providing psycho-social support to survivors in legal proceedings.

Presenters: **Carlos Jibaja**, Director of CAPS, Peru
Sothara Muny, TPO Cambodia
Lilla Hardi, Cordelia Foundation, Hungary
Carlos R. Mauricio, Executive Director, The Stop Impunity Project

11:15-12:30pm SESSION 4: INSTITUTIONALIZING MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Too few countries have mechanisms in place that mandate the provision of prompt, effective and independent forensic medical and psychological examinations to individuals with torture claims. Presenters will examine how, through advocacy, training, and legal reform, medical documentation can be effectively included in investigations and court proceedings.

Session Chair: **Victor Madrigal**, IACHR, USA
Presenters: **Loreine Dela Cruz**, Balay Centre, Philippines - *System in Philippines and legal reform*
Sebnem Korur, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey - *Institutionalization – Large scale training program*

12:35-1:35pm LUNCHEON

1:45-3:00pm SESSION 4 (CONTINUED): PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Presenters: **Rusudan Beriashvili**, State Medical University, Georgia - *System in Georgia and the forensic institute*
Suzanne Jabbour and Sana Hamzeh, RESTART, Lebanon - *System in Lebanon and Advocacy*

3:30-5:30pm SESSION 5: EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION ON FIGHTING IMPUNITY

Reflecting on conference presentations, discussants will identify achievements and shortfalls in fighting impunity for torture and look ahead to where efforts can be directed to help achieve a world free from torture.

Session Chair: **Jonathan Beynon**, Medical Expert, IRCT
Discussants: **Suzanne Jabour**, Vice-Chair, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Lebanon
Vivienne Nathanson, British Medical Association, UK
Duarte Nuno Vieira, National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal
Victor Madrigal, IACHR, USA
Diane F. Orentlicher, WCL Professor of International Law, and Former Deputy for War Crimes Issues, U.S. Department of State (2009-2011)

5:30pm CLOSING REMARKS

- **Juan Mendez**, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and WCL Visiting Professor of Law
- **Brita Sydhoff**, Secretary General, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Registration is free but required – please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration.
For further information, contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education,
202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu.