

# 2009

FOUNDERS'  
CELEBRATION

American University  
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## Iraqi Refugee Crisis:

### Present-day Challenges & Opportunities for Lasting Solutions

Presented by the International Human Rights Law Clinic and the  
Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST

American University Washington College of Law  
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC

Two million Iraqi refugees are living in Jordan, Syria and other neighboring countries; an additional 2.5 million are internally displaced within Iraq. The program will explain the scope of the crisis and ask the difficult questions: Who is taking responsibility for improving the conditions of the millions of displaced? What is the role of the United States and the international community? Can the law help to protect the most vulnerable? Are there lasting solutions?

- 8:30 am            **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 am            **Welcome:** *Dean Claudio Grossman*, Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law, American University Washington College of Law
- 9:10 am            **Overview:** *Michele Pistone*, Visiting Professor of Law 2008-09, American University Washington College of Law; Professor of Law, Villanova University School of Law
- 9:25 am            **Update on the Iraqi Refugee Crisis**  
**Moderator:** *Meetal Jain*, Practitioner-in-Residence, American University, Washington College of Law  
**Speakers:**  
*Bill Frelick*, Program Director, Refugee Policy, Human Rights Watch  
*Michel Gabaudan*, Regional Rep. for the U.S. & Caribbean, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
*Kirk Johnson*, Founder and Director, The List Project  
*Adberrahim Sabir*, former Human Rights Officer for UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)  
*Barbara Strack*, Chief, Refugee Affairs Division, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- 10:45 am            Break
- 11:00 am            **A Conversation with a Refugee:** *Ahlam Mahmood*, Iraqi refugee, former member, Baghdad city council & activist in Iraq and Syria

- 11:15 **A Conversation with Ambassadors from the Region**  
**Moderator:** *Deborah Amos*, Foreign Correspondent, National Public Radio  
**Speakers:**  
*H.E. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein*, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America  
*H.E. Imad Moustapha*, Ambassador of Syria to the United States of America  
*H.E. Samir Sumaida'ie*, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States of America
- 12:30 pm **Lunch Keynote Speaker: United States Representative Congressman Alcee L. Hastings**
- 2:00 pm **The Crisis Facing Palestinians from Iraq**  
**Moderator:** *Chris Nugent*, Senior Counsel, Holland & Knight, LLP  
**Speakers:**  
*Elizabeth Campbell*, Ph. D., Director, Refugee Council USA  
*Sarnata Reynolds*, Policy Director, Refugee and Migrant Rights, Amnesty International  
*Adam Shapiro*, Documentary filmmaker, human rights activist
- 3:15 pm Break
- 3:30 pm **A Conversation about the Iraqi Student Project**  
**Introduction:** *Emily Brooks* and *Ellen Erichsen*, Student Attorneys, International Human Rights Law Clinic, JD Candidates '09  
**Speakers:** *Hussam Harb Hamid AlMukhtar*, Sophomore, Canisuis College, Buffalo, NY  
*Ed Murray*, Director, Iraqi Student Project
- 4:00 pm **Introduction:** *Jayesh Rathod*, Practitioner in Residence, American University, Washington College of Law  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Thomas Barnett*, New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Pentagon's New Map: War and Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and *Great Powers: America and the World After Bush*
- 4:55 pm **Closing Remarks and Wrap-up**
- 5:00 pm **Reception and Book Signing by Dr. Thomas Barnett**

To register, please go to [www.wcl.american.edu/secle/register](http://www.wcl.american.edu/secle/register).

For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, American University Washington College of Law

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Live webcast: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/go/irc>