

# **Strengthening the Prohibition Against Torture: The Evolution of the UN Committee against Torture**

**Cosponsored by  
American University Washington College of Law and Amnesty International**

**March 2, 2010**

**8:30 am – 4:30 pm**

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

This full-day conference will convene broad representation with high-level international experts and stakeholders, including policymakers, lawyers, civil servants, NGOs and scholars, in the area of the prohibition of torture. Participants will analyze key challenges and successes, and develop recommendations to strengthen the collaborative effort to prevent and eradicate torture.

**8:30-9:00am** Registration and Continental Breakfast

**9:00-9:20am** Opening Remarks

- **WCL Dean and Professor of Law Claudio Grossman**, Chair, UN Committee against Torture
- **Widney Brown**, Senior Director, International Law and Policy, Amnesty International

**9:30-11:00am** Panel One: Building on CAT's Successes and Addressing its Shortcomings: The Stakeholders' Perspectives

- **Santiago Canton**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- **Jens Faerkel**, Minister Counsellor of the Human Rights Department of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Felice Gaer**, Member, UN Committee against Torture
- **Yuval Ginbar**, Legal Advisor, Amnesty International
- **Joao Nataf**, Acting Secretary, UN Committee against Torture
- **Florence Simbiri-Jaoko**, Chairperson, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
- *Moderator:* **Mark Thomson**, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture

**11:15-12:45pm Panel Two: Ensuring Reparations for Victims of Torture and Other Ill-Treatment**

- **Christopher Hall**, Senior Legal Advisor, International Justice Project, Amnesty International
- **Juan Mendez**, WCL Visiting Professor of Law and former President, International Center for Transitional Justice
- **Lorna McGregor**, International Legal Advisor, REDRESS
- **Nora Sveaass**, Vice Chair, UN Committee against Torture
- *Moderator:* **WCL Dean and Professor of Law Claudio Grossman**, Chair, UN Committee against Torture

**1:00-2:00pm Luncheon Keynote Address by the Honorable Michael Posner, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor:**

*“The Role of the U.S. in Strengthening the Prohibition Against Torture”*

**2:15-3:45pm Panel Three: Interpretation and Implementation of CAT Article 22 (Petitions)**

- **Julia Hall**, Researcher on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights in Europe, Amnesty International
- **Barbara Jackman**, Immigration and Refugee Lawyer, Jackman & Associates (Canada)
- **Ann Jordan**, Director, Program on Forced Labor and Trafficking, WCL Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- **Francisco Quintana**, Deputy Program Director for the Andean, North America and Caribbean Region, Center for Justice and International Law
- *Moderator:* **Ambassador Luis Gallegos**, Member, UN Committee against Torture

**4:00-4:30pm Concluding Remarks**

- **WCL Dean and Professor of Law Claudio Grossman**, Chair, UN Committee against Torture
- **Widney Brown**, Senior Director, International Law and Policy, Amnesty International

Please register by going to [www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration](http://www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration)  
General registration is free but required. For further information, please contact:  
Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education,  
American University Washington College of Law  
Phone: 202.274.4075; Fax: 202.274.4079; or [secle@wcl.american.edu](mailto:secle@wcl.american.edu)