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Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates

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CENTER NEWS AND FACULTY UPDATES

CENTER NEWS

THE FORD FOUNDATION PROVIDES NEW GRANT TO THE CENTER TO LAUNCH THE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING PROJECT

The Ford Foundation has awarded the Center a two-year grant to work with legal aid attorneys in the United States to assist them in integrating human rights legal arguments and strategies into their daily work. The project seeks to integrate international law and human rights into legal arguments and briefs submitted by legal aid attorneys, but will also address how cases are selected, clients are interacted with and offices are managed according to human rights principles. In its initial phase, the project will work with two legal aid organizations to provide training workshops, collaborative litigation strategy sessions, ongoing coaching, and continuous litigation support. Case studies and data will be gleaned from this initial phase and utilized to invite participation by a wider group of U.S. legal services organizations in subsequent phases. This project is a continuation of the Center's longstanding work on human rights in the United States. The new project is headed by WCL alumna and former Louisiana Legal Services attorney, Lauren Bartlett. For more information, contact her at bartlett@wcl.american.edu.

OVER 80 REMOTE LOCATIONS TUNE IN VIA LIVE WEBCAST TO CENTER TEACH-IN ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Four days after the highly contentious execution of Troy Davis in the U.S. State of Georgia (and during a week where two other executions also took place in the United States), the Center quickly convened *Deconstructing the Death Penalty: A Teach-In*. The event was the latest in an ongoing series of Rapid Response events organized by the Center which respond to events of the day. Speakers included Professor **Juan Méndez** in his capacity as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; **Laura Moye**, who led the campaign for Troy Davis as Director of the Amnesty International Death Penalty Abolition Campaign;

Richard Deiter, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center; Maryland State Senator Professor **Jamin Raskin** discussing efforts in Maryland to abolish the death penalty; Professor **Rick Wilson**, drafter of the EU amicus brief in *Roper v. Simmons* discussing the death penalty and international law, Professor **Ira Robbins** discussing post-conviction remedies, Professor **Angela Davis** discussing prosecutorial discretion, and Professor **Darren Hutchinson** discussing social movements and the death penalty. In addition to in-person attendees, the event was joined by a robust online audience with over 80 remote locations participating in the discussion via live webcast. A number of law schools held concurrent screenings of the Teach-In and questions for the speakers were submitted via email from around the country. The Center has received feedback from a number of online viewers who were grateful that this event was so quickly and effectively organized. The webcast of this event can be downloaded from the Center's website at www.WCLCenterforHR.org.

RIGHTSWORK.ORG PROJECT INFLUENCES GLOBAL DISCUSSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The RightsWork.org project of the Center's Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor continues to play a strong role in framing the global conversation around human trafficking with the publication of two key documents. The first is a report highlighting the significant progress being made to combat child prostitution, human trafficking, HIV/AIDs, violence, stigma and discrimination through the collective efforts of illiterate, marginalized and stigmatized women in Mumbai's largest brothel area: The Sanghamitra Sex Worker Collective: Challenging Stereotypes and Discrimination.

The second document is a letter signed by fifteen well-known advocates and researchers asking the U.S. Department of State to provide empirically meaningful evidence in support of claims made in a Department document "Prevention: Fighting Sex Trafficking by Curbing

Demand for Prostitution," which outlines U.S. government policy, that the way to fight "sex trafficking" is to curb the demand for prostitution. The letter points out that "[t]he proposals and statements in the document threaten to divert precious resources from protecting victims of trafficking who urgently need help into a politically contested and futile anti-prostitution campaign." The State Department responded by defending the positions taken in the document but without providing any of the requested evidence. The exchange is published on the Rights Work website.

These and other resource related to human trafficking and forced labor can be accessed at www.RightsWork.org.

THE CENTER AND DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL CO-SPONSOR A PANEL DISCUSSION ON TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN MEXICO

On Monday, September 12th, the Center, together with Disability Rights International (DRI), convened a multi-panel discussion addressing current issues on trafficking and violence against women and girls with disabilities in Mexico. The first panel discussed the findings from DRI's report, *Abandoned & Disappeared: Segregation and Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities in Mexico*. Speakers included DRI Executive Director and Founder **Eric Rosenthal** and witnesses from Mexico, including **Sofia Galvan**, Director for Mexico and Central America; **Ana Yeli Perez** of DRI's Women's Rights Advocacy Initiative of the Americas; and **Raul Montoya**, Executive Director of Colectivo Chuhcun. The second panel assessed the global implications for women and girls with disabilities, with speakers including **Judy Heumann**, Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State; WCL Associate Professor **Janie Chuang**, an expert in human trafficking; and **Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo**, Disability Advisor at the United States Agency for International Development. Center Executive Director **Hadar Harris** moderated the panel, which was part of a

day-long celebration of the long-standing collaboration between the Center and DRI

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE, PROFESSOR JUAN MENDEZ SPEAKS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY IN HUMAN RIGHTS

As part of International Week at WCL, the Center was honored to host a special discussion with WCL Visiting Professor and current United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez talking about his journey as a human rights attorney. Professor Méndez spoke of his introduction to human rights work as a criminal defense attorney in Argentina in the early 1970s, his detention and torture in an Argentine prison and his experience as one of the first Prisoners of Conscience of Amnesty International, his role in helping to create Human Rights Watch, and his various positions in the field of human rights (including as an elected Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, President of the International Center on Transitional Justice and as the first Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide. Professor Méndez also spoke about his recently released memoir, *Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights*. This special event is available for download on the Center's website, www.WCLCenterforHR.org.

Other events during International Week included "Women's Human Rights at Home and Abroad: Updates on CEDAW and IVAWA" sponsored by the Women and the Law Program, and "The Continuing Conquest of Indigenous Peoples," a talk by Professor Ezra Rosser, sponsored by the Dean's Diversity Council as well as the annual International Legal Studies Program Embassy Reception which hosts diplomats from around the world.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTICA UPRISING AND CURRENT PRISON REFORM INITIATIVES DISCUSSED

On October 18th, the Center hosted a panel discussion focused on prison reform, 40 years following the violent uprising at the Attica prison in New York. Professor Herman Schwartz, who served as the first intermediary between the prisoners and the prison administration at Attica, spoke about his experiences, the early stages of the prisoner rights movement, and the critical lessons learned from Attica. Professor

Ira Robbins shared his perspective on the history of prison reform, privatization of prisons, and the prisoner rights movement.

FERGUS MACKAY OF FOREST PEOPLES PROGRAMME SPEAKS ON LITIGATING FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

On September 21st, Fergus MacKay, Senior Counsel of the UK-based NGO, *Forest Peoples Programme*, addressed a standing room only crowd and shared his experiences litigating and advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples. Mr. MacKay has litigated a number of important cases before United Nations treaty bodies and the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights, and has served as an expert advisor to the Organization of American States concerning its proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He has also been a member of the advisory panel to the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review. The lunchtime discussion co-sponsored by the Center and the International Legal Studies Program focused on Mr. MacKay's work relating to the landmark case *Saramaka People v. Suriname*, and other cases in the Inter-American Human Rights System.

CENTER PROVIDES SPECIALIZED SKILLS TRAINING AND INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS WORK FOR LAW STUDENTS

In addition to the broad range of public programming, the Center also hosts various activities designed to promote student understanding of and involvement in human rights work. These events utilize different models of interaction with students to raise awareness and engage students in substantive discourse on foundational frameworks and timely human rights issues. Programming this Fall included lectures by WCL faculty on foundational human rights topics, opportunities for conversation and debate on controversial issues in human rights, skills development workshops on issues such as documentation and research methodology, and a well-attended site visit to the US Holocaust Museum.

CENTER WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The Center welcomed Cecili Thompson Williams as its new Assistant Director, Lauren Bartlett as its new Project Director for the Local Lawyering

Project, and Melissa del Aguila as its new Program Coordinator. Ms. Thompson Williams most recently served at the Outreach Director on the Campaign for Better Care at the National Partnership for Women & Families, responsible for grassroots mobilization and network outreach to press for changes in health care delivery in the United States. Previously she served as the Deputy Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) where she oversaw campaigning, activist training, and human rights education activities in the region. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Bartlett, an alumna of WCL, was a legal services attorney at Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in the foreclosure prevention unit from 2008-2011. She taught a housing law and policy course at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, served on the board of the ACLU of Louisiana, and, in 2007, co-founded the Louisiana Justice Institute, a nonprofit civil rights legal advocacy organization. Ms. del Aguila is a recent LL.M graduate from Cornell University School of Law where, as part of the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic, she worked on issues relating to the education, non-discrimination, and equal protection rights of Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples within the Inter-American Human Rights System. Prior to law school, Ms. del Aguila served as a Princeton-in-Latin America Fellow at the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress in San José, Costa Rica where she worked on projects relating to gender, political participation, and human security.

FACULTY UPDATES

Claudio Grossman is the Dean of American University Washington College of Law (WCL) and a Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is also the Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law.

From October 31-November 25, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, Dean Grossman participated, as chair, in the 47th session of the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT), where he also served as country rapporteur for Germany and co-rapporteur for Djibouti and Morocco. In his capacity as Committee chair, he also participated in the *Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System: Dublin*

II Meeting at the University of Nottingham in Dublin, Ireland. Also in November, Dean Grossman hosted a law school reception with the RFK Center for Human Rights in honor of Frank Mugisha, an LGBTI Ugandan activist and recipient of the 2011 RFK Center for Human Rights Award.

In October 2011, Dean Grossman was re-elected to a third four-year term as a member of the UN CAT. That same month, Dean Grossman presented the UN CAT's annual report to the UN General Assembly during the 66th Session in New York City. He also participated in related press conferences and a meeting and event on the *Rehabilitation of Torture Survivor*, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Denmark. Earlier in October, Dean Grossman participated in a conference on *The UN Human Rights Treaties & the Treaty Monitoring Bodies* hosted by the Atlantic Council for its *Transatlantic Dialogues: Session 2* on International Law, and at an expert meeting on *Treaty Bodies: Strengthening Focus on Petitions* in Geneva. In addition, he gave a presentation on *The Future of the Inter-American System of Protection of Human Rights* for the *Clason Speaker Series* at the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts.

In September 2011, Dean Grossman gave a presentation on the prohibition of torture to representatives of the African Union in Geneva, and participated in a meeting of the Judging Panel of the RFK Center for Justice & Human Rights in New York City. Also in New York City during August, Dean Grossman served as a panelist at the UN Working Group session on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. That same month he hosted a meeting and reception at WCL with the rescued Chilean miners.

In June 2011, Dean Grossman participated in a seminar at the Universidad Sergio Arboleda in Bogotá, Colombia on *Globalización, Integración Económica y Derechos Humanos* where he spoke on *La Situación de los Derechos Humanos en el Hemisferio Occidental y el Sistema Interamericano de Promoción y Protección de los Derechos Humanos*. He also participated in the International Congress at the University of Valparaíso in Chile during which he served on a panel on *The Influence of Comparative Law, International Law, and Supranational Law on National Laws*. Later that month, in Geneva, Dean

Grossman participated in: the Meeting of the UN Committee Chairpersons; a discussion hosted by Amnesty International and REDRESS on the gender dimension of the UN Convention against Torture; an ICRC Working Luncheon on current challenges in the fight against torture and ill-treatment; and the Meeting on Role of Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures in the Promotion of the Right to Development. In addition, Dean Grossman served as a lecturer in a training course for state officials on the Inter-American System held at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, D.C. and cosponsored by WCL, the ISHR, and the IACHR.

From May 9-June 3, 2011, in Geneva, Dean Grossman participated, as chair, in the 46th session of the UN CAT, where he also served as country rapporteur for Ghana and co-rapporteur for Turkmenistan. During that time, he participated in the *Consultation for States on Treaty Body Strengthening* hosted by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Later in June, Dean Grossman was awarded the *Orden Rodrigo Noguera Laborde* from the Universidad Sergio Arboleda in Bogotá, Colombia, in recognition of his work in defense of human rights and liberties.

Dean Grossman's recent publications include: *Libertad de expresión en el sistema interamericano de protección de los derechos humanos*, in 2 Nos AD JUSTITIAM ESSE NATOS 1030-1070 (Edeval & Universidad de Valparaíso, 2011); *Enhancing Visits to Places of Detention: Promoting Collaboration* (Conference Proceedings) in a Special Edition of the Human Rights Brief, Vol. 18, Issue 4 (Spring 2011); and Statement at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee, as Chairperson of the UN CAT, New York City (Oct. 18, 2011) (available at <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/10/meeting-of-the-third-committee-english.html>).

Hadar Harris is the Executive Director of the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In September, Ms. Harris spoke to a group of international visitors from Africa and Latin America on the question of "US Foreign Policy and Human Rights" as part of the State Department International Visitors Program. In October, she was an invited speaker and participant in a two-day invitation-only convening which was part of the

Transatlantic Dialogues on International Law convened by the Atlantic Council and Chatham House. The meeting was entitled, "Rising Powers and International Human Rights Law: A Transatlantic Challenge" and Ms. Harris presented on "The Question of Enforcement: US and EU Perspectives." Ms. Harris also kicked off the Center's popular series, *Munching on Human Rights*, with a 90-minute presentation of "Human Rights 101: A Crash Course!" which gave WCL students a basic introduction to international human rights law over lunch. In addition, Ms. Harris moderated a series of panels over the course of the Fall including a nine-speaker teach-in on the death penalty in the United States which was held days after the controversial execution of Troy Davis; a panel on the intersection of human trafficking and disability.

Juan Méndez is Visiting Professor of Law at WCL and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. His three-year term started on November 1, 2010. In October, 2011, Professor Méndez presented his report on Solitary Confinement to the UN General Assembly as a part of his responsibilities as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. Professor Méndez was interviewed about this UN General Assembly presentation by BBC, Al Jazeera, Canadian Radio, NPR (Los Angeles affiliate), CNN en Espanol and Radio Espana Internacional.

Professor Méndez's recent publications include his book, *Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2011) and "Justice and Prevention" in the *International Criminal Court and Complementarity: From Theory to Practice*, Carsten Stahn and Muhammad El Zeidy, eds., (Cambridge: CUP, 2011, 2 volumes).

Herman Schwartz is Professor of Law at WCL and Co-Director of the Center. Professor Schwartz continues to work with the U.S./Israel Civil Liberties Law Program. In May and November 2011, Professor Schwartz authored articles published in *Politico* entitled "SCOTUS In Need of Ethics Code," and "GOP Voter Suppression," respectively. An interview by Nina Totenberg of NPR on judicial ethics was broadcast on August 17, 2011. In the spring, Professor Schwartz was appointed to the American Law Institute's Consultative Committee on Election Law

as well as to the Human Rights Center at the University of Pretoria's Evaluation Committee. He also participated in a debate on Health Care Reform at the Cosmos Club and presented lectures in Washington, D.C. to visiting Arab nation human rights advocates and to Brazilian judges.

Rick Wilson is Professor of Law and founding Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at the Washington College of Law, as well as Co-Director for the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In June 2011, Professor Wilson served on a panel entitled "Learning How to Think like a Lawyer" for the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in San Francisco. In July 2011, he participated in a conference for the Global Alliance for Justice Education by participating in panel presentations and providing remarks during the closing plenary session on the topic of "From Pinochet to Arbenz: The Work of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at American University."

In September 2011, Professor Wilson presented "A Revisionist History of a Pedagogy of Practice in the United States: 1870 to 1917" at the National Conference on Clinical Legal Education at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Later, in October 2011, Professor Wilson presented "The Arbenz Case in the Inter-American Human Rights System" at the Rockefeller Center on Latin American Studies at Harvard University. He also attended the Public Ceremony of Official Presidential Apology to the Family of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala City, Guatemala with the student team from the International Human Rights Law Clinic that handled the case.

Professor Rick Wilson's recent publications include *Teaching International Law: Lessons from Clinical Education*, in American Society of International Law, Proceedings of the 104th Annual Meeting, March 24-27, 2010 (2011).

David Baluarte is the Practitioner-in-Residence for the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Washington College of Law. A founding member of the National Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (NLCHR) of Peace Brigades International, Professor Baluarte has also been supporting the work of human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. In February 2012, Professor Baluarte will

lead a NLCHR delegation to Mexico to investigate the situation of migrants rights defenders and review the implementation of Mexico's new immigration law. Professor Baluarte also continues his work on the implementation of the decisions of human rights bodies. The American University International Law Review recently accepted his article "Strategizing for Compliance: The evolution of a compliance phase of Inter-American Court litigation and the strategic imperative for victims' representatives" for publication. In December 2011, Professor Baluarte will travel to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for a meeting of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and give a presentation on the experiences of implementing the decisions of human rights bodies in the Americas to an audience of Kyrgyz government and civil society actors. In fall 2011, Professor Baluarte awaits the launch of a report he authored for the UN High Commissioner on Refugees and the Open Society Justice Initiative on stateless persons in the United States.

Ann Jordan is the Director of the Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor at the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Ms. Jordan participated in a panel organized by the International Human Rights Committee of the American Bar Association entitled "Human Trafficking: Is the Solution Beyond the Scope of Domestic Legal Mechanisms?" The panel was broadcast via global teleconference for CLE credit. In addition, on October 12th, Program Director **Ann Jordan** and **Joanna Busza**, Senior Lecturer in Sexual and Reproductive Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine presented *Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Pandemics and Politics: Do Anti-Trafficking Policies Hurt the Most Vulnerable?* This well-attended interactive session held at WCL addressed the complex dynamics behind participation in the sex industry, "anti-trafficking" measures, and unintended consequences of international policies to address human trafficking.

Claudia Martin, is Co-Director of American University WCL Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and Professorial Lecturer in Residence. On September 15, 2011, Professor Martin participated in a meeting of a Steering Committee to advise on the drafting of a book on International Law in Domestic

Courts in Leuven, Belgium, sponsored by the Amsterdam Center for International Law and the European Commission, where she presented on a chapter regarding the existing jurisprudence on amnesty laws and human rights law in Latin America. On October 13, she submitted for discussion a paper analyzing the application of human rights law to recent judgments of domestic courts restricting access to abortion for women in Latin America at a meeting organized by the Program on Gender Equality of the Supreme Court of Mexico and Women's Link Worldwide, in Cuernaca, Mexico. On October 27, Professor Martin moderated a panel on the "Domestic Impact of the Individual Complaint Procedure on Indigenous Peoples Rights," organized by the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, as part of a research project supported by the Swedish NGO for Human Rights. On November 9, Professor Martin gave the introductory lecture at the Program on Specialized Training on Human Rights sponsored by the Commission of Human Rights of the Federal District and other academic institutions in Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico. In addition, Professor Martin has continued to serve as a Contributing Editor to *Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law*, a Member of the Editorial Board, *Oxford Reports on International Law in Domestic Courts*, Oxford University Press and Amsterdam Center for International Law, and a contributor on Inter-American Human Rights Law for the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights.

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In June 2011, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón co-taught a class on "Human Rights and International Humanitarian law: New Challenges" and "The International Labor Organization Decent Work Agenda." These courses were delivered during the Program on International Organizations, Law and Diplomacy organized by the School of International Service and the Washington College of Law in Geneva, Switzerland. In June, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón also participated in a round table discussion on Friendly Settlement and Human Rights as an expert consultant for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, D.C.

In July 2011, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón taught a course on “The Inter-American Human Rights System” for the 42th Annual Study Session of the International Institute on Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. He also presented a Congressional Briefing for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in Washington, D.C. Later, in August, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón taught the course “The Inter-American Human Rights System” at the Åbo Akademi Institute for Human Rights in Turku, Finland.

In August 2011, he taught a course on “The Inter-American Human Rights System” at the Abo Akademi Institute for Human Rights in Turku, Finland. Also in August, he served as an ad hoc judge in *Salvador Chiriboga v. Ecuador* at the session period of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights that took place in Bogota, Colombia.

In September 2011, Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón served as a panelist in a presentation on the individual complaint

procedure of the Inter-American System as well as in a presentation about the «control of conventionality» required by international human rights instruments in the training sessions for 1500 judges and magistrates organized by the Supreme Court of Mexico and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in Mexico City.

Susana SáCouto is the Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence at the Washington College of Law. In June 2011, Professor SáCouto spoke at “Expediting Proceedings: Examining the Jurisprudence and the Practice of the International Criminal Court,” an event hosted by the Coordinator of the Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court, in The Hague. She also served as a moderator for a presentation and discussion of the Gender Jurisprudence Collections, which was hosted by the T.M.C. Asser Institute in The Hague. In September 2011, Professor SáCouto spoke on “Gender Jurisprudence and International Criminal Law Project” for the Open Society Institute’s International

Women’s Program Board Meeting in New York City. In October, Professor SáCouto traveled to Bloemfontein, South Africa to participate in the Colloquium on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights in Africa and present a paper entitled “Gaps in the Gender-based Violence Jurisprudence of International and Hybrid Criminal Courts: Can Human Rights Law Help?” In early November, Professor SáCouto presented on the topic of “Domestic Enforcement of International Law” with Professor Steve Vladeck for a delegation of Brazilian judges in a program on Issues in the Administration of Justice sponsored by the International Judicial Academy and AUWCL. Professor SáCouto recently published Introductory Remarks to the Amicus Brief on *The Practice of Cumulative Charging before International Criminal Bodies*, which was submitted by the War Crimes Research Office to the Appeals Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, 10 February 2011, 22 Crim. L. Forum, online October 2011.