

Human Rights Brief

Volume 18 | Issue 1

Article 12

2010

Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates

Human Rights Brief

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Human Rights Brief. "Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates." Human Rights Brief 18, no. 1 (2010) 64-67.

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington College of Law Journals & Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Human Rights Brief by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. For more information, please contact kclay@wcl.american.edu.

CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

CENTER NEWS

CENTER PARTNERS WITH THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO LAUNCH FIRST INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Center) and the American Society of International Law's (ASIL) Lieber Society have partnered to launch the first International Humanitarian Law Student Writing Competition. The Competition seeks submissions of academic papers on the topic of international humanitarian law (IHL) from law students (both JDs and LL.Ms) in the United States or abroad. The purpose of the Competition is to promote interest in and to deepen understanding among students of this important area of international law. In addition to publishing the winning submissions in an academic journal, the winning authors will be flown to Washington, DC, to present their papers with expert professors and practitioners at a conference hosted at the American University Washington College of Law that will focus on emerging issues in IHL. This Competition is part of a multi-pronged initiative to expand and support the teaching and study of IHL among both students and professors in which both the Center and ASIL have been deeply involved since 2007. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2011, at 12pm EST, and more information is available on the Center's website at www.wclcenterforhr.org.

PROGRAM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOR HIGHLIGHTS CRACKDOWN ON CAMBODIAN SEX SECTOR

On October 21, the Human Trafficking and Forced Labor Project invited **Elaine Pearson**, Deputy Director for Human Rights Watch, Asia Division, and **Noy Thrupkaew**, journalist and Open Society Institute fellow, for a discussion on Cambodia's crackdown on the sex sector, focusing on rights abuses and donor obligations. Ms. Pearson and Ms. Thrupkaew discussed the policy challenges and consequences of Cambodia's suppression of

its sex sector and treating sex workers as victims of trafficking.

CENTER FOCUSES ATTENTION ON PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF AS PART OF COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR

Since 2006, the Center has been involved in a collaboration with the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, to enhance and support its Gender Studies Department and Human Rights Studies Centre. In the wake of the devastating floods in Pakistan this summer, the Center held two events to highlight and support the tremendous human rights impact in the region and to raise money and awareness. The first event featured University of Peshawar Professors **Anoosh Khan**, **Faizullah Jan**, and **Taimur Khan** as well as Program Director Professor Nasir Khattak discussing the impact of the flooding on different facets of Pakistani society. The second event analyzed the right to health in the context of the Pakistani flooding. Speakers included noted Pakistani journalist **Huma Yusuf**, Pakistan Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; **Lindsay Wiley**, Assistant Professor of Law, WCL; and **Jaspal Gill**, UN World Food Programme.

11TH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES HAS CAPACITY AUDIENCES AND LAUNCHES STUDENT GRANT COMPETITION

The 11th annual Human Rights Film Series, co-sponsored by the Center and the American University Center for Social Media, proved to be the most successful in its history. Four exceptional documentary films (including *Good Fortune*, *War Don Don*, *Presumed Guilty*, and *The Oath*) were screened between September 23rd and October 28th at Katzen Arts Center. Following each screening was a discussion with the filmmakers and human rights advocates over the human rights issues raised in the films. The films filled the more than 200 seat auditorium to capacity. This year, as an outgrowth of unprecedented collaboration across the AU main campus, the Film Series established the first **Human Rights and Media Student**

Grant Competition which solicited proposals from students around projects linking human rights and media, awarded two grants for documentary film-making projects.

STUDENTS EXPLORE "WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?" IN CENTER'S FALL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROJECT

Ten students, including both LL.Ms and JDs, spent four weeks conducting site visits and exploring different dimensions of this semester's Experiential Learning Project (ELP) entitled, "Where is the Justice in the Criminal Justice System?" Following an introductory framing discussion with former Public Defender, Professor **Cynthia Jones**, and former Los Angeles, California County Prosecutor, Professor **Jason Dominguez**, the students participated in a "ride-along" with members of the DC police, conducted a site visit to the DC jail, met with staff and clients at Our Place (a non-profit providing services and advocacy to former and currently incarcerated women), and met with a criminal court judge to discuss the various challenges and opportunities in the criminal justice system. The ELP seeks to take students out of the classroom and into the DC community to examine a human rights issue here at home and to meet with key actors with diverse viewpoints from all sides of an issue.

CENTER PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL WEBCAST PANEL ON DEATH PENALTY

Commemorating the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the Center, in conjunction with the WCL International Human Rights Law Clinic, the American University School of Communication (SOC), the Office of the University Chaplain and the Society for Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs, hosted a live streaming of a panel discussion entitled "No Human Way to Kill." Spearheaded by the **Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex** in the United Kingdom, and with the support of several other organizations and universities throughout the world,

the panel streamed live from the White Box Gallery in New York City. Panelists included: artist and Essex Human Rights Centre Fellow Robert Priseman; Reverend Cathy Harrington, parent of a murder victim; Renny Cushing, director of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights; and Barbara Lewis, mother of an inmate on death row. WCL Professor **Rick Wilson** and SOC Professor **Rick Stack**, both noted experts whose scholarship focuses on anti-death penalty work, led a discussion with the audience after the webcast.

CENTER'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CONTRIBUTES TO UNITED NATIONS' NEW
TOOLS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS WHILE COUNTERING TERRORISM

In September, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism launched a new series of reference guides. Center Assistant Director, **Matias Hernandez**, contributed to the development of the reference guide on *Stopping and Searching of Persons*, which seeks to assist Member States to ensure that human rights are respected and protected while using law enforcement tools in countering terrorism. The reference guide is now available at the UN website: <http://www.un.org/terrorism/terrorism-hr.shtml>.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Claudio Grossman is Dean of WCL and a Co-Director of the Center. In November, Dean Grossman chaired the 45th session of the United Nations (UN) Committee against Torture in Geneva, Switzerland, where he served as rapporteur for Ecuador and rapporteur or co-rapporteur for comments on the lists of issues prior to reporting for Algeria, China, Indonesia, and Sweden. Later that month, Dean Grossman co-hosted, together with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, an awards ceremony and dinner in honor of Abel Barrera Hernandez, the 2010 recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award.

In October, Dean Grossman addressed the UN General Assembly in his capacity as chair of the Committee against Torture at the 65th Session, Third Committee, in New York. He also gave a related press

conference concerning his presentation and participated in a meeting with UN Member-State Delegates at the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations. Additionally, Dean Grossman participated in a public consultation at WCL with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, discussing issues related to trade, access to medicine, and the right to health. He also provided the introductory remarks for the lecture given by Justice Arthur Chaskalson, WCL Visiting Professor of Law, entitled, "Dignity as a Constitutional Value: A South African Perspective."

In September and August, Dean Grossman participated in the meeting, "Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaties Bodies," co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the University of Adam Mickiewicz Faculty of Law and Administration, and the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in Poznan, Poland. Dean Grossman also participated as a member in a session of the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files in Lyon, France. He served as a panelist on "Freedom of Expression" at the Hemispheric Freedom Symposium in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as well as on "Corte Penal Internacional, Realidad y Desafios" at the Conference on Human Rights at the University of Chile Faculty of Law in Santiago, Chile. The same month, he gave a lecture on "Los Derechos Humanos y el Terrorismo, Lógicas Contradictorias y el Futuro del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos" at the International Seminar on Human Rights and International Law of Armed Conflict in Bogotá, Colombia. Dean Grossman was a panelist at the two-day program, "Fortalecimiento de la Prevención y Prohibición de la Tortura y Otros Tratos Crueles, Inhumanos o Degradantes," co-sponsored by the South American Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Republic of Argentina, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the program, he also lectured on "La Contribución del Comité contra la Tortura de Naciones Unidas." While in Buenos Aires, Dean Grossman participated as an expert in hearings held by representatives of the Commission on Human Rights and Guarantees of the Congress of Argentina discussing the Optional Protocol

to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. Dean Grossman introduced the 9th Annual National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers State Criminal Justice Network Conference, "Inform, Influence, Impact: Effective Criminal Justice Reform," co-sponsored by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In addition, he organized and chaired a plenary session on the "Prohibition against Torture and Cultural Relativism" at the XVIIIth International Congress of Comparative Law at WCL. Earlier this year, Dean Grossman was a speaker at the International Service for Human Rights' Geneva Training Course on Treaty Monitoring Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dean Grossman's recent publications include *Paradigmas De La Nueva Formación Jurídica En Estados Unidos*, in LA CRISIS DE LAS FUENTES DEL DERECHO EN LA GLOBLIZACIÓN (Biblioteca Jurídica Díké Ltda. 2010); *Legal Education Reform*, 32 HARV. INT'L L.J. 4 (Fall 2010); *Raising the Bar: US Legal Education in an International Setting*, 32 HARV. INT'L L.J. 16 (Fall 2010); and *Statement by Claudio Grossman, Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, at the 65th Session of the General Assembly, Third Committee, Item 68(a) (Oct. 19, 2010), available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/index.htm>.

Robert Goldman is Louis C. James Scholar, Co-Director of the Center, faculty director for the War Crimes Research Office, and Professor of Law at WCL. Earlier this year, he was re-elected to the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists and attended the February meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Hadar Harris is Executive Director of the Center. She traveled to Lao People's Democratic Republic in November at the invitation of the United Nations Development Programme to conduct a five-day training for government officials on human rights treaty reporting. The training, the first of its kind in Lao, discussed not only treaty reporting but best practices for better implementation of human rights treaty obligations across government ministries and with civil society. In addition, Ms. Harris spoke at and moderated a variety of Center panels and discussions

throughout the semester, including the introductory session of the popular lunch-time series, “Munching on Human Rights (the ABCs of Human Rights)” and the new “Controversial Conversations in Human Rights,” which explored whether “[t]he US [is] *Sui Generis* When it Comes to Human Rights?” Ms. Harris also led a ten-day workshop for Senior Fellows from the University of Peshawar (Pakistan) exploring issues of gender and human rights as part of the ongoing collaboration between the Center and the University of Peshawar.

Juan E. Méndez is Visiting Professor of Law at WCL. On September 29, 2010, the Human Rights Council appointed him the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. His three-year term started on November 1. Last June, Professor Méndez taught at the WCL Summer Academy on Human Rights and later at the Israel Summer Program. In July, he taught at the Oxford (UK) Masters Program on International Human Rights Law. In August, he spoke at a seminar on the Prevention of Torture organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On October 26, he delivered a lecture on Transitional Justice, Peace and Prevention at the University of Baltimore Law School, and in November, he delivered the Marek Novicki Lectures on Human Rights at the Central European University, Budapest, and the University of Warsaw. The lectures are organized annually by the Open Society Institute and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón is Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. He is also an Ad Hoc Judge on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case *Salvador Chiriboga v. Ecuador*. He attended the 89th Ordinary Period of Sessions of the Court on November 21, 2010. He contributes to the British publication *Butterworths Human Rights Cases* (Lexis/Nexis) in his capacity as Correspondent for the Americas, and to the international law journal *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* by reporting periodically on the news of the Inter-American Human Rights System. Over the past year, Mr. Rodríguez-Pinzón has taught several courses abroad, including: “The Inter-American System on Human Rights,” in the Annual Course on Human Rights Training of the Institut de Développement

et Droits Humains, Joinville, Brazil on October 19, 2010; “The Inter-American Human Rights System” in the summer course of the Åbo Akademi Institute for Human Rights in Turku, Finland on August 2010; and, “The Inter-American Human Rights System” at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Guayaquil in Guayaquil, Ecuador on May 2010. He also gave several presentations, including: a panel presentation on the “International Protection of Human Rights and Public Safety and Security,” in the VI Seminário Internacional de Direitos Humanos: Direitos Humanos e Integração Latino-Americana at the Universidade Federal de Paraíba in Brazil, on December 6-10, 2010; a presentation providing expert advice on the implementation of Terms of Reference and drafting of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in the program “The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights: Agendas for US-ASEAN Human Rights Collaboration and Research,” at the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, on November 15, 2010; and a keynote address on “Current Topics in the Inter-American Human Rights System,” in the II Congreso Internacional de Derecho: Derechos Humanos y Sistema Penal, in Barranquilla, Colombia on October 22, 2010.

Susana SáCouto is Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and a Professorial Lecturer in Residence at WCL. In June 2010, she moderated and discussed key recommendations from the WCRO’s report on *The Case-Based Reparations Scheme of the International Criminal Court* at a panel convened during the Review Conference of the Rome Statute Establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kampala, Uganda. In July 2010, she delivered a presentation on whether different notions of evaluating allegations of torture emerge in the jurisprudence of the *ad hoc* international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda at a plenary panel entitled “The Prohibition Against Torture and Cultural Relativism” at the XVIIIth International Congress of Comparative Law. In October 2010, Ms. SáCouto was the guest speaker at the New England School of Law’s Center for International Law & Policy Speaker Series; her presentation was entitled “Victim Participation before International and Hybrid Criminal Tribunals”. In November 2010, she trav-

eled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to present on “Lessons Learned from the ICC” at the first International Gender Justice Conference, convened by the Cambodian Defenders Project. Ms. SáCouto’s recent publications include: *Gender Crimes at the International Level*, in 42 PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW DIALOGS 191 (Elizabeth Andersen & David Crane eds., 2010); *Introductory Note to The International Criminal Court: Appeal of the prosecutor Against the “Decision on the Prosecution’s Application for a Warrant of Arrest against Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir,”* 49 INT’L LEGAL MATERIALS 922 (2010); *The Katanga Complementarity Decision: Sound Law but Flawed Policy*, 23 LEIDEN J. OF INT’L L. 363 (June 2010) (with Katherine Cleary); and *The Women’s Protocol to the African Charter and Sexual Violence in the Context of Armed Conflict or Other Mass Atrocity*, 16 WASH. & LEE J. OF CIV. RTS. & SOC. JUST. 173 (Fall 2009) (with Katherine Cleary).

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. His academic focus remains on issues of civil rights and civil liberties as they have played out in courts across the globe, especially in the young democracies of Eastern Europe. He has served as an adviser to numerous Central and Eastern European nations on constitutional and human rights reform. He has also been called upon to comment and advise on constitutional reform in Afghanistan, Iraq, and several African countries. Professor Schwartz is a member of the Board of the Open Society Institute Justice Initiative. He is currently working on a book on how American political institutions are responding to the challenges currently facing the United States.

Rick Wilson is Professor of Law and founding Director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at WCL. Last year, he was on sabbatical leave from WCL. During his sabbatical, Mr. Wilson spent a semester in the Netherlands as Visiting Professor of Law and Scholar in Residence at the University of Utrecht’s School of Human Rights Research. There, Professor Wilson researched, wrote, traveled, and helped the law faculty start a clinic in International Justice, with much of its work focused on the institutions based in The Hague. He then came back to

Washington, DC, to work as a Tillar House Fellow at ASIL. During his fellowship, Mr. Wilson focused on researching and writing a book, tentatively entitled *The Origins and Global Reach of Clinical Legal Education: A Pedagogy of Law Practice for Justice*. He also published a chapter in a related book, *Beyond Legal Imperialism: U.S. Clinical Legal Education and the New Law and Development*, which appeared in an edited collection called *The Global Clinical Movement: Educating Lawyers for Social Justice* (Frank Bloch ed., 2010). In October 2010, Mr. Wilson received the Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship

Program Faculty Award for public service advocacy, given by students in that program—both past and present—to a faculty member each year.

This fall, Professor Wilson has served as a panelist and speaker at numerous events, including: “International Clinical Law: Theory and Critique, Conference on Re-Imagining International Clinical Law,” at the University of Maryland School of Law Annual Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland on November 18, 2010; “Complexity across Borders: Teaching Advocacy on Human Rights, Seventh

International Clinical Conference,” at Lake Arrowhead, California on November 6, 2010; “International Human Rights Treaties: Next Steps for the United States,” at the OASIS Education Center for Seniors on October 18, 2010; “No Human Way to Kill, a global discussion on World Day against the Death Penalty,” on October 11, 2010, via streaming video at American University in Washington, DC; and, “Does Global Clinical Legal Education Have, or Need, a Unifying Theory?” at New York Law School Clinical Theory Workshop 25th Anniversary Conference on October 1-2, 2010. **HRB**