

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY EVENT

FCO LOCARNO SUITE, 17 JULY 2017

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES, IN SYRIA AND BEYOND

CONCEPT

On 17 July the British Institute for International and Comparative Law and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in association with Temple Garden Chambers and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, will hold a conference on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the International Court on the theme of *International Criminal Justice - Achievements and Challenges, in Syria and Beyond*. The audience of around 150 participants will include parliamentarians, media, think tanks, academics, non-governmental organisations, private practitioners and senior government policy and legal officials.

Using Syria as a case study, participants will take a hard look at how the lack of effective jurisdiction over war crimes in Syria sits with the UK's strong support for the ICC and other international criminal justice bodies. The event will provide a framework for political decision makers and thought influencers, key international criminal justice and transitional justice leads and domestic prosecutors to discuss creative and pragmatic steps to take on accountability for war crimes in Syria, while remaining fully conscious of the political realities and legal limitations.

The day will open with a screening and discussion of the Channel 4 documentary, *Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad*. Further panels will consider the international political situation; the challenges of prosecuting universal jurisdiction crimes; the pursuit of truth, justice, reparations and institutional reform in transitional contexts and the significance of domestic war crimes prosecutions for conflict prevention and deterrence. International Criminal Court President, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi will give the closing lecture, looking at the ICC's achievements over the last 15 years and the challenges it faces going forward. Ministers are committed to helping deliver the day.

This is an opportunity to looking at solutions and expectations in Syria in a holistic way. We can all agree that what is happening on the ground is horrifying and wrong, first and last, without arguing over accountability. By identifying that the facts indicate that war crimes are occurring, by evaluating realistic accountability routes and what they could contribute, and by collapsing traditional pillars of thought through interdisciplinary panels, participants can better establish what more can be done in terms of concrete action (such as the operation of the International, Independent and Impartial Mechanism for Syria, other information sharing and cooperation, third country prosecutions) and what contribution this will make to ending criminal activity, holding perpetrators to account, allowing victims to be heard and providing redress, and achieving post conflict stability.

PROGRAMME

0900: Arrival and registration

0925: Introduction by **Alice Lacourt**, FCO Legal Counsellor

0930: Documentary screening: *"Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad"*

1020: The making of the documentary and the situation on the ground in Syria: **Andrew Cayley** CMG QC, Temple Garden Chambers and Director of Service Prosecutions moderating with **Stephen Rapp**, non-resident Fellow, The Hague Institute for Global Justice; Director and Producer of *Syria's Disappeared*, **Sara Afshar** and Co-producer **Nicola Cutcher**; **Sareta Ashraph**, Former Legal Analyst, UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria and **Alex El Jundi**, Legal Adviser, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Syria Country Team

1110: Coffee

1130: The UN dynamic and political constraints: **Shehzad Charania** MBE, Head of International and EU Law, Attorney General's Office and International Law Adviser, No. 10 Downing Street moderating with **Christian Turner** CMG, Deputy National Security Adviser, former FCO DG Middle East and Africa and former High Commissioner to Kenya; **Peter Wilson** CMG, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York and Ambassador-designate, The Hague and **Catherine Amirfar**, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

1230: Lunch

1345: BIICL Director, **Professor Robert McCorquodale** introduces the Attorney General, **the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC**

1400: How to prosecute universal jurisdiction crimes? Panel discussion of international and domestic prosecution options: **Karim Khan QC**, Temple Garden Chambers moderating with **Deb Walsh**, Crown Prosecution Service; **Dr Devika Hovell**, Associate Professor in Public International Law, LSE; **Toby Cadman**, Guernica 37 International Justice Chambers and **Scott Gilmore**, Center for Justice & Accountability

1500: Break

1530: The pursuit of truth, justice, reparations and institutional reform in transitional contexts: **Dr Matt Preston**, FCO Multilateral Research Group moderating with **Fiona McKay**, Open Society Justice Initiative (and formerly ICC Victims Participation and Reparations Section); **Dr Carla Ferstman**, Director of Redress and **Paul Seils**, Vice President, International Center for Transitional Justice

1630: Afternoon tea

1700 - 1800: **Elizabeth Wilmshurst** CMG, Distinguished Fellow, Chatham House introduces **Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi**, President of the International Criminal Court