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British Institute of International and Comparative Law
and
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

jointly present a Conference on

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA: MEANS OF PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

7-8 February 2008
at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law
London

Programme

DAY 1
Thursday 7 February 2008

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and Coffee

9.30 – 9.45 **Welcoming Remarks in the presence of the Ambassador of Sweden, HE Mr Staffan Carlsson**
Chair: BIICL, RWI
Speaker: **Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**, Chair, Human Genetics Commission; Vice-President, Haldane Society; Vice-President, Association of Women Barristers; Patron of Liberty

9.45 – 11.00 **Keynote Address**

The speaker will draw a broad picture of the state of human rights in international organizations, both success stories and ongoing and upcoming challenges

Chair: **Hans Corell**, former UN Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs; Chairman, Board of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Speaker: **Thomas Hammarberg**, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 Complaints – 1: Locus standi of the individual

Part 1 of this session will focus on the procedures for individual complaints of human rights violations

- Chair: **Geoffrey Robertson QC**, Head of Doughty Street Chambers and author of *Crimes against Humanity*
- Speaker: **Luzius Wildhaber**, Professor, Past President of the European Court of Human Rights
- Commentators: **Professor Sir Nigel Rodley KBE**, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; UN Special Rapporteur on Torture from 1993-2001; Member, UN Human Rights Committee
David Harris, Emeritus Professor in Residence, Co-Director, Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Complaints – 2: UN complaints and fact-finding procedures

This session continues with an examination of the efficacy of the UN's human rights mechanisms and procedures

- Chair: **Professor Robert McCorquodale**, Director, British Institute of International Law
- Speaker: **Professor Vojin Dimitrijevic**, Director, The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Serbia
- Commentators: **Professor Michael O'Flaherty**, Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham; Member, UN Human Rights Committee
Jakob Möller, Member, Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Acting President July-October 1997)

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 Procedures for investigation by international organizations

This session will focus on the ability of international organizations to investigate human rights violations and to do so on an objective, impartial and even-handed basis

- Chair: **Professor Christine Chinkin**, London School of Economics; Trustee, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- Speaker: **Bertram Ramcharan**, former Acting UN High Comr for Human Rights
- Commentators: **Professor Kevin Boyle**, Former Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex; Senior Adviser to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Mary Robinson 2001-2002
Sir Michael Wood KCMG, Barrister; Trustee, British Institute of International and Comparative Law; Senior Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge

18.00 – 19.00 Drinks Reception

19.30 – 22.00 Speaker Dinner at the Russell Hotel Chair: The Rt Hon Lord Bingham of Cornhill KG

Speaker dinner kindly sponsored by

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DAY 2
Friday 8 February 2008

9.00 – 9.30 Registration and Coffee

9.30 – 11.00 Jurisdiction – Extraterritorial reach of human rights law

Chair: **John Hardy QC**, Barrister

Speaker: **Ralph Wilde**, Faculty of Law, University College London

Commentators: **Dapo Akande**, Yamani Fellow and Tutor in Public International Law, St Peter's College, Oxford
Professor Malcolm Shaw QC, Sir Robert Jennings Professor of International Law, University of Leicester

11.0 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 Cooperation and Prevention – Focus on Minority Rights

This session will look at the main forms of achieving cooperation and prevention. A particular focus is minority rights, also as a tool for the prevention of violent ethnic and religious conflicts

Chair: **Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson**, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law 1999-present; Expert member of the UN Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; Chairman, UN Working Group on Minorities

Speaker: **Max van der Stoep**, former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; former UN Special Rapporteur on Iraq and former Foreign Minister of the Netherlands

Commentators: **Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn**, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok; UN Special Rapporteur on DPR Korea
Asbjörn Eide, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights; former Chairman, Advisory Committee under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; first Chairman of the UN Working Groups on Minorities and Indigenous Populations

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Cooperation and Prevention and Lessons for the future

Drawing on their own experiences and on statements and the debate at the present conference, speakers would be asked to identify national and international institutions where improvements in their handling of human rights issues are called for and to point at legal and political possibilities for achieving that

Chair: **Hans Corell**, former UN Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs; Chairman, Board of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute

With thanks to Alan Stephens for initiating this Conference, and for establishing the successful cooperation between the
British Institute of International and Comparative Law
and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.