



Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) **Activities for 2010-2011**

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) was established with a mandate to study the main challenges to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms; analyze and assess the interactions between human rights violations and international crimes; investigate genocide historically and in the contemporary world; and devise educational programs aimed at increasing public awareness of these norms.

Led by Professor George Andreopoulos and Ms. Aferdita Hakaj, the CIHR at John Jay College focuses on a critical examination of long-standing and emerging issues on the human rights agenda, as well as on equipping our students with the necessary background and experience to pursue their interests in human rights scholarship and advocacy. CIHR regularly conducts research workshops, seminars (including panel discussions and lectures) and develops outreach programs. The workshops focus on cutting edge issues and bring together experts in the field to present and discuss their work and usually result in publications as books, or special issues in scholarly journals. In addition, the Center is consistently looking for innovative outreach/awareness activities to actively involve the college community, as well as the broader public, on important human rights issues.

Here is a list of our activities for the 2010-2011 academic year:

Research Workshops

- June 27, 2011 – *Rule of Law Brainstorming Session*
 - The purpose of this workshop was to critically examine key aspects of the Rule of Law issue and develop a research agenda for a series of workshops that would explore the building blocks of what constitutes a sustainable Rule of Law component in UN Peace Operations, as well as analyze and assess the key challenges that such an endeavor would have to address. For this workshop, the Center prepared a concept note that identified four key issue areas: (1) unpacking the rule of law concept; (2) thresholds in ensuring rule of law sustainability; (3) the impact of parallel legal systems; and (4) addressing the culture of impunity.
 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:
 1. Prof. George Andreopoulos, Director, CIHR
 2. Mr. Godfrey Aropet, Police Division, United Nations
 3. Ms. Alison Cole, Rule of Law Division, Open Society Foundations
 4. Prof. Richard Culp, John Jay College
 5. Mr. Djordje Djordjevic, Adviser, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP
 6. Ms. Anne-Christine Eriksson, Deputy Director, UNHCR Liaison Office in NY
 7. Dr. Jeremy Farrall, Australian National University
 8. Dr. Dorota Gierycz, Visiting Scholar, CIHR, and ROL Project Coordinator
 9. Ms. Felicia Gordon, Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, United Nations
 10. Ms. Aferdita Hakaj, Assistant Director, CIHR
 11. Ms. Marcellene Hearn, Independent Consultant
 12. Ms. Natalie Kabasakalian, Attorney in Private Practice, Adjunct Professor at the Global Studies Program, The New School
 13. Mr. Odd Berner Malme, Police Counsellor, Norwegian Mission
 14. Ms. Mary Okumu, Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, United Nations
 15. Ms. Miriam Lang, Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General
 16. Mr. Robert Pulver, Senior Officer, Rule of Law Office, DPKO
 17. Ms. Caitlin Reiger, Director of International Policy Relations, International Center for Transitional Justice

- 18. Mr. Dongkyun Shin, Police Division, United Nations
- 19. Mr. Alain Seckler, Political Affairs Officer, Africa II Division, DPKO
- 20. Mr. Milbert Shin, Special Assistant, ASG for Peace-building Support Office

Seminars, Panel Discussions and Lectures

- September 21, 2010: Talk by Ambassador Shashank, Former Foreign Secretary for India, Visiting Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Ambassador Shashank, who retired in 2004 as the Foreign Secretary for India, addressed the College on *Self-Determination and Human Rights*. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of the President.
- Fall 2010 – Spring 2011: The Center holds an annual Human Rights Seminar Series in co-sponsorship with the CUNY Ph.D./ M.A. Program in Political Science and the Global Studies Collective, which takes place at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The seminar meets approximately once a month throughout the school year. Each academic year the Center for International Human Rights invites five to six renowned scholars and/or practitioners to address cutting-edge human rights topics including humanitarian law, economic rights, women’s rights, and immigration.
 - The theme for the 2010-2011 series was *Assessing Compliance: The Role of Human Rights Monitoring Mechanisms*.
 - The purpose of this year’s seminar was to study how monitoring mechanisms are utilized to assess compliance with international human rights norms and standards. This subject was chosen, as it was especially pertinent in light of the report submitted by the US government in the Fall of 2010 to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, and of the near completion of the first four-year cycle of the UPR process (2008-2011). In addition, the seminar explored how these monitoring mechanisms can be used more effectively for accountability and advocacy purposes. The seminar examined monitoring mechanisms of charter and treaty-based bodies, as well as extra-conventional mechanisms and the supplemental monitoring of nongovernmental organizations.
 - The presenters for the series were as follows:
 - October 28, 2010 – Rainer Brown (Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs Program) – A Comparison of Private Sector Labor Rights Monitoring and Traditional State - Based Human Rights Monitoring within the UN Context;
 - November 4, 2010 – Yasmeeen Hassan (Equality Now) – Eliminating Discrimination Against Women Through Use of the International Human Rights System;
 - February 10, 2011 – Sara Paoletti (University of Pennsylvania Law School) – The US UPR and an Assessment of the UPR Process;
 - April 7, 2010 – Richard Culp (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY) – The Sentence Enforcement Monitoring Mechanisms of International and Hybrid Tribunals.
- February 2, 2011 – *Counter Terror with Justice*, presentation by Tom Parker, Policy Director, Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Human Rights, Amnesty International Event co-sponsored with the Center on Terrorism.
- March 8, 2011 – *International Women’s Day Event Celebration – Ensuring Women’s Equal Access to Education, Training, Technology, and Work*
 - Co-sponsors: Women’s Center & the MA Program in International Crime and Justice.
 - This year marked the 100th Anniversary of International Women’s Day. International Women’s Day is celebrated to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality, and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security. IWD began with demands for women’s right to work, hold office, and vote. We have come a long way from those century old demands, as illustrated, for example, by the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which sets comprehensive international standards for women’s

human rights and has 186 party states ... unfortunately the U.S. is not one of them. The UN designated theme for this year's IWD was Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women." Topics of discussion included: increasing women's access to and use of technology, including more gender-responsive products; increasing women's access to and participation in science and technology education and training; and eliminating barriers to women's participation in science and technology employment. This event brought together UN representatives, academic, non-governmental organizations, and inter-governmental organizations. .

- Welcoming Remarks: George Andreopoulos, Director, Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Moderator: Rebecca Landy, Assistant Director, Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Panelist: John Mathiason, Professor of International Relations, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.
- Panelist: Heather McKay, Director, Innovative Training and Workforce Development Research and Programs, Center for Women & Work, Rutgers University
- Panelist: Ejim Dike, Director, Human Rights Project, Urban Justice Center
- Discussant: Dorota Gierycz, Visiting Scholar, Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

- April 27, 2011 – *Protection Gaps & Responses: Challenges & Opportunities – 60th Anniversary of the Refugee Convention & 50th Anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.*

- Co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the UNHCR Liaison Office in New York.
- Forced displacement, statelessness, and mixed migratory movements remain prominent global issues in terms of their magnitude and complexities. Conflict, violence, and persecution continue to cause displacement. At the same time, a myriad of social, economic, political, and environmental factors, such as population growth, urbanization, climate change, water scarcity, and food and energy insecurity are exacerbating conflict and combining in other ways that oblige people to flee their countries. The 1951 Refugee Convention, which is central to the protection regime, has proved flexible enough to accommodate new forms of persecution, however, the complexity of the current factors affecting cross-border displacement is resulting in gaps in the response to current protection challenges. Gaps in international protection occur primarily in three ways: (1) through insufficient accessions to relevant instruments; (2) through inadequate implementation of existing treaties, and (3) through gaps in the existing international protection framework.
- Statelessness is often referred to as the “forgotten problem,” despite the fact that citizenship is necessary for fully realizing one’s human rights. There is limited accession to the 1961 Statelessness Convention and related international treaties, there are obstacles to the acquisition of nationality and even the size of the statelessness problem is not comprehensively mapped. New responses are needed to address the gaps and obstacles in protection of the displaced and stateless. The Panel Discussion served as a forum to: (1) analyze and assess situations of forced displacement which may not be covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention and explore plausible responses to the challenges posed by them; (2) analyze the statelessness problem and identify effective ways to reduce it. For this event, our Center team produced a background research report on *Protection Gaps & Responses*
 - Welcoming Remarks: Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
 - Welcoming Remarks: Anne-Christine Eriksson, Deputy Director, UNHCR Liaison in NY
 - Moderator -George Andreopoulos, Director, Center for International Human Rights, JJC
 - Panelist: Susana B. Adamo, Associate Research Scientist CIESIN & Adjunct Assistant Professor SIPA, Columbia University; she addressed the impact of environmental factors on the refugee crisis.
 - Panelist: Bill Frelick, Director, Refugee Program, Human Rights Watch; he spoke on The UN Refugee Convention at 60: Still a Work in Progress?
 - Panelist: Janice Marshall, Deputy Director, Policy & Law Pillar, Division of International Protection, UNHCR; she addressed the issue of statelessness and the protection gaps in dealing with this issue.
 - Panelist: Lori Nessel, Professor of Law & Director, Center for Social Justice, Seton Hall University School of Law ; she addressed the right to work in the context of refugees and asylum seekers.

- May 5, 2011 – *Dr. Dorota Gierycz*. Book presentation on *The MYSTERIES OF THE CAUCASUS*
 - In *The Mysteries of Caucasus*, Dorota Gierycz, a former United Nations official stationed in Sukhumi and Tbilisi, tells the stories of people in Abkhazia and Georgia proper, intertwined with astute and timely analysis of the political events that have shaped the small Caucasus nation in the years since she first gained independence -- from the rise and fall of Shevardnadze, the hero of perestroika and the West's favorite "democrat", to the era of Saakashvili, the proclaimed "beacon of democracy", increasingly authoritarian and challenged by a discontented public. The analysis is also anchored in Georgia's history and collective memory, indelibly marked by the lasting impact of the brutal rule of Stalin and Beria and the ever-present shadow and interference of Russia.

Outreach

- October 18, 2010 – November 12, 2010: Co-Sponsored the *Amnesty International Torture Awareness Campaign*.
 - A month-long campaign to raise awareness on the issue of torture. The events organized as part of this campaign were co-sponsored with: The Amnesty International Student Chapter at JJC; Amnesty International USA, Groups 9, 11, and 280; The Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics at JJC; The Office for the Advancement of Research at JJC; and The Gerald W. Lynch Theater at JJC. The campaign began as a result of concern with the way detainees and prisoners were treated after 9/11 by the United States – particularly the use of torture to elicit information. The purpose of this series of events was to encourage and mobilize students to campaign for respect and observance of internationally recognized human rights norms and standards.
- June 16, 2011 – U.S. State Department Delegation visit to discuss the role of human rights in US foreign policy and the work of the Center.
 - The Department of State had outlined the following specific objectives for their project:
 - To explore human rights components of U.S. foreign policy;
 - To examine the organizations that monitor or advocate for international human rights issues;
 - To discuss how grassroots organizations seek to influence human rights policy at the local, state, national and international levels.
 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:
 1. Mr. Chris HALECKI, Program Officer, US Dept. of State, USA
 2. Mr. Md Abdul MAJID, Diplomatic Correspondent, Daily Samakal, Bangladesh
 3. Ms. Zenia Stampe MORTENSEN, Vice President, Social Liberal Party, Denmark
 4. Mr. Fathy Mohamed Abd El-Wahed Sayed Ahmed ABOU HATAB, Managing Editor, European Muslims page. islamonline.net, Egypt
 5. Ms. Jeanne Marie Marguerite WENDEL EP SIMON, Officer, International Organizations Bureau, African Political Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
 6. Ms. Marjorie Ketsia DUMORNAY-BERTRAND, Deputy Chief of Party, Protecting Human Rights Program, Pan American Development Foundation, Haiti
 7. Ms. Kam Man TSANG, Senior Reporter, South China Morning Post, Hong Kong, S.A.R.
 8. Mr. Lior LEHRS, Director, Research on the Middle East, Van Leer Institute, Israel
 9. Mr. Toshimitsu ARAKI, Foreign News Reporter, Jiji Press, Japan
 10. Mr. Mohammad Bashir SHAMMA, Radio Producer and Online Journalist, Human Rights, AmmanNet, Amman, Jordan
 11. Mr. Vincent Ochieng ODONGO, Legal Redress and Training Officer, Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Kenya
 12. Mr. Safet BALAZHI, Program Coordinator, Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Macedonia
 13. Ms. Shazana MOKHTAR, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
 14. Ms. Kopila ADHIKARI, Program Manager, Advocacy Forum, Nepal

15. Mr. Luma Singh BISHOKARMA, National Attorney Legal Protection Unit, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Nepal
16. Ms. Madalina Raluca ROSU, Director, Legal Department, National Council for Combating Discrimination, Romania
17. Mr. Fowzan Mohsen A AL HARBI, Mechanical Engineer, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia
18. Ms. Peifen CHOU, Senior Reporter, China Times, Taiwan
19. Mr. Ahmed Farhat HAMOUDI , Coordinator, Young Laborers of Tataouine, Tunisia
20. Ms. Roslyn Irene KARUGONJO-SEGAWA, Director, Monitoring and Inspections, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda
21. Mr. Issa I H AMRO, Camera Distribution Project Coordinator, B'Tselem, West Bank
22. Mr. Hishan Abutaha, Palestinian Territories
23. Mr. Dong Samuel Luak Kok, Sudan

Upcoming Event & Projects for 2011 -2012

CIHR is pleased to announce the planning of a series of events for next year on cutting edge issues in the field of international human rights. In particular, we plan on conducting research workshops on *Private Military and Security Companies* (in collaboration with the Institute of Criminal Justice Ethics), on *Migration and Security* (in collaboration with the Center for Security Studies of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection), and on the *Rule of Law in UN Peace Operations*. We expect to produce monographs based on the presentations and deliberations of these workshops. Moreover, we will continue our outreach/awareness initiatives by organizing public events on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 2011), and on International Women's Day (March 2012). Last, but not least, we intend to build on the momentum generated by our collaborative undertakings both within, as well as outside the College, with other research centers, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Email Aferdita Hakaj at afhakaj@jjay.cuny.edu to be added to our list serve and be kept posted of developments with periodic updates. Please also feel free to check our website at: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/1869.php>