INVITATION

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), together with the American University Washington College of Law are organizing a global conference on

FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

Stakeholders across the globe will participate in this conference to enhance the use of forensic evidence to expose torture. The conference concludes a three-year global project to strengthen the collaboration of health and legal practitioners in the use of medical expertise for strategic litigation cases and the fight against torture. Topics will include national, regional and international best practices, challenges and emerging issues. Information on the detailed programme is available at the IRCT website www.irct.org

Your kind attention is drawn to the fact that, due to budgetary constraints, the IRCT and the American University are regretfully not in a position to cover participants' costs.

15 - 16 February 2012
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603
Washington D.C., USA

Registration is free but required – please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration. For further information, contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, 202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu.
Stakeholders across the globe will participate in this conference to enhance the use of forensic evidence to expose torture. The conference concludes a three-year global project to strengthen the collaboration of practitioners in the use of medical expertise for strategic litigation cases and the fight against torture. Topics will include national, regional and international best practices, challenges and emerging developments. WCL has developed numerous initiatives to help contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Convention against Torture including conferences on the prevention of torture, reparation for torture victims, and strengthening visits to places of detention, as well as special programs on the study and research of the prevention of torture including the United Nations Committee against Torture Project.

I. DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:30am REGISTRATION (and Continental Breakfast)

9:00am OPENING REMARKS

- Claudio Grossman, Dean and Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law (WCL) and Chairperson, United Nations Committee against Torture
- Brita Sydhoff, Secretary General, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

9:30-12:30pm SESSION 1 – USING FORENSIC MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN COURT

Torture often takes place in secrecy with methods designed to be as painful as possible without leaving physical marks. Presenters will discuss how forensic examination reports and medical expertise can provide crucial evidence in court cases to help hold perpetrators accountable and provide reparations to the victims.
Session Chair: **Duarte Nuno Vieira**, National Institute of Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Presenters: **Hans-Petter Hougen**, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Juan Mendez**, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture  
**Phil Shiner**, Public Interest Lawyers, UK  
**Mostafa Hussein**, El Nadim Center for Psychological Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, Egypt

12:45 - 2 pm    Lunch

2pm - 5:30 pm **SESSION 2 – GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES: GLOBAL VIEW ON TORTURE CASES**

Direct support has been given to 30 torture cases worldwide through an established network of forensic experts. Presenters will discuss these cases and share good practices in two rounds of three parallel sessions each.

2pm - 3:30pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS – EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

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<th>Group A</th>
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<td>Cases involving marginalized</td>
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<td>Groups</td>
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<td><strong>Mariam Jishkariani</strong>,</td>
<td><strong>Christian Harlang</strong>, lawyer,</td>
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<td>Empathy, Georgia: Children</td>
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<td><strong>Maria Natividad P. Hernandez</strong>,</td>
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<td><strong>Daniel Carrey</strong>, Public Interest</td>
<td><strong>Lilla Hardi</strong>, Cordelia</td>
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<td>Philippines - Poverty and torture</td>
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<td><strong>Pierre Duterte, Parcours d'Exile, France</strong></td>
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<td>Indigenous people in Peru</td>
<td><strong>Christian Harlang</strong>, lawyer,</td>
<td><strong>Felicitas Treue</strong>, Colectivo</td>
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<td>Denmark - Danish forces in</td>
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4pm - 5:30pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS – EXPERIENCE AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

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<td>Examples in the Inter-American system</td>
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**Ana Deutsch**, Program for Torture Victims Los Angeles, USA
Situation in Colombia

**Marina Hernandez**, Lawyer, Peru
Cases in Ecuador

Use of forensic report at the Inter-American Commission (tbc)

**Rafael Garrido Álvarez**, Red de Apoyo, Case in Venezuela

**Jürgen Schurr** (tbc), REDRESS, UK - Application to the Human Right Committee,
Medical reports and the Committee against Torture (tbc)

**Mechthild Wenk-Ansohn**, BZFO, Germany - Documenting cases in Europe

**Christy Fujio**, Physicians for Human Rights, Using the Istanbul Protocol in the US

New developments in New Zealand (tbc)

5:30 - End of Day 1 - Reception hosted by the American University Washington College of Law
II. DAY 2: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00-11:30am SESSION 3 – VOICES OF THE SURVIVORS: INVOLVEMENT IN LEGAL TRIALS

Survivors of torture may experience both healing and negative effects from involvement in the legal process. Torture survivors will share their perceptions and care-givers will present approaches to providing psycho-social support to survivors in legal proceedings.

**Session Chair:** To be confirmed  
**Presenters:**  
Gabriel Shumba, Zimbabwe: *Experience as a torture survivor in legal proceedings*  
Carlos Jibaja, Director of CAPS, Peru -  
Others to be confirmed

11:30-12:30 SESSION 4: INSTITUTIONALIZING MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Too few countries have mechanisms in place that mandate the provision of prompt, effective and independent forensic medical and psychological examinations to individuals with torture claims. Presenters will examine how, through advocacy, training, and legal reform, medical documentation can be effectively included in investigations and court proceedings.

**Session chair:** Victor Madrigal, IACHR, USA  
**Presenters:**  
Yadira Maria de la Cruz Narvaez Silva, PRIVA, Ecuador -  
*Institutionalisation process in country and university studies*  
Loreine Dela Cruz, Balay Centre, Philippines - *System in Philippines and legal reform*  
Sebnem Korur, Human Rights Foundation of Turkey -  
*Institutionalization – Large scale training program*

12:30 - 1:45pm Lunch

1:45-3:00pm SESSION 4: PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION CONTINUED

**Presenters:**  
Rusudan Beriashvili, State Medical University, Georgia - *System in Georgia and the forensic institute*  
Suzanne Jabbour and Sana Hamzeh, RESTART, Lebanon - *System in Lebanon and Advocacy*
3:30-5:30pm  SESSION 5 – EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION ON FIGHTING IMPUNITY

Reflecting on conference presentations, discussants will identify achievements and shortfalls in fighting impunity for torture and look ahead to where efforts can be directed to help achieve a world free from torture.

Session Chair: Jonathan Beynon, Medical Expert IRCT
Discussants: Suzanne Jabour, Vice-Chair, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Lebanon
Vivienne Nathanson, British Medical Association, UK
Morris Tidball-Binz, Forensic coordinator, Assistance Division, ICRC, Argentina/ Switzerland, International Forensic Expert Group (tbc)
Representatives from American University, tbc
Representative from Inter-American Commission

5:30 pm  CLOSING REMARKS

- Juan Mendez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture
- Brita Sydhoff, Secretary General, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

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