

**The Washington Foreign Law Society, American Society of  
International Law and Stimson Center Present:**



**Yemen in Crisis:  
Accountability and Reparations**

**Stimson Center - Washington, DC**

**June 26, 2018**



**American Society  
of International Law**



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# Yemen in Crisis: Accountability and Reparations

Washington, DC  
June 26, 2018 • 10am - 1:30pm

## Program

**Registration:** 9:30am - 10:00am (coffee and tea served)

**Welcome:** 10:00am

- **Mark Agrast**, Executive Director, American Society of International Law; Board Member, Washington Foreign Law Society

### Key Note Address: *Yemen in Crisis: Time for A Reckoning and for Action*

10:00am - 10:30am

- **Stephen Rapp**, Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues

### Panel One: *War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Human Rights Violations: Documenting, Investigating and Pursuing Justice*

10:30am - 11:45 pm

*The conflict in Yemen is currently among the world's worst humanitarian crises with the population facing starvation and famine. Widespread violations of human rights and international crimes are being committed against civilians by all parties. There have been large-scale indiscriminate and disproportionate bombardments and attacks by the Saudi-led coalition; the arbitrary arrest, detention and torture of activists and journalists, including in secret prisons run by the UAE; and a blockade on humanitarian aid in particular with the recent advance on the supply port of Hudaydah. The panel will highlight the war crimes, crimes against humanity and human rights violations that have been documented since the beginning of the war and the most recent developments. It will examine the on-going UN Human Rights Council investigation, and how investigations should and have been conducted to lay the proper foundation for future prosecutions.*



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**Moderator: Mark Agrast**, Executive Director, American Society of International Law

**Speakers:**

- **Safa Karman**, Yemeni investigative journalist
- **David Crane**, Principal of Justice Consultancy International, LLC, and Former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone
- **Amanda Catanzano**, Senior Director for International Program, Policy and Advocacy, International Rescue Committee
- **Kate Kizer**, Policy Director, Win Without War

**LUNCH: 11:45am – 12:15pm**

**Panel Two: Accountability and Reparations for Victims: Remedies and Solutions under International Law**

**12:15pm – 1:30pm**

*Urgent and effective measures are needed to halt the commission of mass atrocities in Yemen, to combat impunity and to provide reparations to the countless victims. The panel will explore what remedies are available to hold to account the perpetrators at all levels, especially those in command, under both international and domestic law. The steps that can be taken to cut the supply of weapons and arms to the Saudi-led alliance and the UAE by the U.S. and other governments will be considered. The substantial body of evidence collected by UN bodies, NGOs and individual victim accounts will be assessed to focus on the avenues for promoting international justice, criminal prosecutions, human rights claims and victim compensation.*

**Moderator: Rodney Dixon QC**, Barrister, Temple Garden Chambers

**Speakers:**

- **Sarah Leah Whitson**, Executive Director, Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch
- **Waleed Alhariri**, Director of US Office, Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies; and Fellow-in-Residence, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute
- **Don Picard**, Chief Legal Advisor, Yemen Peace Project, and Partner, Picard Kentz & Rowe
- **Raed Jarrar**, Advocacy Director, Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty International



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## Speakers



**Stephen Rapp, *Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues***

Stephen Rapp is the former United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues in the Office of Global Criminal Justice. From 2009-2015 he coordinated, as Ambassador, with the US Government to support international criminal tribunals, hybrid tribunals and national courts prosecuting international crimes. From 2007-2009, Ambassador Rapp served as prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he led the prosecution of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. From 2001-2007, he served as senior trial attorney and chief of prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum serving in an advisory capacity as a roving Ambassador for the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide pursuing justice and accountability on Syria.



**David Crane, *Principal of Justice Consultancy International, LLC, and Former Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone***

David crane is Principal of Justice Consultancy International, LLC. From 2006-2018 he was Professor of Practice at Syracuse University College of Law. From 2002-2005, he was founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he prosecuted international crimes committed during Sierra Leone's civil war, including former Liberian Prosecutor Charles Taylor. Professor Crane served more than 30 years in the US federal government, and was appointed to the US Senior Executive Service in 1997. He held numerous key managerial positions during his three decades of public service, including Waldemar A. Solf Professor of International Law at the US Army Judge Advocate General's School.



**Sarah Leah Whitson, *Executive Director, Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch***

Sarah Leah Whitson is executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division, and in this position oversees the work of the division in 19 countries, with staff located in 10 countries. She has led dozens of advocacy and investigative missions throughout the region, focusing on issues of armed conflict, accountability, legal reform, migrant workers, and political rights. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Whitson worked in New York for Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School. Whitson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She speaks Armenian and Arabic.



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**Raed Jarrar, *Advocacy Director, Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty International***

Raed Jarrar is Advocacy Director MENA for Amnesty International USA, and in this position leads Amnesty International's engagement with the US government on issues pertaining to Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa. He is widely recognized as an expert on political, social, and economic developments in the region. He has testified in numerous Congressional hearings and briefings, and he is also a frequent guest on national and international media outlets in both Arabic and English. Raed has been an active member of Amnesty International USA since 2008.



**Don Picard, *Chief Legal Advisor, Yemen Peace Project, and Partner, Picard Kentz & Rowe***

After assignments with the U.S. Foreign Service in Vietnam, Japan, Korea and Washington, Don Picard began law practice in Washington with the firm of Baker & Botts in 1976. In 2009 he opened the firm of Picard Kentz & Rowe along with several colleagues. The firm is pro bono legal advisor to the Yemen Peace Project ([yemenpeaceproject.org](http://yemenpeaceproject.org)). His public international law work has included (1) representation of the Government of Yemen in delimitation and demarcation through negotiation of Yemen's land and Red Sea boundaries with Saudi Arabia; (2) representation of the Government of Yemen in the international arbitration of a dispute with Eritrea over sovereignty of various islands in the Red Sea and their maritime boundary, administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration; (3) representation of the Government of Ethiopia in an international arbitration over Ethiopia's land boundary with Eritrea, administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and (4) representation of the Government of Ethiopia in an international arbitration to resolve claims between Ethiopia and Eritrea arising from violations of international law during the armed conflict between them. The conflict was concluded by an agreement which established an international tribunal to hear these claims. Don joined the Board of Directors of the Yemen Peace Project soon after YPP's establishment in 2010. The YPP works to advance peaceful and just US policies toward Yemen; defend the rights of Yemenis in the diaspora; and increase understanding of Yemen in the wider world.



**Amanda Catanzano, *Senior Director for International Programs, Policy and Advocacy, International Rescue Committee***

Amanda Catanzano is the senior director for international programs policy and advocacy at the International Rescue Committee (IRC). She came to the IRC after nearly 10 years in the U.S. government, most recently as the director for strategic planning at the National Security Council, where she developed policy options for the President and his national security team on responses to the Arab Spring and U.S. engagement in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. Prior to the National Security Council, Amanda was a member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning staff, and special assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State, covering South and Central Asia with a focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan. Prior to serving at the State Department, Amanda was an associate at the consulting firm, Booz Allen. Amanda holds an MA in American Foreign Policy and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a BA in International Studies and Russian Language from the Johns Hopkins University.

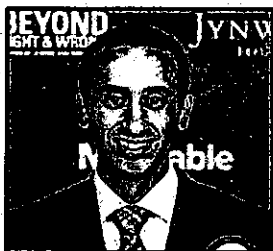


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**Waleed Alhariri, Director of US Office, Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies; and Fellow-in-Residence, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute**

Waleed Alhariri heads the New York office of the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (SCSS) and the center's US-based operations. Alhariri is also a Carnegie New Leader at Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. Prior to his work with SCSS, he worked with the International Peace Institute in supporting the development of the Arab Forum for Citizenship in Transition project, was a researcher and monitor of political and human rights developments with Human Rights Watch following Yemen's 2011 uprising, and was a member of the International Constitutional Court Project Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by former Tunisian President Dr. Moncef Marzouki.



**Kate Kizer, Policy Director, Win Without War**

Kate Kizer is the policy director at Win Without War, where she leads the organization's policy program to advance a progressive foreign policy. Kate has nearly a decade of experience working on human rights, democratization, and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. She is also on the steering committee of the Forum on the Arms Trade. Prior to joining Win Without War, Kate served as the director of policy and advocacy at the Yemen Peace Project, and she has also held leadership roles in the private sector and on political campaigns. Kate holds an M.A. in

Democracy & Governance from Georgetown University and a B.A. in Middle Eastern & North African Studies from UCLA.



**Safa Abdulsalam Karman, Yemeni Investigative Journalist**

Safa Abdulsalam Karman is a Yemeni investigative journalist. She earned her Master in Laws degree from Harvard Law School in May 2018, marking the first degree ever awarded by Harvard Law to a Yemeni citizen. She is a candidate for the 2018 Master in Public Policy at Oxford University. In 2010, Safa joined Al Jazeera Media Network and became the first Yemeni woman to join the network and the youngest to be assigned top news coverage at the time. She is best known for her highly acclaimed investigative documentary "the Road to Sana'a" which examines who paved the way for the Houthi Militias to take over the Yemeni capital. She is also known for her short series of reports "Yemen, the Land and the People", her coverage of Egypt's 2012 presidential elections, and her reporting on the Arab Spring and its aftermath, especially Yemen's 2011 revolution. Safa is a co-founder and board member of "Be Human Initiative", the first Yemeni NGO to organize awareness campaigns for war and conflict-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). During her undergraduate studies, Safa worked as an English teacher for two years. She earned her bachelor's degree in Law and Sharia from Sana'a University in 2009.



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## **Panel Chairs**



### **Mark Agrast, Executive Director, American Society of International Law**

Mark Agrast is Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the American Society of International Law. He previously served as deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs from 2009 to 2014. Mr. Agrast was a senior vice president and senior fellow at the Center for American Progress from 2003 to 2009, and held senior staff positions with the U.S. House of Representatives from 1992 to 2009. He practiced international law with the Washington office of Jones Day from 1985 to 1992. Mr. Agrast has served in numerous leadership capacities in the American Bar Association, including as a member of its Board of Governors and its Executive Committee, a longtime member of the ABA House of Delegates, chair of the Commission on Immigration and the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities (now the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice), and chair of the Commission on Disability Rights. He currently serves on the Council of the Section of International Law and as a member of the Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity. Mr. Agrast has been a leader of the World Justice Project since its inception and has played a central role in designing and implementing its Rule of Law Index, which measures the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Washington Foreign Law Society and a past co-chair (and ABA delegate) of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (now the National LGBT Bar). Mr. Agrast is a member of the American Law Institute and a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He graduated summa cum laude from Case Western Reserve University, pursued his postgraduate studies as a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, and received his J.D. in 1985 from Yale Law School, where he was editor in chief of the *Yale Journal of International Law*.



### **Rodney Dixon QC, Barrister, Temple Garden Chambers**

Rodney Dixon is a UK Barrister and Queens Counsel. He practices both internationally and domestically in the fields of international law, public law, and human rights. He acts on behalf of Governments, political leaders, military commanders, international organizations, companies, NGOs, and victims, and specializes in public international law and international criminal law before all international, regional and national courts. He has acted as counsel in several cases before the International Criminal Court, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Special Court for Sierra Leone, Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the European Court of Human Rights, and the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights.



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