



ACTIVITIES • BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

In Consultative Status With ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNICEF

www.iadllaw.org

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IADL VOICES CONCERNS OVER MEXICAN LABOR LAW REFORM AND ITS DISASTROUS EFFECTS.

THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNICATION FOLLOWS

I am writing as President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) to express our grave concern about the news we have received that the Plan Abascal is about to be introduced in the Mexican Congress. The IADL is a lawyer's organization with members in 96 countries and in consultative status with UN ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNICEF.

The Mexican Constitution of 1917, a product of the Mexican revolution, provides for the freedom to organize, bargain collectively, and for many other fundamental rights. At the time, it was the most progressive labor law in the world, and over time it has been effectuated through the Ley Federal del Trabajo. With modernization, pressure has come from many sources to reform the law both from businesses which seek the freedom to reap profits free from its constraints, as well as from labor organizations which seek to realize the rights to freely organize and to select the trade union of one's choice under a system free of institutional constraints.

We have watched this debate with great interest. We have also appreciated your approach in attempting to resolve these conflicting views through consensus – by establishing working sessions in which all interests were represented. Therefore, it is with deep concern that we view what appears to be an attempt by the PAN and PRI to force the Abascal Plan through the Mexican Congress.

This set of proposals is far from a consensus. We understand that the proposals are opposed by trade unions, social organizations and by the church. Previous efforts to move forward in the absence of a consensus have resulted in major mobilizations.

Office of IADL President

**17 Lawyers' Chamber Supreme Court
New Delhi 110001, India
Tel: 91-11-649-1567 Fax: 91-11-649-4145
jsharma@del3.vsnl.net.in**

We very strongly deplore this effort to deprive workers of their fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively, and to strip them of the protections afforded by Mexican law:

1. In terms of collective rights, it effectively destroys the right to strike, to win a collective bargaining agreement, and the possibility of changing trade unions by imposing impossible requirements such as previous authorization handed down by the Registrar of Associations.
2. It expands temporary hiring without trade union involvement and gives employers the right to lengthen the workday, in clear violation of the constitutional guarantee of a maximum workday.
3. It cancels a whole group of labor protections dealing with procedure, proof of responsibility, and other matters of an administrative nature.

Moreover, the Abascal Project excludes the demands of democratic trade unionism, including.

- *A public registry of contracts and trade unions
- * A secret ballot vote in trade union representation elections
- *Transparency and accountability in the handling of trade union funds
- *Gender equity
- * Complete fulfillment of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions 87 (on freedom of association) and 98 (on the right to organize and collective bargaining).

In addition, these reforms place all power in industrial relations and in the workplace in the hands of the employers, leaving workers legally helpless, and violating the historic principle of Mexican labor law of a balance of the factors of production (capital and labor). This is particularly offensive, given the total lack of response to the demands to correct some of the serious deficiencies in the current law, including the failure to truly provide for secret ballot elections or public access to information regarding trade unions and contracts.

This is especially outrageous given the agreement, which was reached under the Labor Side Agreement of NAFTA (NAALC) on May 18, 2000, in which the Mexican Ministry of Labor committed the Federal government both to promote public registries of trade unions and contracts as well as elections by secret ballot. We consider this to be a matter of crucial importance and urge you to take necessary measures to ensure that any labor law reform proposal, which is introduced, be balanced in nature and reflect a consensus by all affected sectors of society. We consider it equally important that proposals, which curtail the rights of the

workers and trade unions, can never be in the interest of labor. Such proposals would be detrimental to the interest of labor and hence our serious concern and opposition to such proposals.

We look forward to your response.

Jitendra Sharma
PRESIDENT – IADL

**PROF. LENNOX S. HINDS, IADL VICE PRESIDENT
URGES IADL BUREAU TO ADOPT STATEMENT IN
SUPPORT OF CHIN PENG**

**IADL SUPPORTS CHIN PENG'S (FORMER SEC-GEN
OF CPM) RIGHTS TO RETURN TO MALAYSIA**

The Bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers [IADL], in consultative status with UN ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNICEF, with members in over 90 countries, urges the High Court of Malaysia to rule for Chin Peng's right to return to Malaysia on May 25, 2005. The IADL further urges the Malaysian government to abide by its 1989 Peace Accord with the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM).

Chin Peng, the 81-year-old legendary guerilla leader and former secretary-general of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) has sought a court order from the High Court of Malaysia as his "last resort" to return home after exhausting all other avenues, in the face of the Malaysian government's contravention of the 1989 Haadyai Peace Accord signed between them.

Chin Peng was the 11th secretary-general of the once powerful CPM, which fought against British colonial rule, Japanese occupation, and the independent government of Malaya for more than 40 years. The CPM's armed struggle ended with the 1989 peace accord.

GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES ON A PERSON'S RIGHT TO NATIONALITY ENSHRINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, AS LAID OUT BELOW:

- **Articles 9, 13 and 15 of The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights,**
- **Article 12 of The United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,**
- **Article 3 of The Protocols to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,**
- **Article 20 of The American Convention on Human Rights,**
- **Article 12 of The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,**

APPRISED OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING CHIN PENG'S APPLICATION TO RETURN TO MALAYSIA

FILED WITH THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA ON MARCH 4, 2005, AS FOLLOWS:

Affidavit of Former Special Police in support of Chin Peng

In April 4, 2005, a former member of a special police squad filed an affidavit in the Penang High Court to support an application by former communist Chin Peng to be allowed to return to Malaysia with several hundred of his comrades.

Salim Hashim, 76, said in his affidavit that Ong Boon Hua alias Chin Peng, the former secretary-general of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), had fought for the independence of Malaya from colonial Britain. Salim was a member of the Police Special Squad Group which served as an anti-communist offensive force in northern Malaya during the period of communist insurgency from 1948.

In his supporting affidavit, Salim said that the Malaysian government should honor the 1989 peace treaty signed with the communist guerillas by allowing Chin Peng and his comrades to return and start life afresh in Malaysia. "It's not right to dishonor the agreement," he said in the document, which names the home minister, the police and armed forces chiefs, and the government as defendants.

Salim also said that the Malaysian government should learn to forgive the communists for the casualties of (the guerilla) war, in the same way that it has forgiven the Japanese and the British, who had caused more deaths during their occupation of Malaya.¹

The Malaysia government has previously rejected Chin Peng's entry into Malaysia, claiming that the former secretary-general Chin Peng was linked to a banned organization (the Communist Party of Malaya) with an alleged history of perpetrating terrorism in the country. However today, bowing to tremendous pressure from Malaysian public opinion in favor of Chin Peng's return, the Malaysian government declared that it is for the court to decide whether Chin Peng had the right to file the application and return home.

Terms of the Peace Treaty

Chin Peng who was born in Sitiawan, Perak in Malaya (now Malaysia) has filed several supplementary applications in the court, seeking to be allowed to enter the country temporarily during the legal proceedings. His application cited the terms of the peace treaty, known as the 1989 Haadyai Peace Accord, which was witnessed by a four-member representation of the Thai government.

Article 3 of the Administrative Agreement between the Malaysian government and the CPM to terminate hostilities states that the Malaysian government shall allow former members of CPM and the party's disbanded armed units to settle down in Malaysia, if they so desire.

Article 3.1 states that members of Malaysian origin who wish to settle down in Malaysia shall be allowed to do so in accordance with the laws of Malaysia.

¹ The Japanese occupied Malaya during World War II and was notorious for its barbaric regime while British colonized Malaya for about 200 years.

Article 3.2 stipulates that members who are not of Malaysian origin may be allowed to settle down in Malaysia in accordance of the country's laws, if they wish to do so.

Article 4 states that the Malaysian authorities shall assist the members in starting their life afresh.

The treaty was signed by Malaysia's then Home Ministry secretary-general Wan Sidek Abdul Rahman, Chief of Defence Forces General Hashim Mohd Ali and Inspector-General of Police Mohd Hanif Omar on behalf of the Malaysia Government. On the other side, secretary-general Chin Peng, chairperson Abdullah CD and central committee Rashid Maidin represented the Communist Party of Malaya.

THE BUREAU OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS (IADL) URGES THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA TO RESPECT AND SAFEGAURD THE INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHIN PENG TO NATIONALITY IN HIS COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN TO MALAYSIA IMMEDIATELY.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN JURISTS (AAJ) AND THE ASSOCIATION OF LATIN AMERICAN LABOR LAWYERS (ALAL) HOST PRESIDENT SHARMA AT WORLD SOCIAL FORUM (WSF) IN PORTO ALEGRE BRAZIL, JANUARY 26TH TO 31ST.

National Lawyers Guild, Jeanne Mirer Reports:

The Bureau Meeting in Delhi last November decided to send President Sharma to Porto Alegre, Brazil in January to attend the World Social Forum because the American Association of Jurists (AAJ), which in conjunction with the Association of Latin American Labor Lawyers (ALAL), was sponsoring a series of seminars conjunction with the Forum, and to attend the AAJ Executive was meeting in conjunction with the WSF.

The seminar was entitled "THE PUBLIC SOCIAL ORDER, THE ECONOMY AND THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE" and included such topics as: Social Rights in the Times of Globalization, Free Trade Agreements and Labor Law, The role of Transnational Corporations in globalization, and Hegemony, Sovereignty and the Rights of the People.

Secretary Szmukler gave an important paper on the illegality of Foreign Debt, which we hope he will give at the Congress in Paris.

President Sharma and, Treasurer Mirer attended these seminars and also attended an important seminar at the World Social Forum site on Slave Labor in Brazil. The presence of the leadership of the ALAL gave President Sharma and Treasurer Mirer an opportunity to discuss with this new organization, both the IADL and the International Commission for Labor Rights, (ICLR)-- a project of IADL and the International Center for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR) which is charged with investigating labor rights abuses and trying to remedy them. The leadership of ALAL was

encouraged to affiliate with IADL and ICLR.

President Sharma and Treasurer Mirer also attended the AAJ Executive meeting and brought greetings from the entire IADL. We discussed ways to strengthen the ties between the IADL and AAJ both at the Congress and beyond. AAJ is sponsoring its next Congress in Caracas, Venezuela.

THE MIDDLE EAST SUBCOMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, IADL AFFILIATE ANNOUNCES AN IMPORTANT CONGRESS PANEL ENTITLED "DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON PALESTINE"

IADL CONFERENCE SPECIAL PANEL ON PALESTINE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: JUNE 8TH, COMMISSION I, AFTERNOON PANEL

A special panel on Palestine will be held at the IADL's XVth Congress in Paris to allow representatives from Palestine, Israel, the Arab Lawyers Union, the European Union and North America to each critique their ongoing work and provide suggestions for developing IADL's programmatic work on Palestine. Two hours have been set aside for the panel so those wishing to speak should come prepared to succinctly review their work and analyze the objective conditions in their region. Following the presentations, the attendees will convene into a workshop to discuss suggestions for IADL programmatic work on Palestine. The organizers of this special panel hope that this gathering will accomplish the following:

Identify a core group of lawyers willing to work together to develop IADL's programmatic work on Palestine; and establish a working committee which will function on an ongoing basis;

Identify campaign issue(s) on Palestine to be supported and promoted by the IADL, develop an implementation plan for the specific campaigns including resources for the programmatic work.

Without prejudging those issues that will be identified collaboratively by the speakers and persons in attendance some suggested campaigns might include:

- a. Divestment and boycott campaigns.
- b. Litigation against members of the IDF.
- c. Use of ICJ decision such as: continuing attempts to reconvene the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention; Enforcement of International Treaties such as United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Reparations for the wall and its destruction; Focus on theft of water resources
- d. Direct assistance inside Palestine.
- e. Prisoners Solidarity Work

Prepared for the IADL Congress by the Middle East Subcommittee of the National Lawyers Guild.

COLAP 4 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED FOR SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2005

The Korean Organizing Committee for COLAP 4 announced that the 4th COLAP conference will be held in Seoul, Korea at Konkuk University. The conference main

theme is “Peace Human Rights and Co-Existence in Asia and the Pacific.” The schedule follows:

September 2, 2005 (Friday)

- Opening Session: 10:00-12:00
(New Millennium Hall, Konkuk Univ.)
- Group Discussion: 14:00-17:00
(Law Dept. Bldg., Konkuk Univ.)
- Welcoming Dinner: 19:00-21 :00
(Hotel Lotte World)

September 3, 2005(Saturday)

- Group Discussion I: 10:00-12:00
(Law Dept. Bldg., Konkuk Univ.)
- Group Discussion II: 13:30-16:00
(Law Dept. Bldg., Konkuk Univ.)
- Closing Session: 16:30-18 :00
(NewMillennium Hall, Konkuk Univ.)

For more detailed information visit the conference website at <http://www.colap4.org>.

ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS APPEAL TO THE HEADS OF STATE OF INDEBTED COUNTRIES

The following text was prepared and translated in French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese by the Italian Democratic Lawyers and sent to the heads of state of indebted countries.

The external debt constitutes a heavy burden on the economy and of societies of the great majority of the countries and of the peoples of our planet. Its existence jeopardizes the realization of the fundamental development goals and of the satisfaction of the most elementary human rights, already approved by the totality of government and of international organizations.

It is a really unsustainable situation, which produces irreparable damages at social level and at the level of the protection of the environment, putting at risk the present and the future of humanity.

The respective positions of debtors and creditors are strongly unbalanced. In fact, while the latter have the advantage of specific organizations, which are the Paris Club and the London Club, the former are still at the beginning of a process of identification of instruments apt to realize their objectives.

The existing external debt, given the mechanisms which produced its rapid accumulation and the effects it produces, is in clear and irremediable contradiction with the fundamental principles of international law and the general principles of law, as indicated by many jurists of all continents.

Because of these principles, the debtor states are today authorized to proclaim a unilateral moratorium of payments, precluding to an International Conference on the theme, like the one on the German debt which took place in London on 1952, and the request of a consultative opinion, by the General Assembly of the United Nations, affirming which norms of international right are applicable.

Therefore we ask you, on behalf of suffering humanity under the burden of debt and of future generations, to

1. create an international forum of debtor countries for the concentration of respective initiatives and strategies;
2. suspend immediately every debt payment to public and private creditors, included the international financial institutions;
3. require the convocation of an international conference on the issue with the participation, in a condition of parity, of all the indebted states and of all public and private creditors;
4. promote the request, on the part of the General Assembly of United Nations, of a consultative opinion of the International Court of Justice on the external debt, verifying its conformity to international law and to the general principles of law.

DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (DLA) PAKISTAN, SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY AND CONDEMNS CREATION OF FEDERAL COURT.

The Executive Committee of the Democratic Lawyers Association of Pakistan at its meeting held on 23rd of April 2005 seriously deliberated upon the draft Bill for creating of a “FEDERAL COURT” which will soon be presented before the Parliament. Under the Bill Grade-21 officers serving in the public organizations and so also the retired members of the Tribunals are qualified to be appointed as Judges of the “Federal Court” by the President of Pakistan in his discretion after inviting panels from the Chief Justice of Pakistan and professional bodies including the public organizations. Under the draft bill the proposed Federal Court shall have the jurisdiction over 29 enactments including mainly Customs Act, Sales Tax Act, Insurance Ordinance 2000, Income-Tax Ordinance 2001, Drug Act, Companies Ordinance 1984, Patent & Design Ordinances, Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001, Industrial Relation Ordinance 2002 etc. The retiring age of the judges to be appointed for the Federal Court shall be 68 years as against 62 years for the judges of the High Court and 65 years for the judges of the Supreme Court and such judges of the Federal Court shall take oath not to the Constitution of Pakistan but to the Code of Conduct issued by the President of Pakistan.

In the view of the Executive Committee the proposed enactment shall not in any way fulfill the intent and purposes of Article 3 and 37 of the Constitution as it will further burden the litigant public and cause further delay in the matters instead of providing expeditious and inexpensive justice. Furthermore The Executive Committee of the Democratic Lawyers Association of Pakistan considers that the proposed enactment for creating the “Federal Court” is clearly against the letter and spirit of the judgments passed by the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan in several cases particularly in case of Mehram Ali v. Federation of Pakistan (PLD 1998 SC 1445), Shaikh Liaquat Hussain v. Federation of Pakistan (PLD 1999 SC 504) and Al-Jehad Trust v/s

Federation of Pakistan (1996 SC 324). The full bench of the Honorable Supreme Court has explicitly held that articles 175, 202, and 203 provide a framework of judiciary and words “such other courts as may be established by law” implied in article 175(1) are relatable to the subordinate courts referred to in article 203, it has been decided that The Constitution of Pakistan recognizes only such specific tribunals who share judicial powers with the Superior Courts which have been specifically provided by the Constitution itself under Chapter 3-A, Article 212 and 225. As such any Court or Tribunal which is not founded on any of the articles of the Constitution and the law laid down by the Honorable Supreme Court cannot lawfully exercise authority or share judicial powers with the Courts listed in Article 175 and 203, thus the “Federal Court” is neither a subordinate Court in terms of Article 175 nor does it fall within the ambit of constitutionally sanctioned tribunal. The intention behind the proposed draft appears to create a parallel judiciary taking away the powers of judicial review from the Honorable High Courts, which is impermissible under the Constitution. It will be an extra constitutional forum that cannot share judicial power with the existing courts or tribunals.

The Executive Committee of the Democratic Lawyers Association of Pakistan also has serious concerns over the sufferings of the litigant public with regard to the delay and pendency of cases on account of the lack of concern shown by the Government of Pakistan in fulfilling the existing vacancies in Superior Judiciary. It is pertinent to note that there are eight existing vacancies of the Judges in the Honorable High Court of Sindh and the judges have not been appointed for more than a year which is also against the law laid down by the Honorable Supreme Court in Al-Jehad Trust’s case, therefore, the Executive Committee demands that the Federal Government will make the appointments of the judges in Superior Judiciary without any further delay.

The Executive Committee of this Democratic Lawyers Association of Pakistan further proposes that for the purposes of expeditious disposal of the cases and increasing litigation and to strengthen the existing Judicial Institutions more vacancies of the Judges in Superior Judiciary should be created and by constituting special benches for deciding the commercial matters may be taken care of by the Honorable Chief Justices of respective High Courts, such steps will be least expensive than the huge funds required for creating a separate “Federal Court”.

IADL ATTENDS UNICEF STATE OF THE WORLD’ CHILDREN 2005 PANEL DISCUSSION FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Kazuko Ito IADL’S alternate representative in New York attended the World’ Children 2005 conference. Speakers included Sanjay Reedy, Richard Jolly, and E.K. Fitzgerald.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the first publication of “the State of the World’ children”. The UNICEF report draws from an important background study based on surveys covering almost half a million households in the developing world, in order to create an informative picture of the global profile of severe childhood deprivations. The report reveals that 27% of children under five-years old live in South Asia, 19% under five-years old live in sub-Saharan Africa and 12%

under five-years old live in the Middle East and North Africa and suffer severe food deprivation. In particular, the report emphasized the rapidly increasing children orphaned by Aids in sub-Saharan Africa.

The panel discussed child labor, the long-term negative impact of armed conflicts, deprivation of economic and social rights and IMF conditionality. The panel recognized that Child poverty is directly linked to social development as a whole and stressed the necessity of Children-centered long-term development policy. The Panel further stated that the voices of the most vulnerable segments- such as children, women and poor are not heard in the decision making process of the International financial institutions, and they must be centered and prioritized as a central policy issue of the development.

ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE NATIONAL AFFILIATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS (IAL) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS (IADL) HELD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON “NEW DIMENSIONS OF TERRORISM” NOVEMBER 20-21, 2004

B. K. Pal reports:

The delegates one after another emphasized that terrorism is a phenomenon that requires to be tackled by taking appropriate steps at international and national level so as to remove the cause or causes behind such menace.

Shri Shivraj Patil, Honorable Home Minister, Government of India inaugurating the conference said that the terrorist does not believe in democracy, rule of law or secularism. He stressed that states worldwide have to keep pace with the methods adopted by the terrorists and also to be ahead of them, if security and safety of society is to be insured. He cautioned that advance technologies falling in rogue hands might lead to spread of terrorism in the ocean and in space also. He warned that narco terrorism, cyber terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, base terrorism, global networking, technology orientation, global propaganda and unconventional targets and methods are the new means to undermine the state power which needs to be checked. He also emphasized that India has consistently pursued a strategy to counter terrorism which gives primacy to dialogue, democratic political process and to rule of law. Even efforts to contain terrorist violence are based on principles of ‘minimum use of force’ within the framework of the constitution, which guarantees human rights.

Justice V.R. Krishna Lyer Former judge of the Supreme Court and Co President of the Indian Association of Lawyers in his message read out by Shri P.P.Rao, Senior Advocate, said that the world today wherever you cast your eye in confronted by heartless massacres too expansive to be brought under some world force since worldwide mass killings seems to be the rule of law. He asked, does humanity a future? Can the world be made safe for America?

Justice Y.K.Sabharwal sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India speaking in the capacity as a guest of honor expressed the hope that the delegates attending the conference will deliberate terrorism, as threat to humanity and human rights.

Justice Vijendra Jain, Judge of the High Court of Delhi and Chairman of the reception committee in his welcome address dealt with the issue of globalization, which he said like terrorism is also a cause of concern for the common man.

Mr. Jitendra Sharma, President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) referring to the plight of Palestinians and supporting their cause opined that such struggles for self-determination couldn't be described as terrorist act or acts.

The two-day international conference was attended by delegates from almost all the states of India as well as delegates from abroad. In his valedictory address the Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India Mr. H.R.Bhardawaj stressed that India's struggle against terrorism is consistent with UN declarations and resolutions on human rights.

Shri P.H.Parikh, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Shri K.K Sareen, Chairman Bar Council of Delhi also addressed and welcomed the delegates.

JAPAN LAWYERS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION (JALISA) REPORT ON THEIR ACTIVITIES

Osamu Niikura reports:

JASLISA, an IADL affiliate in Japan is engaged in a soul-searching enterprise. This involves the attempt to address and develop programs for a two-ended social movement: One domestic and the other international, recognizing that both are connected by globalization. Therefore, JALISA has developed the theme "PEACE IN ASIA" to address this phenomenon.

In 2001, before and after 9/11, JALISA members attended two important international conferences: one was IADL 15th Congress in Havana in May, the other the 3rd Conference of Lawyers in Asia and the Pacific or COLAP-3 in Hanoi in October. Just at the beginning of the new millennium the world faced gross denial of human rights: terrorism and anti-terrorism war, 2005 represents the beginning of the end of the horrific mechanism of the slaughtering of human beings.

This year again JALISA is willing to join in two international rallies: the 16th IADL Congress in Paris in June and the COLAP-4 in Seoul in September. One may say that convening two large meetings in a single year is too ambitious. Yes, indeed. But globalization obliges us to meet friends in other countries and to discuss what direction we should choose between peace and war. Of course our discussion should be basically guided by a principle of pacifism, which is unhappily on the brink of disappearance by force of an eventual constitutional change in Japan.

Let's turn to another side of situations which confront us. Most lawyers in Japan are now involved in a stormy challenge raised by the government, because it is closely connected with their professional interests. Stormy, because it can result in wholesale changes in the Japanese justice system, ranging from increases in the lawyer's population to re-introduction of laypersons into criminal justice system by passing through multiplication of alternative resolutions of disputes as well as establishment of specialized tribunals.

Seventy-two new law schools have been built on the model of the USA, with one peculiar difference. Japanese applicants are required to pass a State-run examination before they enter a State-run training center to receive an additional professional training for one more year. A Law School system may be useful, but one year additional training seems unnecessary.

Some lawyers are, however, still engaged in major causes, such as world peace and international humanitarian activities. In two people's tribunals, for Afghanistan and Iraq, Japanese lawyers and peace activists have issued brave and exemplary rulings finding that gross violations of international law was committed by the US Governments and its allies. Distinguished figures in IADL also took part in these memorable events, which were covered by international media. Prof. Niloufer Bhagwat, Prof. Peter Erlinder, Prof. Asaho Mizushima and Prof. Osamu Niikura served as judges, while Prof. Bill Bowling gave expert testimony. Joint ventures conducted by lawyers and civil society are shown also in a campaign to ban Depleted Uranium weaponry along with long-standing endeavors against atomic and hydrogen bombs. Civil lawsuits are still pending for compensation to victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What is really at stake in these lawsuits is state responsibility for war victims. Neither the Japanese government or the US government has so far assumed responsibility for those indiscriminate sufferings that civilian population endured during World War II. At the 60th anniversary of bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, JALISA calls for international solidarity to nuclear victims in the world in general, and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in particular. It is all the more important to disseminate the principle of pacifism enshrined by Art. 9 of the Japanese Constitution (1947) to the entire international community.

Preparatory meeting for COLAP-4 in Seoul, February 2005

A preparatory meeting for the fourth Conference of Lawyers in Asia and the Pacific or COLAP-4 was held in Seoul in February 2005 with some 50 participants from India, South Korea, Japan and Vietnam. President Jitendra Sharma gave a welcome speech at the opening ceremony, reviewing its two decades history. The meeting was hosted by the Korean organizing committee, which was founded by Mr. Im jonin, Member of Parliament, and Mr. Kye-wook Lee as co-representatives. Also, at the meeting was Mr. Dao Tri Uc, Vice President and Secretary General of the Vietnamese Lawyers Association, which hosted the third Conference in Hanoi four years ago. Also participating in the meeting were lawyers and scholars from South Korea and Japan.

The two days long meeting was fruitful and each delegate reinforced the commitment to hold a successful fourth Conference, to be hosted by lawyers and scholars in South Korea with collaboration of Indian, Vietnamese and Japanese lawyers associations as well as of the IADL. The venue is Millennium Hall at Konkuk University in Seoul, and the date is September 2 and 3, 2005. The Korean organizing committee calls upon progressive lawyers and civil societies in Asia and the Pacific region to attend and discuss "Peace, Human Rights and Co-existence in Asia and the Pacific." You can easily download the brochure from the web-site

<http://www.colap4.org>.

ACTIVITIES OF ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS (IDL)

Fabio Marcelli reports:

During the last year the Italian Democratic Lawyers (IDL) took many initiatives on different issues.

A) International

- a) Palestine - IDL published two booklets on the legal aspects of the Palestinian issue, one of which expressly devoted to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of July 2004 on the wall built by the Israeli government on the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore IDL, together with the European associations of democratic lawyers, presented a project to the European Commission in the framework of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. This project, called PIPAL (Pace in Palestine through Law), is aimed at giving assistance to Palestinian lawyers, especially on the issue of the Palestinian prisoners.
- b) Kurdish issue - IDL continued their initiative in support of the rights of Kurds, especially those living in Turkey, who are struggling for the recognition of their political, social and cultural rights.
- c) War in Iraq - IDL continued campaigning against the war and the illegal occupation of the Iraqi territories by US, British, Italian and other troops. IDL were among the promoter of the Iraq Tribunal, which held a session in the Italian Parliament in December 2004 and one, specially devoted to media responsibilities, in February 2005. IDL also participated to the campaign to free the Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, kidnapped by Iraqi guerrillas and protested against the killing of the heroic Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari by US soldiers.
- d) Human rights and terrorism - IDL participated in an international Conference convened in Paris, in November 2004, by the Organization of the Mujaheddin of the Iranian People, analysing the anti-terror list set up by European Union. Both the list and the inclusion of OMPI were severely criticized by the participants. IDL also participated in the very important Conference organized by Indian Democratic Lawyers on the issue of terrorism, which was held in Dehli during the same month.
- e) Cuba - IDL participated in an international observer mission at the appeal trial against the five Cuban agents, unduly accused of manslaughter and espionage and condemned to heavy prison terms. The trial was held in Miami in March 2004. More recently several letters concerning the case have been sent to various UN officers in Geneva.

- f) Venezuela - Italian democratic lawyers expressed their support to the reforms and activities undertaken by the Chavez government.
- g) Colombia - IDL continued their efforts in order to reach a peaceful solution of the political and military strife in the country, stressing human rights violations by the Uribe government, connected with paramilitary right wing groups.
- h) Foreign Debt - IDL participated to a meeting on the issue in Porto Alegre, during the World Social Forum, at the end of January 2005, and, together with Jubilee South and other organizations, decided to promote an international campaign calling for a consultative opinion of the International Court of Justice and an international conference on the matter (see annex).
- i) Disarmament - IDL organized the Italian visit of Canadian senator Roche, a very active member of the Middle Powers Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and of members of IALANA (International Association of Lawyers against nuclear arms), in March 2005.

B) European

- a) IDL is among the members of the Forum for a Constitutional Democracy in Europe and participated to various meetings organized in the framework of the European Social Forum by this organization.

C) National

The Italian Democratic Lawyers participated in various initiatives

- in defence of the 1948 Constitution against the authoritarian modifications proposed by the Berlusconi government.
- in defence of the independence of judges against the attempt to submit them to a hierarchical discipline and to the domination of political and economical power, undertaken by the same government.
- against the repression which struck more than 8.000 persons members of various social movements, struggling for their basic economical and social rights and against war and racism.
- in defence of the rights of refugees and migrants.
- for a more progressive labour law.
- for a just, equitable and efficient reform of justice.

Moreover the Italian Democratic Lawyers improved their instruments of communication, for example, the mailing list, the website (www.giuristidemocratici.it) and the journal "Diritto di critica".

NEWS FROM DROIT SOLIDARITÉ

Roland Weyl reports:

Droit Solidarité in December 2004 organized a commission of French lawyers and scholars who prepared a report on internal law finding that the crime of aggression was committed in Iraq. The findings of the commission identifying the guilty parties and legal consequences are available in French and English from Droit Solidarité

Since the publication of the last bulletin, Droit Solidarité as the host committee for the 16th Congress has been engaged on a full-time basis the preparatory work for the Congress including, preparations for hotels, meeting rooms, simultaneous translations and communications with international delegates and dignitaries.

Notwithstanding, Droit Solidarité has provided leadership in the campaign on the referendum on the European Constitution including the drafting of appeals and participating in meetings. Droit Solidarité is campaigning for a "NO" vote with its political and legal implications.

Droit Solidarité also participate in various coordination efforts around Iraq and Palestine. In that regard Droit Solidarité attended symposiums in Belgium in opposition to repressive labor laws and freedom of the press in France.

Droit Solidarité hosted United States lawyers for Mumia Abu Jamal. Droit Solidarité also hosted U.S. lawyers who have initiated lawsuits against U.S. firms responsible for damages against the Vietnamese people resulting from Agent Orange. Droit Solidarité supports the launching of an International Lawyers Campaign.

Droit Solidarité continues to publish its monthly two pages bulletin.

ROMANIAN LAWYERS' UNION ACTIVITIES

Dr. Gavril Iosif Chiuzbaian reports:

The Romanian Lawyers' Union is a professional organization of all jurists' categories. In 15 years of its existence, the association stimulated jurists' activity and contributed to acceleration of judicial system reform. In addition, its preoccupations are in field of promotion and harmonization interests of all juridical professions. Their common denominator is solidarity by right. Since 1999, Romanian Lawyers' Union has been an affiliate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL). Together we organized an important international conference in Bucharest in 2000. Romanian Lawyers' Union representatives participated in the majority of conferences organized by IADL. Under aegis of Romanian Lawyers' Union, consist of 11 societies and scientific sections, and publishes two magazines ("Right" and "Palace of Justice") thru a publishing house.

The Romanian Lawyers' Union, periodically, organizes scientific debates regarding actual problems of international and Romanian juridical life. An important contribution of the Romanian Lawyers' Union was the Romanian Constitution Project of revision and in judicial system and Civil Law Code reform.

Mass media, radios and TVs from Romania and Republic of Moldavia have broadcasted Resolutions adopted by IADL in favor of Romanian prisoners from Transnistria.

At the International Lawyers' Union Congress in Moscow, Dr. G. I. Chiuzbaian, President of Romanian Lawyers' Union (as guest of honor) in plenum session, transmitted a message on behalf of IADL Bureau and extended the invitation to

representatives of the Romanian Lawyers' Union to participate at the IADL Congress in Paris.

The Romanian Lawyers' Union signed cooperation agreements with lawyers' associations from Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Republic of Moldavia and Serbia and Montenegro. In these documents the associations expressed their willingness to cooperate in IADL.

The Romanian Lawyers' Union has successful discussions with representatives of juridical life from Sweden, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Ukraine.

Recent debates organized by Romanian Lawyers' Union had following themes:

- European Constitution and national legislation relation;
- Juridical professions role in democratic societies;
- UNO Chart and peace right; international jurisdictions;
- Environment right and durable development;
- Judicial independence and magistrates' deontology;
- UNO's role in today world.

The Romanian Lawyers' Union organized the first edition of European Day of Civil Justice.

At the beginning of June 2005 Romanian Lawyers' Union will organize a symposium regarding ONU Project reform.

ACTIVITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION REFERING THE SITUATION IN DARFUR TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Resolution 1593 (2005)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 5158th meeting, on 31 March 2005

The Security Council,

Taking note of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur (S/2005/60),

Recalling article 16 of the Rome Statute under which no investigation or prosecution may be commenced or proceeded with by the International Criminal Court for a period of 12 months after a Security Council request to that effect, *Also recalling* articles 75 and 79 of the Rome Statute and encouraging States to contribute to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims,

Taking note of the existence of agreements referred to in Article 98-2 of the Rome Statute,

Determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to refer the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court;
2. *Decides* that the Government of Sudan and all other parties to the conflict in Darfur, shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to this resolution and, while recognizing that States not party to the Rome Statute have no obligation under the Statute, urges all States and concerned regional and other international organizations to cooperate fully;
3. *Invites* the Court and the African Union to discuss practical arrangements that will facilitate the work of the Prosecutor and of the Court, including the possibility of conducting proceedings in the region, which would contribute to regional efforts in the fight against impunity;
4. *Also encourages* the Court, as appropriate and in accordance with the Rome Statute, to support international cooperation with domestic efforts to promote the rule of law, protect human rights and combat impunity in Darfur;
5. *Also emphasizes* the need to promote healing and reconciliation and encourages in this respect the creation of institutions, involving all sectors of Sudanese society, such as truth and/or reconciliation commissions, in order to complement judicial processes and thereby reinforce the efforts to restore long-lasting peace, with African Union and international support as necessary;
6. *Decides* that nationals, current or former officials or personnel from a contributing State outside Sudan which is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of that contributing State for all alleged acts or omissions arising out of or related to operations in Sudan established or authorized by the Council or the African Union, unless such exclusive jurisdiction has been expressly waived by that contributing State;
7. *Recognizes* that none of the expenses incurred in connection with the referral including expenses related to investigations or prosecutions in connection with that referral, shall be borne by the United Nations and that such costs shall be borne by the parties to the Rome Statute and those States that wish to contribute voluntarily;
8. *Invites* the Prosecutor to address the Council within three months of the date of adoption of

this resolution and every six months thereafter on actions taken pursuant to this resolution;

Decides to remain seized of the matter.

IADL/UN – GENEVA ACTIVITIES Raymond Merat reports:

The 61st session of the Human Rights Commission of the UN met in Geneva, March 14-April 22, 2005. The new President elect was an Indonesian who directed the debates and meetings, as firmly and as impartially as his predecessors. We were also given the opportunity to meet Mrs. Louise Arbour, the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, who was present at most of the sessions. She organized a meeting with the NGO's during the first week, at which the IADL delegates were naturally present. There were supposed to be subsequent meetings, but unfortunately these did not take place. Other restrictive measures towards the NGO's were taken, such as the prohibition to enter the UN premises with automobiles. Our members had to walk a mile or more twice a day to reach the Human Rights building and park their cars at expensive parking lots or garages, far from the premises.

The IADL had been asked by many organizations around the world, to obtain accreditation for foreign lawyers who wanted to speak on specific matters. We did so successfully for lawyers from Japan, Korea, Sri-Lanka and the UK.

Eventually, IADL delegates had to study and make changes in their speeches so as to satisfy the rules of the Commission. The usual subjects were dealt with by the Commission such as Sudan, Cuba, torture, and child slavery.

The Swiss Press, in general, expressed its doubts on the "credibility" of the Commission. This position was strengthened by the unexpected visit of United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Anan who came to expose his plans for "reform" of the Commission. This is too important a subject to be dealt with within the framework of this article but will have to be discussed in depth at the Congress of the IADL in June.

On the 18th of April 2005 our alternate delegate delivered a speech on the situation in Guantanamo and that of the Iraqi "war prisoners". He was immediately supported by five other NGO's.

After the speech, a number of official delegates came to express their support and their apprehension at the United States reactions.

The IADL was also present at many meetings organized by various delegations or NGO's during the session

THE UNITED NATIONS – VIENNA Evelyn Duermayer reports:

The NGO on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had a preparatory encounter before the 11th United Nations Congress, which took place in Bangkok, 18-25 April 2005. The head of the UN Commission at the Vienna International Center, Eduardo Vettere discussed the program with the five substantive items, the six technical workshops, the high level meetings as well as the ancillary ones organized by NGOs, whose work and actions he encouraged.

The NGO on the Status of Women continue to rally against

trafficking and violence against women and children. The assistance to victims and the victims centered approach are considered the most important subjects.

The Beijing Platform of Action and Millennium Development Goals have to be discussed and implemented.

The next session will concentrate on terrorism and women.

UN ACTIVITIES – NEW YORK

Kazuko Ito reports:

The Commission on the Status of Women held a conference February 28-March 11, 2005. Kazuko Ito attended the meeting representing IADL/UN and reports that The Commission is conducting a 10-year review of the implementation of the Declaration and Program of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, The Commission on Social Development, the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) 2005-review conference, NGO consultation of MDG, and several security council meetings.

During the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) 2005 review conference, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) will cooperate with Japanese NGO Campaigns for abolition of Depleted Uranium and Iraq Hope network and co-sponsor a NGO workshop and exhibition named “listen to the DU victims voice” 2:00-4:00pm on May 3 in the United Nations church center. During the Iraq war, at least 800 tons of highly radioactive, toxic Depleted Uranium weapons were fired in Iraq which contaminated the entire country. Depleted Uranium causes serious damage to humans who are exposed to it. As a result, in Iraq, many innocent children and adults are suffering from cancer or leukemia. Also, US veterans acquired serious diseases caused by Depleted Uranium. In this workshop, veterans back from Iraq; humanitarian aid workers who worked in Iraq and journalists spoke about the situation and realities of the war in Iraq. IADL also helped Japanese NGO to produce a photo exhibition at the New School University in NYC during NPT review session (May3, 18-25) with regards to civilian causality of Iraq war and current situation in Iraq.

The contradiction of the Non-Proliferation Treaty has become clear under the current world situation. The Bush administration invaded Iraq because of alleged suspicions of WMD, invoking the NPT, while it has completely disregarded their obligation of nuclear disarmament stipulated by article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is quite important for civil society to pressure nuclear countries to resume their commitment of nuclear disarmament. Indeed, thousands of NGOs and activists including 1000 Japanese delegations came to this conference and made an appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Led by the Mayors for Peace, NGO's and activists held a peace rally and demonstration on May 1 in Central Park.

The most critical issue concerning the United Nations is UN reform proposed by the Secretary General in his report for MDG plus 5. After September 11, the international community faced worldwide conflict, the Millennium Development Goal adopted in 2000 has not been fully implemented and the gap between rich and poor became wider within the last five years. The follow-up meeting of MDG, Millennium plus 5 GA summit will be held this coming September. In his report for MDG5, the Secretary General

proposed expansion of UN Security Council and recommended to the Security Council to adopt the principle of the use of force. Although the Security Council's reform proposal includes some positive aspects, for instance the encouragement of democracy and plurality of this body, it is not clear whether this reform will make it possible to achieve the goals of transparency, accountability and broad representation of the world voices into the Security Council. Further more the recommendation to the Security Council entails the danger of expansion of interpretation of article 51.

The Secretary General under pressure from the U.S. and Western States, also proposed the reform of the UN human rights body and the establishment of a human rights Council within the UN. However, there is no clear specific idea in terms of the power and composition of this organ. With regard to this issue, the United States submitted a memo in which it articulated some strict criteria to exclude certain states from the human rights Council, which is required, while the United States, Australia and Israel should not be excluded from member. IADL must challenge and oppose this initiative.

IADL should, with other NGOs, positively participate in the civil-society conference on conflict prevention that will be held at the UN headquarters in July.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8, 2005, GENDER EQUALITY BEYOND 2005

Kazuko Ito reports:

The Women's Day panel included Rachel Mayannja, Special advisor on Gender issues and Advancement of women, Nafis Sadik, Special envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Salvano Briceno, Director, Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN Habitat, Jessica Neuwirth, President, Equality Now, and was moderated by Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

Rachel Mayannja emphasized the importance of Security Council resolution 1325, gender perspective within the peace building in the post-conflict-countries. Nafis Sadik indicated MDG couldn't be achieved without gender-equality. Salvano Briceno reported about the Tsunami disaster in South Asia and stated that the most serious victims of the Tsunami disaster are women and children. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka reported on the reality of homeless slum-living women in the world. Jessica Neuwirth emphasized the UN institutional problem from a gender perspective; women at the United Nations have been structurally sidelined. She made a proposal for a UN female Secretary General and appointment of a special reporter on discriminatory laws.

A declaration was adopted at the afternoon session, reaffirming the relevance of the Beijing “Platform for Action” a wide-ranging blueprint for promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls. Although the action plan contains only one reference to abortion, the issue was contentious enough to prompt the United States delegate to articulate that she would accept the declaration reaffirming the Beijing document only on the understanding that it is not legally binding. She stressed that the United States did not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, and did not support abortion in its reproductive health assistance.

The "Platform for Action" addresses twelve critical areas of concern: poverty, education, health, violence, armed and other conflicts, economic participation, power-sharing and decision-making, international machineries, human rights, mass media, environment and development, and the needs of girls. In 1995, after the action plan was adopted, a representative of the United States called it "the strongest policy statement promoting women's empowerment ever made by the international community."

**DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (DLA)
PROTEST POLICE BRUTALITY OF LAWYERS**

Akhtar Hussain reports:

A protest meeting of the Democratic Lawyers Association of Pakistan held at Karachi as the Association was shocked to learn through press media as to the behavior of police and law enforcing agency with senior Advocates from Rawalpindi who were charged and tear-gassed simply to disperse lawyers peacefully registering their protest against the highhandedness of police officials with members of legal fraternity in Gujar Khan, who were brutally physically assaulted and many sustained severe injuries.

Pakistan Democratic Lawyers Association views with serious concern especially when present government is making towering claims of being democratic, while on the one hand elected representatives and parliamentarians with whom they do not see eye to eye are not permitted to express themselves on the floor of parliament and to hold peaceful rallies and as against this supporters and hirelings of the present regime are afforded every opportunity to hold public meetings and take out rallies headed by the representative of the present government. The DLA cannot condone the lawlessness and rein of terror spread by the law enforcing agencies against innocent citizens and now members of the legal fraternity are targeted, and those who should be dealt with according to law are rewarded with promotions and medals of gallantry for their cowardice behavior. It was, therefore, strongly condemned and resented unequivocally the maltreatment and physical assault on the senior members of the Bar and at the same time demand that government should constitute an independent inquiry tribunal headed by a Judge of High Court and take action against those officials found responsible lest the legal fraternity all over the country is compelled to make recourse to countrywide protests and make recourse to such other measures as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

UNITED NATIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July – October 2005

Date(s)	Event	Location
July 4 – August 5	International Law Commission, fifty-seventh session	Geneva
July 4 – 22	International Law Seminar	Geneva
July 5 – 22	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, thirty-third session	New York
July 11 – 29	Human Rights Committee, eighty-fourth session	
July 18 – 22	Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Population	Geneva
July 21 – 22	Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, intersessional forum on economic, social and cultural rights (Social Forum)	Geneva
July 25 – August 12	Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-seventh session	
July	United Nations Civil Society Conference on the Question of Palestine (3 days)	Place to be determined
August 1 – 19	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, sixty-seventh session	Geneva
August 2 – 12	Group of governmental experts of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, eleventh session	Geneva
August 15 – 26	Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Communications	Geneva
August 29 – September 2	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Geneva
August 29 – September 9	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B and informal/expert meetings	Vienna
September 12 – 30	Committee on the Rights of the Child, fortieth session	Geneva
September 26 – 30	IAEA, General Conference	Vienna
September 27 – 30	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Executive Council	The Hague
September	Annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund	Washington
September	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on the draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (10 days)	Geneva
September/October	Commission on Human Rights, working group of experts on people of African descent (1 week)	Geneva
October 3	IAEA, Board of Governors	Vienna
October 3 – 7	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A and informal/expert meeting	Vienna
October 3 - 21	UNESCO, General Conference	Paris
October 10 – 14	Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Budget and Finance Committee	The Hague
October 10 – 21	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, second session	Vienna
October 17 – November 3	Human Rights Committee, eighty-fifth session	Geneva
October	Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, fortieth session (2 days)	New York

UNITED NATIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
November – December 2005

Date(s)	Event	Location
November 7 – 25	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, thirty-fifth session	Geneva
November 7 – 11	Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, tenth session	The Hague
November 14 – 25	Committee against Torture, thirty-fifth session	Geneva
November 14 - 22	Group of governmental experts of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, twelfth session	Geneva
November 14 – 18	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, twenty-fifth session	Vienna
November 21 – 30	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Geneva
November 21 – 30	Commission on Human Rights, Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances	Geneva
November 23	Seventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Geneva
November 24 – 25	Annual meeting of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Geneva
November 28 – December 3	Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	The Hague
November 29	Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	New York
November 30	Tenth meeting of the States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Geneva
November	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (1 meeting)	New York
December 5 – 9	Annual meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	Geneva
December 6 – 9	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Executive Council	Geneva
December 12 – 16	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	Geneva
December	Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1 meeting)	Geneva
Dates to be determined	Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	Vienna
Dates to be determined	Commission on Narcotic Drugs, meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Asia and the Pacific region (1 week)	Bangkok
Dates to be determined	Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption	Vienna
Dates to be determined	Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean (1 day)	New York
Dates to be determined	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	Geneva

**International Association of Democratic Lawyers
Officers and Representatives
(Elected at the XVth Congress, October 2000)**

PRESIDENTS EMERITI

President Nelson R. Mandela, South Africa

Amar Bentoumi, Algeria

Joë Nordmann, France

PRESIDENT

Jitendra Sharma, India
T: 9111.649.1567
F: 9111.649.4145
jsharma@del3.vsnl.net.in

SECRETARY GENERAL

Beinusz Szmukler, Argentina
T/F: 54.114362
szmukler@ciudad.com.ar

VICE PRESIDENTS

Farouk Abu Eissa, Sudan
T: 202.795.7132 (Cairo)
F: 202.794.7719
alu@intouch.com

Prof. Lennox S. Hinds, USA

T: 212.864.4445
F: 212.222.2680
Lhindsshw@aol.com

Roland Weyl, France

T: 331.42.78.04.50
F: 331.42.78.03.57
Mrwjur@club-internet.fr

TREASURER

Jeanne Mirer, USA
T: 313.861.4259
F: 313.861.5133
mirerfam@earthlink.net

DEPUTY SECRETARIES GENERAL

Dr. G.I. Chuzbaian, Romania
T: 4021.212.5609
F: 4021.210.3160
chiuzbaianujr@rol.ro

Prof. Osamu Niikura, Japan

T: 81.33225.1020
F: 81.33225.1025
oniikura@als.aoyama.ac.jp

Amrani Zoubida, Algeria

T: 021.734.662
F: 021.7376

DEPUTY TREASURERS

Iossif Geron, Bulgaria
adv_geron@ibn.bg

Rebekah Wilson, United Kingdom

T: 207.611.2461
rebekahmaxinew@hotmail.com

BUREAU MEMBERS
Prof. Lúu Van Dat, Vietnam
T/F: 84.4.822.92.22
vla@fpt.vn

Akhtar Hussain, Pakistan
T: 92.021.5672522
F: 92.021.5678620
akhtarlaw@cyber.net.pk

Fabio Marcelli, Italy
marcelli@ici.rm.cnr.it

Oswaldo Sanchez Martin, Cuba
T: 537.329680
F: 537.333382
jdn@ceniai.inf.cu

Silas Nkanunu, South Africa
T: 041.487.0134/5
F: 041.487.0066
aletha@nadel.co.za

Joan Roig i Plans, Catalonia, Spain
T: 34.932.155311
F: 34.934.873379
jroigpla@aranzadi.es

Jamal Sourani, Palestine
sourani@link.com.eg

PERMANENT INVITÉES
Vicki Erenstein Ya Toivo, Namibia
veyt@moj.gov.na

Marie Louise Mbida Kanse Tah, Cameroon
T: 237.42.9064
F: 237.42.2230
mbkanse@yahoo.fr

Secretary General
Korean Democratic
Lawyers Association
Pyongyang, D.P.R. of Korea
F: 850.2.3814644

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
Prof. Lennox S. Hinds, USA
T: 212.864.4445 F: 212.222.2680
lhindsshw@aol.com

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES
Beth Lyons, USA
T/F: 201.295.3103
bethlyons@aol.com

Leora Mosston, USA
T: 973.648.2690
F: 973.648.4848
Lmosston@rpa.state.nj.us

Kazuko Ito, USA/JAPAN
afernandes1@rcn.com

PUBLISHING ASSISTANT
Ruth Harris
T: 732.382.1128
F: 732.382.3319
rharris748@aol.com

Interns - Rutgers University
IADL Internship Program

IADL REPS. AT OTHER UN AGENCIES
Renee Bridel, Switzerland
UN Geneva
T: 41.21.281.778
F: 41.21.788.02.77 (indirect)

Juliette Chinaud
UNICEF
jchinshw@aol.com

Ahmed Derradji, France
UNESCO
T/F: 331.30.74.17.18
ahmderradji@club-internet.fr

Evelyn Duermayer, Austria
UN Vienna
T: 43.222.94.22.994
evelyn.duermayer@chello.at

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(Check One) For Association For Individual

IADL membership is open to any national or regional association of lawyers or jurists or any individual lawyer or jurist sharing the aims and objectives of the IADL. Application for membership shall be made to the IADL Bureau, c/o the Treasurer's Office. Provisional acceptances by the Bureau are subject to confirmation by the Council. Membership includes annual subscription to the IADL Activities Bulletin, published periodically.

(Please Print)

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Name of Individual (or Association Contact Person) _____

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City/State _____ Country _____

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Enclosed please find an International Money Order or Check payable to the "International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)" for the annual IADL membership fee:

\$5,000 US for Associations from *developed* countries

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\$150 US for individuals from *developed* countries

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Please return completed membership applications and checks to:

IADL Treasurer Jeanne Mirer, Esq.
Law Offices
306 South Washington Avenue, 6th Floor
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067, USA
Fax Number (248) 398-9804