

U.N. ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

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***IADL, FOUNDED IN 1946,
CELEBRATES 70 YEARS
OF STRUGGLE***

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) was founded on 24 October 1946 in Paris at an international gathering of lawyers who had fought and survived the war against fascism and had participated in the Nuremberg trials. It was organized to promote the exchange of ideas and skills among lawyers and jurists throughout the world, dedicated to the principles of the U.N. Charter, the defense of peace and the establishment of a democratic world order.

In celebration and preservation of IADL’s 70 years of struggle, we are starting a conversation about IADL’s history in this issue of the *Bulletin* –

between one of our older members, Me. Roland Weyl, IADL’s First Vice President (France) and one of our younger members, Luis Roberto Zamora Bolaños , IADL Bureau Member (Costa Rica).

As Roland Weyl explains “... *And, in 1945 with the birth of the U.N. Charter, IADL was to serve the same aims and abide by the same rules. In 1945, UNO [the United Nations] was built to implement the law of the U.N. Charter. The following year, in 1946, IADL was built also to implement the U.N. Charter. I like to say that IADL is a twin sister of UNO.*”

The full conversation is in the **Annex**.

***2016 INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE U.N. COVENANTS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS –
FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND
PEACE, organized by the
Portuguese Association of
Democratic Jurists and the
International Association of
Democratic Lawyers***

(A complete listing of Supporting Organizations and Conference Materials are in the **Annex**)

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF LISBON
THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF
INTERNATIONAL
COVENANTS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

(Submitted by Maria Madalena Marques dos Santos)

An International Conference will be taking place in Lisbon, from 10th to 12th November, in order to mark the 50th Anniversary of the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Civil and Political Rights as well, approved by the General Assembly of U.N.O.

The Conference will be held in the academic premises of the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon; and will function in plenary sessions and commissions, the main purpose being that of a collective reflection on the historical meaning, the political and

juridical views and contingencies of the two above mentioned International Covenants.

We are expecting a big number of communications to be presented on relevant themes such as the historical and juridical insertions of the two Covenants; the actual context of international law on human rights and their indivisibility; the conditioning of their respective practice; the problems of world and regional peace; the rights of the peoples for economic, social and cultural developments and the just use of national resources; the struggle of the peoples and their social organizations for the effective recognition and the conditions to exercise the human rights, and against all forms of exclusion and social distinctions, and so on.

The Conference that is fostered by the International Association of Democratic Jurists and the Portuguese Association of Democratic Jurists, is opened to all those jurists and non-jurists, who are interested on human rights issues, in their real emancipated expression; with assured certainty that the Covenants are two fundamental pointing marks in the international juridical order, expressing the bond of the subscribing countries to a meaningful bunch of duties through which economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of the citizens therein proclaimed are to be assured (alias, as the extension of the universal principles contained in the U.N.O. Chart and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights dated 10/12/1948).

But the history of the human rights is not only that of their international recognition – but also of their blatant and systematic violation.

One thing is the argumentative rhetoric concerning the human rights (and their proclamation in internal and international law texts; in the political agents' speeches; in the critical thinking of the philosophers and jurists); another, a different one, is the full faced reality with which the peoples are confronted during the last 50 years.

When discussions that lead to the formation and the voting for the two Pacts began, there was a confrontation between the liberal thought that privileged the civil and political rights, and the position of the then socialist countries giving a special relevance to the economic, social and cultural rights. Such a cleavage gave way to the approval of two Pacts (instead of a genuine one dealing with the recognition of the whole range of rights).

And the truth is that, in this troublesome world, due to the impact of more conservative and discriminatory social and political forces, human rights continue being somewhat relinquished everywhere. According to Prof. Juan Antonio Carillo Salcedo, lecturing on Public International law at the University of Seville "*human beings are divided, in a sort of a global apartheid, into two big sectors: one, respecting those for whom human rights are a daily reality, and the one respecting those for whom the human rights are goals to struggle for*"(1); in such terms that International Amnesty has been referring the matter as broken promises, further specifying that "*how far indeed we are from the common ideal proclaimed in 1948*", starting with the marginalization of many rights, as is the case of economic, social and cultural rights, " rhetorically emphasized but never really

and resolutely dealt with by the United Nations" (2)

In the same way, and referring the Universal Declaration, Prof. Joaquin Garcia Morillo highlighted that "*the General Assembly of the United nations had the pretension to proclaim a new international order that, being based on the military victory of the allied forces and on an antifascist impulse, should be founded on liberty and assure a minimum level of rights, more adjustable to a generally shared idea on human dignity*"; however, throughout the world, "*millions of people see the execution of their fundamental rights seriously limited, when not strictly denied, and millions remain marginalized from the circuits that compose a developed society*" (3).

It is obvious that the Lisbon Conference is not set out to discover any miraculous solution for such difficult and complex problems; but surely to speak about them – with due emphasis, shout on their behalf – as a specific contribution for the formation and enlargement of a civic conscience involved with human rights, in their real and truly emancipative and liberating interpretation.

It should be mentioned that the Lisbon Conference, besides being an opportunity for a profound reflection on such relevant issues for our living and the future of the peoples the world over, will also be a meeting corner and provide a feast of confraternization among jurists, academicians, trade-unionists and others alike, coming from different countries but all united by the same ideal of a free human being, freed from fear and misery (as is mentioned in the two Pacts).

You are welcomed and will be received fraternally.

Notes:

1) Juan Antonio Carrillo Salcedo, “*Dignidad frente a barbarie. La Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos, cincuenta años después*”- *Minima Trotta*, 1999, page- 22.

2) *A. and book quoted, page-33. The reference made concerns the Universal Declaration itself, of which the two Pacts are a subsequent development.*

3) *Quoted by Juan Antonio Carrillo Salcedo, book quoted pages-19 20.*

Signed: Portuguese Association of Democratic Juristes

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SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRATION CASE: THE HAGUE RULED IN FAVOR OF THE PHILIPPINES

(Report by Ms. Thanh Le, Vietnam Lawyers Association)

On July 12th 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration issued its much-anticipated Award on a 2013 claim by the Philippines to maritime entitlements in the South China Sea and it was a decisive victory for the Philippines. The Award stated that the Philippines was seeking a ruling that declares that claims in the South China Sea must comport with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which would dismiss China’s nine-dash-line; classifies maritime features occupied by China as rocks, low tide elevations, submerged

banks but not islands; the Awards also declared Philippines’ right to operate inside of its EEZ and continental shelf as outlined by UNCLOS without Chinese harassment; the Tribunal also denounced China for failing to protect and preserve the South China Sea marine environment.

The Philippines had filed an arbitration case against China in January 2013 following the tense standoff at Scarborough Shoal where Chinese maritime enforcement vessels blocked Philippine authorities. China then issued a Note Verbale stating that “it does not accept the arbitration initiated by the Philippines” and therefore will not participate in the proceedings, which led to the initiation of the arbitration under the dispute settlement procedures of Annex VII to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Afterwards China has reclaimed land in massive dredging operations, turning sandbars into islands equipped with airstrips, ports and other logistical facilities. All these activities of China were condemned by the Tribunal as the reason caused "irreparable harm" to the marine environment.

There are several controversies floating around about this ruling from when it was first conceived. The first controversy was Chinese's rejection of the Tribunal's jurisdiction over the case. China claims that it has ‘indisputable sovereignty’ over the land features and waters involved in the South China Sea. It refuses to be bound by the tribunal’s anticipated decision on the grounds that the decision would deal with issues of territorial and maritime delimitation as well as passing judgment on military activities and that China has never consented to any third party impartial

arbitration of these issues. However, it seems that China has stepped on its own toes. As a signatory party of the UNCLOS, China ratified the Convention and agreed to be bound by any decision that resulted from such a compulsory third party determination, this consent has bound China to respect and comply with decision emerged from the proceedings of the case. Also the Tribunal has clearly stated that its award will not decide those issues but will only concern itself with other important questions, all of which involve the interpretation and application of UNCLOS and are therefore within the tribunal's decision-making authority. China had its rights to present the arguments challenging the Tribunal's authority for the Tribunal's consideration but China decided to decline to participate, despite this the Tribunal has done its best to evaluate China's jurisdictional arguments in the Award.

Another issue was about the enforceability of the Award. China has flat-out claimed that it will not recognize and comply with the arbitral award. China has been relentlessly using state media to speak in defiance of the Tribunal's ruling, this only demonstrates that China worried gravely about the effect of the Award brings on China's "peaceful rise" reputation . China is evidently trying to avoid being branded a violator of international law, superpower like the United States, in a dispute with Nicaragua three decades ago, ignored a decision of the International Court of Justice after the court rejected its claim that the court lacked jurisdiction. That action continues to damage the US's reputation to this day. China's compliance to the Tribunal's award is a tough sell at the moment but China could sooner or later recognize the

benefits of this arbitration and accordingly revise its long-held policy and positions in the South China Sea disputes. In addition it is observable that since the issuance of the Award, China has been very careful not to take extreme and provocative acts on the ground in the South China Sea. The lack of mechanisms to cope with China's non-compliance also brought great concerns to the security and stability in the South China Sea as well as the rule of law in international relations. Such realist view has long been discarded by generations of international lawyers, it has omitted the significance of the UNCLOS in this case, the UNLCOS defines comprehensively the rights and obligations of states in the seas, given the fact that activities at sea impinge upon each other, it is essential for every state to act within the boundaries drawn by UNCLOS. The final Award by the Tribunal has become an objective touchstone that settles almost many disputes in the South China Sea, which is not only technically binding upon China and the Philippines but also has practically *erga omnes* effect that is recognized by virtually all states. No country, even super powers, can undo this fact.

On the eve of this landmark verdict, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) issued a statement regarding the Award. IADL believes the Award is a definitive ruling by the body charged with interpreting UNCLOS. The Award is decisive and consistent with IADL's support for peaceful resolution of disputes using international law. IADL is aware that there are more issues to be addressed in order to ensure peace, stability, cooperation and development in the South China Sea and the Asia-

Pacific region, therefore IADL calls upon all concerned parties to have a recourse to international laws (includes the 1982 UNLCOS); to negotiate in good faith for a solution agreed by all parties and to refrain from escalating tension and militarization in the South China Sea.

(Full statement attached in the Annex)

* * * * *

STATEMENT ON ATTACKS ON LAWYERS IN PAKISTAN

August 09, 2016

LAWYERS UNDER ATTACK

A tragic incident of barbaric attack on lawyers took place in the city of Quetta on 8th August, 2016.

A terrorist firstly shot down the President of Balochistan Bar Association Mr. Bilal Kanshi and when his dead body was taken to Civil Hospital, several Bar Members and leaders gathered there, then a suicide bomber attacked and blasted himself in a crowd of lawyers, resultantly 97 people died and 171 seriously injured. Amongst the dead persons 62 are lawyers which includes senior Bar leaders. The Pakistan Bar Council has declared seven days mourning and three days complete strike.

The Democratic Lawyers Association (Pakistan) has strongly condemned this tragic incident and the terrorist attack by tragic religious extremists as the IF and Jamiat-e-Ahrar a section of Pakistani Taliban have accepted the responsibility. The Democratic Lawyers Association

also strongly criticized the policy of Pakistani Estate Officials for blaming RAW of India immediately on happening of the incident even before any inquiry or investigation, the DLA called upon the political leaders of both the countries India and Pakistan to stop this policy or blame game of each other.

According to the Democratic Lawyers Association mere military or intelligence combing operations are no solution to counter the terrorism unless long term policies are adopted in the internal and external affairs of the country. Against the religious extremism and intolerance radical changes are required to be made in the social sector, particularly in educational system which the Estate has absolutely failed to adopt, despite consistent demands by the progressive and liberal sections of the society.

The Democratic Lawyers Association while showing deep sympathy with the grieved injured families have called upon the legal fraternity to raise their voice not only against this barbaric incident but also against the religious extremism and intolerance, calling upon the Government of Pakistan to root out this menace from the country by changing its internal and foreign policy perceptions and improving good friendly relations with neighboring countries both in economic and political fields.

(AKHTAR HUSSAIN)

Member Pakistan Bar Council and

General Secretary,

Democratic Lawyers Association

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REPORT ON IADL ACTIVITIES AT LESBOS (LESVOS) LEGAL CENTRE

(Report by IADL Bureau Member Carlos Orjeula (UK))

Editor's Note: The Lesbos Legal Centre, started in July 2016 to provide assistance to refugees in the camps on the Greek island, has been endorsed by various associations, including The International Association of Democratic Lawyers; European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights; Asociación Americana de Juristas; Alternative Intervention of Athens Lawyers (Greece); Hellenic Union of Progressive Lawyers (Greece); Associazione Dei Giuristi Democratici (Italy); Indian Association of Lawyers (India); Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers (UK); Juristes Democratés de Suisse (Switzerland); German Association of Democratic Lawyers (Germany).

The protests that preceded the blazing fire in the Moria refugee camp in mid September 2016 had been well attended boisterous affairs. On Friday 16 September a pro refugee march led by students in Lesbos ended in Sapho Square, Mytiline, the capital of the island. The evening had begun with a film recounting the murder of a Greek anti fascist rapper, which was being shown to mark the 3 year anniversary of his death.

The following Monday, a fascist march went through the city in the morning, ostensibly calling for the refugees to be removed from the Island. Chants heard throughout the demonstration included 'throw them in the sea' and 'Greece is for the Greeks'.

Later in the evening a fire in the 'Reception and Identification Centre' located in Moria, 5 kilometres from Mytiline, began. Moria is a detention centre where all individuals who arrive irregularly to the island are brought. They are kept there as a matter of course for 25 days, though this period of detention can and often is extended.

At the time of writing, it remains unclear who exactly is responsible for the fire. The mixture of refugee uncertainty and desperation, detention in inhuman conditions, extreme delay, discrimination by nationality in the processing of applications, economic austerity and far right resurgence creates a toxic situation where many groups of individuals could be to blame. What is certain is that the fire has served only to worsen what are already terrible living conditions for the inhabitants of the camp.

It is within this context that volunteers from the Haldane Society (UK), Droit Solidarite (France) and the National Lawyers Guild (US) have chosen to open a legal clinic, assisting a Greek lawyer in providing legal information, advice, assistance and representation. We are based in the Mosaik Support Centre, a project in the centre of Mytilini which provides services to refugees, including language, arts and crafts classes.

Since the opening of the Legal Centre we have identified various serious breaches of human rights which are

primarily the result of an unresponsive and intransigent EU asylum system that refuses to place the needs of refugees at the centre of its approach.

Delay

The most endemic issue in the Greek hotspots is the inhumane periods of time people are expected to wait for their asylum procedures to be concluded.

Upon application for asylum, applicants undergo a registration process which is kafkaesque in its operation. Article 6 of the Recast Procedures Directive 2013 states that registration of an application for international protection should take no longer than 3 days, extendible to 10 days in situations where there are large numbers of applications at the same time. Greek law 4375 however, interprets these provisions by introducing a new concept of 'simple' and 'full' registration. In situations such as Lesbos, where there are various individuals applying for asylum at the same time, 'full registration' does not have to meet the time periods contained within the directive. The Greek Asylum Service is simply required to register the individuals '...as soon as is rendered possible'. (Article 36, Greek Law 4375). Thousands of people, men, women, children, disabled, mentally unwell amongst others, have been kept waiting over half a year awaiting to be registered because of the application of this provision.

Without lodging an application, an individual does not have the ability to be considered for family reunification either under Dublin III or the national schemes of other European Member States, cannot be considered for relocation under the two Council Decisions of

September last year and of course cannot have their application for asylum determined by the Greek Asylum Service. Delay, without any foreseeable end, awaits those who arrive here.

Reception Conditions

The severely inadequate standard of reception conditions, coupled with the amount of delay facing all asylum seekers on the island, creates a toxic and often dangerous mix, the effects of which are obvious to volunteers who spend a little time on the island.

The situation in Moria detention centre is illustrative. The camp is surrounded by high fences and barbed wire. Inside, space is scarce, with crowded tents inhabited by whole families, including children. Unaccompanied minors are detained as a matter of course in a separate part of the camp, whose facilities are barely able to cope with the amount of children contained there. Despite being recognised by the Greek Asylum Service as vulnerable, individuals face huge obstacles accessing assistance for medical conditions. Victims of torture struggle to gain access to mental health services, heavily pregnant women are left to lie on the floor in tents for months awaiting receipt of adequate pre natal care, medical attention is severely restricted to a few who are able to exhibit severe symptoms, amongst other issues. Riots are therefore an unfortunately frequent phenomenon.

Once individuals are allowed to leave Moria, they face another form of detention, as the vast majority of asylum seekers are unable to leave the Island. They are either moved to one of the other camps on the Island or are given the 'option' to stay in Moria. Those who

only have access to the latter tend to sleep on the streets of Lesbos rather than remain in such conditions.

The tragic truth is that Europe is well aware of these conditions and does little to ameliorate them. Since the case of *MSS v Belgium* in 2011, it has long been accepted by the European community that reception conditions for refugees in Greece are in humane and degrading for asylum seekers.

The central issue, unsurprisingly, is political. The current 'Common European Asylum System' ('CEAS') and the Dublin III regulation in particular, passes the majority of the responsibility for dealing with the influx of asylum seekers to 'frontier' member states. The principle contained within the Dublin regulation is that an asylum seeker's application for international protection should be processed in the first EU country they enter. This has placed immense pressure on Greece and Italy in particular, where individuals fleeing persecution on the African and Asian continents will seek to gain entry into Europe.

Infuriatingly, the EU has deemed it appropriate for the country least able to allocate resources to the refugee problem by virtue of the Memorandum of Understanding, which is decimating public services in Greece, to be one of the principle Members States to deal with the crisis.

Turkey EU Agreement

Rather than attempt to distribute the responsibility of processing asylum claims to other Member States, the EU Commission has deemed it appropriate to designate Turkey a 'safe third country'

to which Greece can return 'irregular migrants'.

This is particularly worrying considering Turkey's highly controversial hierarchy of protection, which allows Europeans to claim full protection as refugees, but only provides limited and temporary protection to Syrians claiming international protection. This alongside the well reported instances of push back (often violently) of refugees at the Syrian border, refoulement, detention in atrocious conditions and the state's recent decision to suspend the application of the European Convention of Human Rights, leads many to conclude that the EU is simply attempting to outsource its responsibilities under the 1951 Convention and Protocol to a politically volatile country that is actively hostile to refugees.

To the credit of the Greek appeal committees, prior to their reconfiguration by the Greek state, the vast majority of appeals against decisions to return to Turkey were allowed for the very reasons outlined above. Since the changes to the committees however, which increase the state's presence from 1 representative to 2 on a 3 person committee, the appeals have now begun to reject appeals which has led to returns to Turkey.

Legal Aid - The Denial of Access to Justice

As it stands, legal aid is not provided at 'first instance', i.e. for the asylum interview stage. Until recently, no legal aid was available for 'second instance' appeals to the appeals committee for rejections of asylum. Legal aid is also absent for those who wish to dispute

their designation as adults, a crucial decision which greatly impacts the options an asylum seeker has in the procedure. Appeals to the Administrative Court are also not funded, leaving asylum seekers with the burden of paying thousands of euros in court and lawyers' fees if they wish to submit an application.

Considering these restrictions in legal aid, the legal centre has attempted to support asylum seekers by providing vital information, advice, assistance and representation at various stages of the asylum process. This includes assistance with reunification efforts with families across Europe. The intention of the legal centre is to develop litigation strategies and legal campaign work from the information gathered which will attempt to highlight and change the dire situation of asylum seekers on the Island.

How you can help

The Legal Centre needs lawyers and legally-trained graduates to give a month or more of their time to help provide legal information, assist in the preparation of cases, write reports and provide general paralegal support to our Greek lawyers. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact legalcentrelesbos@gmail.com

The Legal Centre also requires donations in order to keep the project going. Please visit <https://chuffed.org/project/legalcentrelesbos>

If you are in the UK you can donate using mydonate.bt.com/charities/lesboslegalcentre at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/lesboslegalcentre>

If you want to follow our work and show support for our project you can visit our blog on <https://legalcentrelesbos.wordpress.com> and our Facebook page on <https://web.facebook.com/LesvosLegal>

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PEACE TALKS IN THE PHILIPPINES

IADL has been invited to participate in the JustPeacePH initiative related to the resumed peace talks in the Philippines.

The campaign is circulating a call for international solidarity and support of the peace process (please see in **Annex**).

More information can be found at <http://justpeace.ph/ph-peace-talks/> Several Bureau members have been in this process, included Edre Olalia, who serves as a legal advisor to the delegation of the National Democratic Front.

A more detailed report will appear in the next IADL *Bulletin*.

U.N. ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA

(Report by IADL Permanent Representative to U.N., Evelyn Durmayer)

On June 27, 2016 I, together with Lilian Hofmeister (Elected Member of CEDAW Committee and IADL Alternate Representative to U.N.), organized a Legal Salon in the Art Lounge of the Café Korb (see flyer in **Annex**). The topic was the Role of Women's NGOs. Lilian Hofmeister was the moderator of the event, Brigitte Holzner a long time activist in the development field, presented her work in Indonesia and introduced her book full of very sensitive short stories.

Rosa Logar, the Austrian GREVIO member, in her capacity as WAVE executive director of the Domestic Abuse Program in Vienna, related the necessity of the work of her European Organization and the difficulties encountered. She also discussed the need for human and financial support.

WAVE is European organization working mainly on the issue of violence against women in Europe. More information about is available at <https://www.wave-network.org/>.

GREVIO is a group of experts to monitor and implement the Istanbul Convention by the Council of Europe. Rosa Logar is the First Vice-President. It was created after the model of CEDAW and both are presided over by Feride Acar from Turkey.

As distinguished from these two associations I introduced IADL, which is

not a Women's NGO, although we have a woman as President.

In 2014, a Women's Caucus was created at the 18th IADL Congress in Brussels and a very well attended International Conference was held in London November 28/29, 2016.

The lively discussion was centered mostly around negative examples, so I tried to turn to the model of Rojava, where a young Kurdish Austrian lawyer gave more details of the functioning. Rojava is located in the northern part of Syria, a region with more than 2.5 million inhabitants and refugees from Turkey, Iraq especially among them Yazidis. The region gained its autonomy in November 2013, and is a democratic experiment. It is based on principles of direct democracy, gender equality and sustainability. Among its projects are a new health system and the establishment of a university. More information is available at <http://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-democracy/rojava-democracy/>

I attended a small encounter with Dubravka Šimonović, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, on July 22, 2016. She intends to build a femicide statistical register with the help of NGO's, UNODC and OSCE.

On 15 September 2016 the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women held its first fall meeting with the program till the end of the year. The full agenda is in the **Annex**, as well as the CSW 61 Written Statement on Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. As in past

years, IADL is the lead sponsor organization of the Statement.

On 7-9 October 2016, I will participate in a conference, “Building Bridges – shifting and strengthening visions – exploring alternatives,” which will be held in Vienna. The themes include re-visiting and rethinking Marxist-Feminist theory and women’s position within the global economy. The Conference program can be found in the **Annex**.

CSW61

The sixty-first session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. The Priority Theme is Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work. Among the additional themes are: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session) and the empowerment of indigenous women. More information is available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>.

IADL is in the process of planning its participation in CSW61. For more information, please contact President Jeanne Mirer or Permanent Representative to Vienna Evelyn Durmayer.

STATEMENT OF THE UN WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT CONDEMNING RACIST POLICE KILLINGS IN THE U.S.

(The OHCHR Media Statement is reprinted below)

USA / People of African descent: UN expert group condemns recent killings

GENEVA (8 July 2016) – **Human rights expert Ricardo A. Sunga III, who currently Chairs the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, issued the following statement after this week’s deaths of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana at the hands of the police, and Thursday’s killing of five police officers in downtown Dallas.**

“The Working Group is outraged and strongly condemns the new police killings of two African- American men. These killings which were captured on video cannot be ignored. We call for prompt independent investigations to ensure the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. We also condemn the attacks on police officers in Dallas and call for the perpetrators to be held accountable.

Excessive use of force by the police against African Americans in the United States is a regular occurrence. African Americans are reportedly shot at more than twice the rate of white people.

The Working Group is monitoring the

situation and has repeatedly expressed its concern to the United States Government about police killings of African Americans and called for justice. The Working Group is convinced that the root of the problem lies in the lack of accountability for perpetrators of such killings despite the evidence.

The killings also demonstrate a high level of structural and institutional racism. The United States is far from recognizing the same rights for all its citizens. Existing measures to address racist crimes motivated by prejudice are insufficient and have failed to stop the killings.

It is time, now, for the US Government to strongly assert that Black lives matter and prevent any further killings as a matter of national priority.”

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent carried out an official visit to the US in January 2016. In its preliminary observations* to the US Government, the panel of experts noted with concern **“the alarming levels of police brutality and excessive use of lethal force by law enforcement officials committed with impunity,”** and made a number of specific recommendations, among them:

“Improving reporting of violations involving the excessive use of force and extra-judicial killings by the police, and ensure that reported cases of excessive use of force are independently investigated; that alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions; that investigations are re-opened when new evidence becomes available; and that victims or their families are provided with remedy.”

The Working group will present a comprehensive report containing its findings and recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2016.

(*) Read the Working Group’s preliminary recommendations to the US Government: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17000&LangID=E>

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was established on 25 April 2002 by the then Commission on Human Rights, following the World Conference against Racism held in Durban in 2001. It is composed of five independent experts: Mr. **Ricardo A. Sunga III** (the Philippines) current Chair-Rapporteur; Ms. **Mireille Fanon Mendes-France** (France), Mr. **Ahmed Reid** (Jamaica); Mr. **Sabelo Gumedze** (South Africa); and Mr. **Michal Balcerzak** (Poland). Learn more, log on to: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/WGAfricanDescent/Pages/WGEPADIndex.aspx>

The Working Group is part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council’s independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms. Special Procedures mandate-holders are independent human rights experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. They are not UN staff and are independent from any government or organization. They serve in their individual capacity and do not receive a salary for their work. Learn more, log on to: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/>

[WGAfricanDescent/Pages/WGEPADIndex.aspx](http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescendecade/)

The International Decade of People of African Descent:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescendecade/>

*(The Statement, with additional contact information, can be found in the **Annex**)*

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JUSTICE FOR CHOLERA VICTIMS IN HAITI

(Report by Shannon Jonsson, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti [IJDH])

In a breakthrough for victims seeking to hold the United Nations (UN) accountable for causing the cholera epidemic in Haiti, the organization has finally acknowledged its role in introducing the disease to Haiti, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently announced a new plan to combat the epidemic and provide material assistance to victims and their families. In his September opening statement to the General Assembly, Ban expressed “tremendous regret and sorrow at the profound suffering of Haitians affected by cholera” and called on member states to provide political and financial support for the new package in order to “meet [the UN’s] obligations to the Haitian people.” Ban also appointed Dr. David Nabarro, previously head of the UN’s response to ebola, to lead the new cholera response.. At the end of September, Nabarro announced that the UN is mobilizing \$180 million for cholera response, and “at least an equal

amount” for the victims. The details of the UN plan are to be released at the end of October.

The announcement signals a momentous change in the UN’s approach to calls for accountability, and came as pressure mounted for the organization to provide a just response to cholera victims. Prior to the announcement, Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, submitted a report highly critical of the response to the epidemic. In the powerful document, Mr. Alston stated: “The UN’s policy [in response to the Haiti cholera epidemic] is morally unconscionable, legally indefensible, and politically self-defeating.” He urged the Secretary-General to issue an apology and take responsibility for the cholera epidemic, as well as create a plan for compensation of the victims.

Members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate also sent bipartisan letters to the UN and US government in favour of UN accountability. In June, 158 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Mia Love, wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry to “urge the State Department to immediately and unreservedly exercise its leadership to ensure that the United Nations (UN) take concrete steps to eliminate the cholera epidemic introduced to Haiti in 2010 by waste from a UN peacekeeper camp, and to comply with its legal and moral obligations to provide cholera victims with access to an effective remedy.” In a separate letter, Rep. Maxine Waters wrote to the Secretary-General, noting that the lack of a just response squanders UN credibility and urging him to “ensure

that the UN's response to the cholera epidemic is sufficient to ensure justice for the people of Haiti and maintain the credibility and leadership of the UN."

In July, Senators Ed Markey and Marco Rubio wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry, imploring the United States government to "utilize its leadership position to stress the importance of UN accountability and action to remediate the ongoing impact of cholera in Haiti." More recently, Senators Markey and Rubio were joined by Senators Robert Menendez and Patrick Leahy in a letter to the Secretary-General urging the UN to "fulfill its obligation to help the people of Haiti by eradicating cholera and providing justice to the victims of the disease" and advocating for a "comprehensive and transparent approach" to compensating cholera victims.

The Secretary-General is also facing strong pressure to take action in order to save his legacy on cholera before he leaves office at the end of December. This pressure grew after more than half of the candidates for the post stated publicly that they supported a stronger response on cholera. Thirty-eight civil society groups including IADL-member *Giuristi Democratici*, also called on the candidates to sign a pledge that if elected, they would prioritize accountability and transparency, end the culture of impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers, and ensure that Haitian cholera victims received remedies. As a result of advocacy on this front, Igor Luksic signed the pledge, while Danilo Turk and Srgjan Kerim expressed support for its principles without signing it.

In anticipation of the rollout of the new UN response, advocates have been pushing for the UN to ensure that the new response is robust and translates into justice for the victims. The day before the Secretary-General's remarks at the General Assembly, 40 former UN officials, international law, human rights and public health experts signed a letter calling on the UN to develop a response to include "a public apology, compensation for victims, and full funding for cholera elimination." The experts further advocated for the process to be "inclusive and transparent, and involve participation of Haitians throughout."

The need for robust UN remedies is particularly strong as the Second Circuit Court of Appeals court upheld UN immunity in the lawsuit filed on behalf of cholera victims by IADL-member *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) and the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti in August. Mario Joseph, BAI Managing Attorney and lead advocate for the cholera victims, stated that "[t]his outcome places the onus back on the UN to follow through on its commitments to respond justly to victims out of court if it does not want to be an organization that stands for impunity." The plaintiffs have 90 days to seek a petition for certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, and have indicated that they will decide how to proceed based on an assessment of whether the UN's new response meets victims' rights to an effective remedy.

UPDATE ON ELECTIONS IN HAITI THE CONTROVERSIAL ROLE OF OAS AND EU OBSERVERS IN HAITI'S FAILED 2015 ELECTIONS

IJDH update

(Report by Nik Barry-Shaw and Nicole Phillips, IJDH)

IADL members, led by *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) and its U.S.-based affiliate, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), have been working with Haitian human rights groups to defend the right to vote. Last October, a delegation of election monitors from IADL and the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) spent two weeks in Haiti observing the 2015 electoral process. The elections were to elect the country's next President, two-thirds of the Senate, all 119 members of the House of Deputies, and all local mayors. First-round legislative elections that had taken place on August 9, 2015 were denounced by Haitian observers due to widespread violence, fraud and disruptions at polling places. Despite protest from opposition parties and civil society, the government went ahead with the second round of legislative elections, along with the first round of Presidential and mayoral elections, on October 25, 2015. The IADL/NLG delegation observed the vote at 15 voting centers in the greater Port-au-Prince region.

Echoing the conclusions of Haitian civil society electoral observers, the IADL/NLG delegation [found](#) that the

October 25 elections were more orderly than the August 9 vote but still fell far short of minimum standards for fair elections. The vast majority of registered voters—over 70 percent—did not vote; many expressed fear or lost confidence in the electoral process. Forty percent of ballots were cast using political party and other observer accreditations, which allowed fraudulent, multiple voting outside the rules applicable to regular voters and had a decisive influence on the electoral results. A lack of transparency in the tabulation process also raised significant questions about whether votes were properly counted and verified for fraud. Ordinary voters frequently faced undue influence and violations of privacy at polling places.

IADL/NLG's November 2015 [report](#) documented the violations of Haitians' right to vote and recommended a thorough investigation into fraud allegations by a credible and independent commission to determine the scale of the fraud and restore Haitians' faith in the electoral process. The report also called on the international community to support the Haitian people's demands for fair and democratic elections, while refraining from interfering in ways that threaten Haiti's sovereignty. The report circulated on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C and was cited by several major newspapers. The [Miami Herald](#) covered the report in a feature the day it was released, and report findings were cited by the Associated Press, Haitian-American author Edwidge Danticat in a [New Yorker article](#) and in a [New York Times Editorial](#).

In May 2016, an independent commission established by the Haitian

government confirmed that “massive fraud” had badly distorted the October 25 election’s outcome and recommended that new presidential elections be held on October 9, 2016. Unfortunately, the international powers did not heed the call to respect Haiti’s sovereignty. The United States government, joined by the European Union and Canada, opposed efforts to investigate fraud. The EU and Organization of American States (OAS) electoral observation missions were complicit in this attempt to block the verification of the vote.

The IADL/NLG’s latest [report](#), entitled *Democracy Discouraged: International Observers and Haiti’s 2015 Elections*, shows how the international observers’ positions closely mirrored that of the US and other large donor nations, which used the flawed assessments of the OAS and EU to justify their opposition to verification. The report, released last month in partnership with the NLG and the Haiti Support Group, reveals that the OAS and EU electoral observation missions ignored reports of electoral problems, opposed calls from a broad spectrum of civil society within Haiti for an independent verification, and defended fraud-tainted election results. In response to the annulment of the October 25 presidential vote, the EU observers withdrew in protest and the US pulled electoral funding. The OAS mission has announced it will stay to observe the next round.

The apparent influence wielded by powerful states over Haiti’s electoral assessments raises doubts about the neutrality and independence of international observers. Mario Joseph, Managing Attorney at the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux*, based in Port-

au-Prince, and a member of IADL’s governing Bureau, asked, “How is it possible that the OAS and EU observers did not see what everyone else did? Their unjustifiable endorsement of the 2015 elections has badly damaged international observers’ credibility in Haiti.”

The report recommends that international observation missions report objectively and honestly on the electoral process, refrain from political interference, and incorporate the views of Haitian civil society observers into their evaluations of the upcoming October 9 vote. An IADL/NLG delegation will be on the ground to observe the October 9 vote and provide accountability for the international community’s influence over Haitians’ right to vote. **

** As of the writing of this article on October 3, Hurricane Matthew is heading towards Haiti. One of the impacts of Haiti's political instability is a lack of emergency response and poverty that makes people vulnerable to natural disasters. The October 9 elections will likely be postponed.

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UN ACCOUNTABILITY PLEDGE

In an effort to raise the profile of UN accountability in the context of the selection process for the next Secretary-General, a joint initiative between IJDH and AIDS-Free World was launched. The goal was to ask candidates for the next Secretary-General to take an Accountability Pledge and commit to taking concrete action on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN

peacekeepers, and on cholera in Haiti. (The Pledge is attached).

The goal of the Accountability Pledge is two-fold: 1) to secure concrete commitments from candidates that they will support stronger UN accountability if selected; and 2) to raise the profile of accountability issues among member states, the media and the general public.

In July, IADL Alternate Representative to the U.N. in New York Beatrice Lindstrom circulated this Pledge. The Italian Democratic Lawyers, IADL's national association in Italy, is among the original signatories.

(Thanks to Beatrice Lindstrom for coordinating these reports on Haiti)

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TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR LENNOX HINDS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

On 6 October 2016, Professor Lennox Hinds, who is IADL's Permanent Representative to the U.N. in New York, was honored for his 46 years of teaching as a faculty member at Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The all day program, "Justice in Action," was hosted by the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, the Program of Criminal Justice and the Department of Africana Studies. In the afternoon, former students talked about what Professor Hinds' teaching has meant to them – in focusing their careers and commitment to serve justice in the law and other areas. In the "standing room only" evening program, Distinguished Professor Emerita Angela

Davis spoke on "Radical Visions of Justice" and Professor Hinds presented "Reflections of a Peoples Lawyer," The event is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilrk5LXUj2Y>. President Jeanne Mirer was recognized by Professor Hinds among the distinguished guests. Professor Carol Fine, a former IADL Alternate Representative to the U.N. in NY was a Co-Chairperson of the event, and one of the former student panelists, Marine Leclinche, is also a former IADL intern. Alternate Representative Beth Lyons also attended the event. Flyers from the events are in the **Annex**.

The 15th Session of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) will be held at the Hague, 16 -24 November 2016. More information is available at <http://coalitionfortheicc.org/> and the ICC website at www.icc-bpi.org. Professor Hitomi Takemura and IADL Bureau Member Md. Hasan Tarique Chowdhury will represent IADL at this meeting.

The IADL *U.N. Activities Bulletin* is prepared under the direction of the Permanent Representative to the U.N. in New York, Prof. Lennox S. Hinds. This issue was edited and produced by Beth Lyons in early October 2016. Reports and material were contributed by Nik Barry-Shaw, Luis Roberto Zamora Bolaños, Evelyn Durmayer, Claire Gilchrist, Akhtar Hussain, Shannon Jonsson, Thanh Le, Beatrice Lindstrom, Carlos Orjuela, Nicole Phillips, Maria Madalena Marques dos Santos, and Roland Weyl.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, 55th Session, will be held in New York at U.N. Headquarters, from 1 to 10 February 2017. Its priority theme is: "Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all." More information is available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/civil-society/csocd55.html>

U.N. SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR SINGLES OUT PERNICIOUS RACISM IN U.S.

(The News Release reprinted below is from OHCHR; the full release is in the Annex)

GENEVA / WASHINGTON, DC (28 July 2016) – The United States of America is struggling to live up to its ideals in the area of racial, social and economic inequality, which is having a negative impact upon the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, United Nations human rights expert Maina Kiai said at the end of his first official fact-finding mission to the country*.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of

association singled out race as a particularly pernicious issue. He emphasised that while his mandate does not cover racial discrimination, it was impossible carry out his mission “without issues of racism pervading the discussions.”

“Racism and the exclusion, persecution and marginalization that come with it, affect the enabling environment for the exercise of association and assembly rights,” Mr. Kiai said, noting that understanding its context means looking back at 400 years of slavery and post-Civil War Jim Crow laws which “enforced segregation and marginalized the African-American community to a life of misery, poverty and persecution.”

In more recent times, the Special Rapporteur noted, “old philosophies of exclusion and discrimination were reborn, cloaked in new and euphemistic terms,” such as the so-called “War on Drugs” and “three strikes” sentencing policies. The effects of harsh law-and-order policies often snowball, he added,

with a minor criminal conviction – or even an arrest at a protest without substantiated charges –making it difficult to find a job, secure a student loan or find a place to live.

“There is justifiable and palpable anger in the black community over these injustices. It needs to be expressed,” he stressed. “This is the context that gave birth to the non-violent Black Lives Matter protest movement and the context in which it must be understood.”

The independent expert also highlighted a long list of other issues affecting the environment in which association and assembly rights are exercised – including economic inequality, unnecessarily aggressive and militarized policing at some peaceful assemblies, intimidation of activists, lack of accountability for rights violations, permit requirements for protests, disproportionate counter-terrorism measures, increasing corporate power and “a free market fundamentalist culture that actively discourages unionization.”

“The situation of migrant workers throughout the United States is characterized by the precariousness and exploitation of their employment situation, retaliation for drawing attention to adverse working conditions and a fear of taking action to seek improvement of the violations,” he said.

“Migrant workers are routinely subjected to harassment, intimidation, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, with those attempting to form or belonging to unions and organizations such as the Congress of Day Laborers being targeted for reprisals,” the expert noted.

Mr. Kiai also drew attention to the H2B work visa program, which gives employers “immense control over the employee.” He called the arrangement “not dissimilar to the Kafala system of bonded labor practiced in a number of countries in the Gulf region.”

The independent expert further noted the lack of robust labor rights protections as a major hurdle to exercising the right to freedom of association in the workplace.

“I was shocked to see that in states such as Mississippi, the lack of unionization and ability to exploit workers is touted as a great benefit for employers,” he said, citing the situation at a Nissan plant in Canton, MS, as a prime example. “The figure that stands out for me is this: Nissan reportedly operates 44 major plants throughout the world; all of them are unionized, except for two of them in the US south. Why not Mississippi?”

But the Special Rapporteur called the United States a “nation of struggle and resilience,” and had high praise the civil society sector, calling it one of the country’s greatest strengths and it is something that the United States and its people should be thankful for.

He also noted that people continue to protest despite severe restrictions and harsh crackdowns in some areas, and emphasized the role that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association can play in uniting societies and in healing them.

“People have good reason to be angry and frustrated at the moment,” he said. “And it is at times like these when robust promotion of assembly and association rights are needed most. These rights give

24 October - 18 November:

65th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and Pre-sessional Working Group for the 67th session (21-25 November 2016) Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI, A Building.

The Committee will examine the reports of the following countries during its 65th session: Antigua and Barbuda (in the absence of a report), Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Burundi, Canada, Estonia, Honduras, Netherlands, Switzerland.

The pre-sessional working group will convene in closed meeting and prepare lists of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 67th session: Barbados, Costa Rica, Italy, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Thailand.

In addition, it will prepare a list of issues prior to reporting for Luxembourg under the new simplified reporting.

For more information: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/trackbodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1027&Lang=en

people a peaceful avenue to speak out, engage in dialogue with their fellow citizens and authorities, air their grievances and hopefully settle them.”

During his 17-day visit, Mr. Kiai met numerous officials at the federal, state and local levels and members of civil society. His visit included stops in Washington, New York, Baltimore, Ferguson, MO, Cleveland, Phoenix, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Jackson, MS, and Philadelphia.

A final report on the visit will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2017.

(*). Check the Special Rapporteur’s end-of-mission statement: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20317&LangID=E>

The IADL International Review of Contemporary Law, 70 Years of the U.N. Charter, June 2016, edited by Evelyn Durmayer, is available at

<http://www.iadllaw.org/news/ite/international-review-of-contemporary-law/>

CALENDAR OF UN ACTIVITIES AT U.N. CENTRES

At the time the *Bulletin* was prepared, the 2017 U.N. Calendar of Events was not yet available.

November 2016

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| • | Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Fifteenth session | The Hague | 16 - 24 November |
| • | Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, Fifty-first session | Riyadh | 20 - 24 November |
| • | Committee against Torture, Fifty-ninth session | Geneva | 7 November - 7 December |
| • | Committee against Torture, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Thirtieth session | Geneva | 14 - 18 November |
| • | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, pre-sessional working group, Sixty-seventh session | Geneva | 21 - 25 November |
| • | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Ninety-first session | Geneva | 21 November - 9 December |
| • | 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 | 29 November |
| • | Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Twenty-first session | The Hague | 28 November - 2 December |
| • | Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Resumed Seventh session | Vienna | 14 - 16 November |
| • | Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Meetings to enhance International Cooperation, Fifth session | Vienna | 17 - 18 November |
| • | Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, Eighth Review Conference | Geneva | 7 - 25 November |
| • | Group of Governmental Experts on Development in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, Second session | Geneva | 28 November - 2 December |
| • | Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting on Military Expenditures, First session | Geneva | 7 - 11 November |
| • | Human Rights Council, Forum on Business and Human Rights, Fifth session | Geneva | 14 - 16 November |
| • | Human Rights Council, Forum on human rights, democracy and the rule of law | Geneva | 21 - 22 November |
| • | Human Rights Council, Forum on Minority Issues, Ninth session | Geneva | 24 - 25 November |

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| • Human Rights Council, Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Nineteenth session | Geneva | 28 November - 2 December |
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December 2016

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| • Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Pledging Conference | Geneva | 7 December |
| • 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* | New York | 5 December |
| • Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Reconvened twenty-fifth session | Vienna | 2 December |
| • Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Joint meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, reconvened fifty-ninth session, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, reconvened twenty-fifth session | Vienna | 1 December |
| • Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Reconvened fifty-ninth session | Vienna | 2 December |
| • Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, Eighth session | Geneva | 9 December |
| • 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, Fifth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties | Geneva | 12 - 16 December |
| • FAO, Council, 155th session | Rome | 5 - 9 December |
| • IFAD, Executive Board, 119th session | Rome | 14 - 15 December |
| • Open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, Fifth session | Geneva | 12 - 16 December |
| • Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, Thirty-second session | Geneva | 7 - 9 December |
| • UN-Habitat, Committee of Permanent Representatives, Sixty-third session | Nairobi | 1 December |
| • UNCITRAL, Working Group V (Insolvency Law), Fiftieth session | Vienna | 12 - 16 December |
| • UNCITRAL, Working Group VI (Security Interests), Thirtieth session | Vienna | 5 - 9 December |
| • UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, Sixty-third session | Geneva | 5 - 9 December |

ANNEX

Conversation between Me. Roland Weyl and Luis Roberto Zamora Bolaños - 5 pages

2016 International Conference on 50th Anniversary of the U.N. Covenants on Human R - Rights – 7 pages

Declaration of the Portuguese Association of Democratic Lawyers (APJD) on the Situation in Turkey, 29 July 2016 – 1 page

Statement of IADL on the UN Arbitral Tribunal’s Ruling in Philippines v. China, 2 August 2016 – 1 page

Call for International Support for Philippine Peace Process – 1 page

Statement for CSW 61 from Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women – 3 pages

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna – Agenda, 15 September 2016 – 1 page

IADL and AWJA Juristicher Salon, 27 June 2016 – 1 page

Conference Program for “Building Bridges – shifting and strengthening visions – exploring alternatives,” 7 -9 October 2016, Vienna – 1 page

Statement from U.N. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent – 3 pages

U.N. Accountability Pledge – 3 pages

Event flyers from “Justice in Action” a day-long Program honoring Professor Lennox Hinds, with a keynote by Professor Angela Davis on “Radical Visions of Justice” – 2 pages

U.N. Rapporteur on Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association – 3 pages

Movement for Black Lives, Policy Platforms at <https://policy.m4bl.org/> (please download from site)

IADL International Review of Contemporary Law, June 2016 – 70 Years of the UN Charter – 3 pages

Flyer for Discussion with Chair, U.N. Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, 13 October 2016 – 1 page (Alternate Representative Claire Gilchrist will report on event in the next *Bulletin*)

