

Irish Centre for Human Rights

Irish Centre for Human Rights Coming Events:

10 Jan. 2006 at 4.00pm

Book Launch:

Los Procedimientos Públicos Especiales de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas
By *Elvira Domínguez*

Redondo

Guest Speaker:

Professor Fernando Mariño Menéndez

UN Committee against Torture

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
www.nuigalway.ie/humanrights
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humanrights@nuigalway.ie

20 - 24 Feb. 2006

Training Course:

Human Rights and Human Rights Based Approaches In Ireland.

Amnesty International and the ICHR will host this week long human rights training course which will be held at the Irish Centre for Human Rights

See page 3 for more information

ICHR's International Conference on Islam, Politics and Law a Great Success

On 10 and 11 September 2005, the Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted the International Conference, Reframing Islam: Politics into Law.

The two day conference addressed questions of both politics and law within Islam and attracted influential writers and academics from both disciplines. The underpinning of the conference was twofold. Firstly, it addressed some of the international legal and normative questions that flow from Islam, and equally importantly, it addressed the political, social, and cultural context of Islam. Topics on the agenda included: challenges to the Muslim world following the events of September 11; the question of democracy in Islam; the rights of non-Muslims and women within Islam; and attempts to create a civic Islamic society.

Tariq Ramadan, Mohsen Kadivar and Mehrangiz Kar were among the conference's distinguished participant-speakers who shared their vast knowledge and personal experience, in a sincere effort to objectively tackle historic and current issues involving Islam and the legal, political and



(l-r) Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh, Tariq Ramadan and Professor William Schabas at the Reframing Islam conference held on 10 and 11 Sep. 2005.

social discourse surrounding it. This resulted in an open and intriguing dialogue with active participation from the audience. The exceptionality of the panel together with the genuine enthusiasm from those in attendance combined to ensure a successful and stimulating conference.

Further information together with the participants' papers can be found online at: www.reframingislam.org

Middle East Correspondent Robert Fisk visits ICHR



(l-r) Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh, Prof. William Schabas, Robert Fisk and Professor Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh at Robert Fisk's lecture held in NUIG on 18 October 2005.

At a lecture, jointly organized by Amnesty International Irish Section and the ICHR, entitled "Into the Wilderness: how

to escape history in Iraq", best-selling author and acclaimed journalist Robert Fisk described the reality of Iraq at present and expressed his thoughts on its future.

His lecture, held at NUI, Galway on 18 October 2005, captivated a packed audience and was honored with a standing ovation.

Robert Fisk is based in Beirut as Middle East Correspondent for The Independent. Fisk holds more British and international journalism awards than any other foreign correspondent. He is author of the critically acclaimed work "Pity the Nation: Lebanon at War".

Fisk's recent publication "The Great War for Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East" takes an in-depth and first-hand look at the cruelty of conflict across

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News from the Centre's Alumni

Maria Duffy has written to encourage the Alumni's foundation and describes it as "an incentive to keep going".

We regret that Jean McGrath was unable to attend the Alumni's launch as she is currently living and working in the U.S.

Jesus Marcos Gamero, a graduate of 2004, attended the Alumni launch. He is currently residing in Madrid where he is working as a coordinator and undertaking a Masters in Civil Protection. He is also in the second year of his PhD.

Fiana Gantheret graduated this year. She has written to lend support to the Alumni and suggests that the Alum News can be used to inform people about individual projects and events.

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the Middle East. The great triumph of Fisk's work, a fact confirmed by his lecture, is in his ability to combine his experience of pointless suffering with an ability to remain objective and true to his own ethical, phi-

losophical and moral standpoint.

A book-signing was held at the Irish Centre for Human Rights before the lecture which provided an opportunity for staff, students and the public to meet with the author.

Launch of the ICHR Alumni Association

The foundation of the Alumni Association is a recent development at the Centre. Its purpose is to maintain a connection between the Centre and all graduates from all years. The official launch took place on November 28th. A cheese and wine reception was organized by the current LLM class to congratulate the previous year's students who graduated on November 29th. Graduates from other years also attended. The Centre hopes that this will become an annual event.

As part of the Alumni Association graduates are encouraged to keep in touch with the Centre and to provide information

on, amongst other things, job prospects, academic work, conferences and campaigns as well as information on their own careers and lives. It is suggested that the Alumni can also become a forum for the exchange of ideas on job-finding or conference and campaign organization. The establishment of regional alumni is also under consideration.

News and comments received at the Centre will be regularly published in the AlumNews section of the Bulletin. For further information or to submit ideas, contact vinodh.jaichand@nuigalway.ie.

ICHR Welcomes New Research Fellow

Dr. Elvira Domínguez Redondo is currently undertaking a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the ICHR. This fellowship was awarded by the *Irish Research Council for Social Sciences and the Humanities* for research on a project that seeks to examine the foundations of human rights law and the acquired competencies of human rights bodies. She has recently published her book *Los Procedimientos Públicos Especiales de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas*. The book will be officially launched by the Centre in January 2006. Dr. Domínguez Redondo was awarded a PhD for her study of Special Procedures at the United Nations, at *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid* in 2004.



Dr. Elvira Domínguez Redondo

Dr. Adefemi Isumonah Awarded Bank of Ireland Fellowship



Dr. V Adefemi Isumonah

Dr. V. Adefemi Isumonah was awarded the Bank of Ireland Nelson Mandela Fellowship for 2005/2006. Dr. Isumonah was a lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the University of Ibadan. His research here at the Centre will focus on 'the problem with the language of minority rights advocates' particularly in relation to the minorities of the Niger Delta of Nigeria. This research is comparative in nature since it aims to investigate the language of minority rights advocates and activists in different parts of the world, the objective of which is to establish the presence or absence of a 'universal language', which he proposes is vital to the achievement of minority rights.

Presentation of the Model Transitional Codes Project

In October, the Model Codes for Post-Conflict Criminal Justice Project were presented at the 2005 Conference of the Canadian Council on International Law. The presentation was made by Vivienne O'Connor, Co-Director of the

Model Codes Project, as part of a panel on International Law and Human Security, a panel co-sponsored by the Canadian Council and the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

Successful completion of PhD for two ICHR students

Two of the Centre's PhD students successfully defended their theses in 2005.

David Keane was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled 'Caste-Based Discrimination in International Human Rights Law'. The thesis focused on an examination of the notion of 'caste' alongside 'race', and 'descent', with a particular emphasis on the manifestation of caste-based discrimination in India. On 20 October 2005, David defended his thesis before a panel consisting of Professor Patrick Thornberry (UNCERD and the initiator of CERD's General Recommendation on Caste-Based Discrimination), Professor William Schabas and Dr. Joshua Castellino (supervisor). On behalf of all in the Centre we would like to wish Dr. David Keane the best of luck in the future, starting with his Lectureship in Law at Brunel University in London, UK.

On 11 November 2005, PhD student Shane Darcy (pictured above) successfully defended his PhD thesis before a panel



(l-r) Dr. Joshua Castellino, Dr. Shane Darcy and Professor Roger Clarke

consisting of Dr. Joshua Castellino (supervisor), Professor William Schabas and Professor Roger Clark of Rutgers University School of Law, who was the external examiner. His thesis was entitled 'Collective Punishment in International Law'. Dr. Darcy is now working as a lecturer at the University of Ulster.

Publications

A list of publications by staff and students of the Irish Centre for Human Rights can be viewed at:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/publications.htm

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Human Rights Based Approaches Training Course

The Irish Centre for Human Rights and Amnesty International will hold a human rights-based approach training course from 20 to 24 February, 2006, 9am - 5pm. The course, which has been running for three years, will be held this year in Galway at the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

The training will be conducted by doctoral students and staff from the Centre along with Amnesty International staff and outside experts.

This course offers practitioners from all sectors, particularly from voluntary and

community organisations, an opportunity to develop an understanding of human rights and their application, and it provides participants with the means to implement human rights practice into their own work.

Subjects such as the evolution and development of human rights as well as the international and regional systems of human rights protection will be covered during the week long course. There will also be a particular focus on human rights best practice and implementation. For more details see www.amnesty.ie.

Human Rights Centres in Iran visited by Professor Schabas



Professor William Schabas is shown here with Professor Ardeshir Amir-Arjomand, chair holder and director, centre, and Professor Reza Eslami Somea, right.

In mid-November, the director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Professor William Schabas, undertook a week long research trip to Iran.

He visited with academics engaged in research in the area of international human rights law at several institutions.

Professor Schabas also lectured to students and faculty at the School for International Relations of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the Unesco Chair in Human Rights of Shaheed Beheshti University, the University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares University of Tehran and the University of Isfahan. Preliminary agreement was reached with some of these institutions with a view to ongoing cooperation in human rights research.

Recent Visitors to the Irish Centre for Human Rights:

Judge Navi Pillay
International Criminal Court

Professor Mark Drumbl
Washington and Lee University

Isabella Rae
FAO

Order of Canada honour for ICHR Director

Professor William A. Schabas, director of the ICHR, has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honour. The appointment was made by the Governor-General of Canada. Appointment as an Officer in the Order of Canada recognises 'a lifetime of achievement and merit of a high degree, especially in service to Canada or to humanity at large.'

Professor Schabas, who is a Canadian citizen, will be inducted into the Order of Canada by the new Governor-General, Michaëlle Jean, at a ceremony to be held in Ottawa later in the year.

Professor Schabas is distinguished for his expertise in the fields of international human rights law, international criminal law and international humanitarian law. His many books and articles, published in both English and French, have been translated into many languages, and are regularly cited by the world's leading courts and tribunals.

Recent Visitors to the Centre

On 9 September 2005 Judge Navi Pillay delivered a lecture to the new LL.M class on the progress of international criminal justice. Judge Pillay is the former acting Judge of the High Court in South Africa. She has also served as both Judge and President at the Rwanda Tribunal and is currently a Judge at the ICC.

The lunchtime seminar series began on 20 October with a lecture from Associate Professor Mark A. Drumbl from Washington and Lee University School of Law. His lecture entitled 'On Atrocity and Punishment' addressed the question of sentencing for crimes against humanity.

On 26 October, Isabella Rae, a graduate of the Centre's LL.M programme, who is currently employed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome, returned to the Centre to deliver a seminar on the right to adequate food. The lunchtime seminar series will continue in 2006.

ICHR hosts AHRI/COST Conference

Almost 80 European human rights scholars and academics assembled in Galway as the ICHR hosted the sixth annual conference of the Association of Human Rights Institute (AHRI) from 30 September to 2 October. The conference was held in conjunction with a workshop on an EU-funded research project on "Human Rights, Peace and Security in EU Foreign Policy" (COST Action A28) which deals with peacekeeping, international criminal tribunals, development cooperation and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights/OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The four key-note speakers were Prof. Nigel D. White from the University of Sheffield; Ms. Hadewych Hazelzet,

representative of the Human Rights Unit of the General Secretariat to the Council of the EU; Dr. Gordon Crawford from the University of Leeds and Bertrand Ramcharan, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (a.i.). The next AHRI conference will be hosted by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute in Vienna from 8-10 September. Until then, research within the COST project will continue to uncover new and interesting human rights developments in EU and UN activities concerning peace and security. For more information about AHRI and the COST-project, please visit the website of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights www.humanrights.uio.no/ahri/ or contact Katarina Månsson at k.mansson1@nuigalway.ie.

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The Irish Centre for Human Rights Bulletin is compiled and edited by Michelle Farrell.



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If you wish to sign up for any of the above activities or to receive information regarding the work the Centre carries out, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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