

## *Irish Centre for Human Rights*

### Irish Centre for Human Rights Coming Events:

17 September 2004

Information morning on  
refugee and asylum seeker  
Training Course  
Conference Room, ICHR,  
11.00am

Irish Centre for Human Rights:  
[www.nuigalway.ie/  
humanrights](http://www.nuigalway.ie/humanrights)  
E m a i l :  
[humanrights@nuigalway.ie](mailto:humanrights@nuigalway.ie)

The Irish Centre for  
Human Rights  
welcomes the incoming  
LL.M students and  
wishes every success to  
the departing 2003-2004  
class.

### IRISH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND UN UNIVERSITY, TOKYO HOST PRESTIGIOUS CONFERENCE ON *ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ATROCITY*

On 15-16 July the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations University, Tokyo, co-hosted a major international conference on the theme of *Accountability for Atrocity*. The conference, held at the National University of Ireland, Galway, was a huge success, boasting twenty distinguished speakers and over 150 delegates from countries the world over.

The conference was formally opened with an address from Minister of State Noel Treacy. Minister Treacy was standing in for Minister Tom Kitt, whose human rights brief necessitated that he depart for Darfur the previous day.

The first day of the conference examined the issues of prosecutorial strategy of international criminal tribunals and courts, prosecutorial discretion and independence and impartiality of international criminal tribunals. Chairs of the sessions were Professor Sharon Williams of Osgoode Hall Law School, Professor Bart Brown of Chicago Kent Law School and Judge Maureen Harding Clark of the International Criminal Court respectively. The day culminated in a



*Pictured (l-r) are William Schabas, Director Irish Centre for Human Rights, Ramesh Thakur, Senior Vice Rector, UN University, Tokyo, and Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.*

panel discussion, comprising the entire day's participants. All of the speakers were very well received, a fact which was reflected in the high level of questioning and interaction from the audience.

The conference dinner took place on the evening at the Great Southern Hotel, where the keynote address was by Lloyd Axworthy, Director of the Liu Centre, President of

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### Irish Centre for Human Rights welcomes new Bank of Ireland Fellow, Dr. Olaoluwa Abiola Olusanya



The Irish Centre for Human Rights is pleased to welcome our new post-doctoral research fellow, Dr. Olaoluwa Olusanya. Dr. Olusanya was the successful candidate for the Bank of Ireland Fellowship, replacing Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, who previously held the fellowship at the Centre.

Dr. Olusanya holds a masters in international law from the University of Cape Town and a doctorate from the University of Western Cape, South Africa. He was formerly a research fellow at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany. Olaoluwa will participate in teaching at the Centre and will also carry out research on the crime of aggression. We wish him every success in his work at the Centre.

## Progress of Model Transitional Codes Project

The Model Transitional Codes for Post Conflict Justice project nears its third anniversary this autumn. The project has come a long way since its inception in 2001, when a small group of experts met at the Irish Centre for Human Rights to commence the drafting of a set of model transitional codes.

The codes – a model criminal code, code of procedure, Detention Act and Police Act – are now in the final stages of drafting, which is occurring simultaneously with a process of wide consultation that is also being conducted. An African regional consultation meeting, originally held in Abuja, Nigeria in June, will be reconvened on September 17-18 in London. A similar consultation meeting, bringing together scholars of Islamic law, was held on 17-18 July at and the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science (ISISC), in Siracusa, Italy.

The meeting brought together leading Arab experts in Islamic law from Morocco, Egypt, the UAE, Syria, Sudan and Libya to discuss the potential utility of the transitional codes in the region and to vet the substantive provisions of the codes. Additionally, a day was set aside for a presentation and dialogue on the codes with Afghan judges and Iraqi law professors who were at ISISC for a separate symposium.

An Asian regional consultation meeting is due to be held in Bangkok on November 1-2 next, gathering experts on peacekeeping and the rule of law from the Asia-Pacific region.



*Pictured with Professor William Schabas, Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights and Vivienne O'Connor, Co-ordinator of the Transitional Codes Project, are delegates from the Islamic roundtable meeting in Sicily in July.*

Aside from these regional meetings, and ongoing consultations with practitioners and scholars in the field, consultations with various organisations are also taking place. A series of vetting meetings on the model codes was just held in Vienna from 23-25 August, at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, with a wide range of experts in criminal law and post conflict justice.

Along with the development of the model codes, the US Institute of Peace and the Irish Centre for Human Rights have worked jointly on the creation of a "User's Guide" to the codes. The User's Guide will be presented at the Office of the High Commissioner Rule of Law Tools Workshop, at the end of the month in Geneva. It will subsequently be adopted by the Office of the High Commissioner as one of its working tools for use in post conflict justice.

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humanrights@nuigalway.ie

*Staff from the Irish Centre for Human Rights participated in International Human Rights seminars in Argentina and The Netherlands*

### ICHR Staff participate in Human Rights Symposia

During August 2004, Dr. Ray Murphy travelled to Argentina to act as Course Director on the Human Rights and Peace Operations Course at the Argentine Joint Peacekeeping Operation Training Centre (CAECOPAZ), Buenos Aires, Argentina. The object of the course was to provide those involved in peace operations with an opportunity to study and practice advanced human rights lessons learned and best field practices.

The course included senior military and law enforcement officers from Argentina, Chile, Peru and Britain, as well as diplomats and members of the NGO community. The course was financed by the Canadian government, and run by the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Canada.

Also, two of the Centre's staff were invited to speak at the International Human Rights Academy summer school in Utrecht, The Netherlands from 15- 28 August 2004.

The Academy invited experts from over 14 different institutions internationally. Professor Schabas spoke on Humanitarian Law and Dr Jaichand spoke on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A large number of participants, 76 in total, attended the summer school which was organised in collaboration with the International Federation of Health and Human Rights. A parallel session on the right to health was run at the summer school.

During the summer, Professor Schabas also lectured at the summer school on international humanitarian law organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, in Warsaw. In August, he lectured on genocide and crimes against humanity at the Salzburg Summer School on international criminal law. Professor Schabas also lectured on transitional justice at the ETC summer school on human security in Graz, Austria.

*Continued from Page 1*

the University of Winnipeg and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada.

The morning session on the second day was chaired by the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Theodor Meron, and focussed on Obstacles to Accountability: Amnesties and Immunities. Speakers on the panel included Professor Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University, Professor Leila Sadat of Washington University School of Law, and Professor Jeremy Rabkin of Cornell University, who stimulated much debate amongst the audience.

The afternoon session on alternatives to prosecution was chaired by Former President of Ireland and Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. Mary Robinson opened the proceedings to a packed theatre and received a rapturous welcome. Speakers for the afternoon were Gerald Gahima, Former Procurator-General of Rwanda, Catherine Jenkins of the University of London, Ian Martin, Vice-President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, and Peter Baehr, For-



*Pictured at the recent Conference (l-r) David Crane, Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Ramesh Thakur, Senior Vice-Rector, UN University, Tokyo, and Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh, President, NUI, Galway.*

mer Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights.

This two-day conference was the first joint project undertaken by the ICHR and the UN University, Tokyo. However, if the success of this one and the demand for more conferences like this are anything to go by, it won't be the last.

*Participants included*  
*David Crane,*  
*Gerald Gahima,*  
*Leila Sadat,*  
*Mary Robinson,*  
*Maureen Harding Clark,*  
*and Theodor Meron*

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[humanrights@nuigalway.ie](mailto:humanrights@nuigalway.ie)

### 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](http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/publications.htm)

## EU-China Human Rights Project News



*Pictured above is Haifeng Zhao, Project Supervisor of the EU-China Project.*

Haifeng Zhao is to leave the Centre to take up a position as Professor of Law at Harbin University in China. Haifeng joined the Centre as Project Supervisor on the EU-

China Human Rights Network in June 2002 and has since helped to promote Network activities. Haifeng was the main driving force behind the recent publication in China of the Network's first book on Human Rights. We wish him well in his new position and hope that The Irish Centre for Human Rights will build a good relationship with Harbin University.

The next major project event is the EU-China Human Rights Network Seminar on 'Gender & Law' which is to be held in Beijing on the 26-27 September. This event will be followed by a two-day training workshop at Guizhou University where European academics will assist in the training of Chinese legal practitioners.

## Refugee Legal Clinic to hold Training Course

The Irish Centre for Human Rights will host a Coffee Morning on Friday 17 September 2004 at 11.00 am to provide information on a training course aimed at refugees and asylum seekers.

The course intends to provide a better understanding of Irish Citizenship law, the immigration status of the children of refugees and asylum seekers, deportation and the Irish political system. The training course is intended to give asylum seekers and refugees skills to help them in campaigning for their rights.

The three-part course is free to all participants and is supported by the Women's Human Rights Alliance, Galway Refugee Support Group, Irish Refugee Council and The Irish Centre for Human Rights. It is funded by the St Stephen's Green Trust.

**Recent Visitors to the  
Irish Centre for Human  
Rights:**

**Philippe Kirsch,**  
*President of the  
International Criminal  
Court*

**Jeff Halper,**  
*Director of the Israeli  
Committee Against Housing  
Demolitions*

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The Irish Centre for  
Human Rights Bulletin is  
compiled and edited by  
Edel Hughes.

**President of the International Criminal Court awarded  
Honorary Doctorate from NUI, Galway**



*Pictured left is Philippe Kirsch, President of the International Criminal Court, who received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland, Galway, on June 25. Also in the picture are (l) William Schabas, Director, Irish Centre for Human Rights, and (r) Nicolaos Strapatsas, Ph.D Candidate, Irish Centre for Human Rights. Following the conferring ceremony, Judge Kirsch visited the Irish Centre for Human Rights, where he discussed contemporary issues of international criminal law with students.*

**Summer courses on Minority Rights and the  
International Criminal Court are again a huge success**

In keeping with what is now a tradition at the Centre, this year again saw the hosting of two successful summer schools.

The Minority Rights Summer School ran from 12-19 June and this year focused on analysing the phenomenon of minority and indigenous rights violations in Asia, no easy task when one considers that Asia is without a regional system for the protection of human rights.

The course brought together a number of scholars with direct experience of working in Asian states. It was attended both by academics and activists alike and was praised highly by all concerned.

This year's course on the International Criminal Court was the most successful to date. Attended by over eighty delegates, it boasted leading experts in the field of international criminal law and provided a comprehensive introduction to the workings and law of the ICC. The course examined the



*Pictured above with Sylvester Mnananshiku at the Minority Rights Summer School are (c) Daniel Aguirre and (r) Kamram Hashemi, both doctoral candidates at the Irish Centre for Human Rights.*

background and creation of the court, its jurisdiction, the issue of complementarity, the Court's relationship with the Security Council and the rights of the accused. Again the course was excellently received.



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

Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway, Ireland.

Phone: +353-(0)91-750464,

Fax: +353-(0)91-750575,

Email: [humanrights@nuigalway.ie](mailto:humanrights@nuigalway.ie)

Website: [www.nuigalway.ie/human\\_rights](http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights)