

2007

Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates

Human Rights Brief

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Human Rights Brief. "Center News/Faculty and Staff Updates." Human Rights Brief 15, no.1 (2007): 57-59.

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington College of Law Journals & Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Human Rights Brief by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. For more information, please contact fbrown@wcl.american.edu.

CENTER NEWS/FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

CENTER NEWS

CENTER AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) CONVENE MEETING OF EXPERTS, EXPLORE THE TEACHING OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN U.S. LAW SCHOOLS

On September 28, the Center and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convened an invitation-only, one-day meeting at WCL of expert International Humanitarian Law (IHL) professors from law schools around the United States to discuss ideas for enhancing the teaching of IHL. The Center hopes this meeting will lead to the establishment of a network and mentoring scheme to support junior law professors interested in teaching IHL and may also lead to the creation of a summer IHL teaching institute. This meeting stems from the research and publication of a joint report by the Center and the ICRC entitled *Teaching IHL in U.S. Law Schools*. The report examines how International Humanitarian Law is being taught at law schools in the United States, the obstacles and impediments to better teaching of the subject and ideas for enhancing the teaching of IHL in the United States. The Center mailed the report to all deans of U.S. and Canadian law schools. Since its release, the report has been extremely well received, not only in the United States, but as a model for such a study around the world. The ICRC reports that it has received requests for the report from around the globe. To receive a copy of the report or to download a copy from the web, please visit the Center's web site at www.WCLCenterforHR.org.

UNIVERSITY OF PESHAWAR PROFESSOR ANOOSH KHAN GIVES LECTURE ON TEACHING GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE NWFP OF PAKISTAN

During the fall 2007 semester, the Center hosted Visiting Scholar Professor Anoosh Khan of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Professor Khan gave a well-attended public lecture on September 19

on "Teaching Gender and Human Rights in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan." The event took place during lunch and was co-sponsored by the WCL Women and International Law Program. Among attendees were Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Senior Adviser on Women's Empowerment Issues to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Ambassador Tahir-Kheli's deputy, Sasha Mehra, a Washington College of Law alumna. During her visit, Professor Khan attended classes at WCL and American University's main campus and conducted independent research.

Professor Khan was in residence at WCL as part of the Center's multi-year collaboration with the University of Peshawar regarding its human rights and gender studies programs. The project, which includes visits from University of Peshawar faculty to WCL and travel by WCL faculty to Pakistan, seeks to enhance the University of Peshawar's Human Rights Studies Center and provide support to strengthening the Gender Studies Department.

FRAGILE PEACE: REPORTS FROM SOUTHERN SUDAN

The Center, in conjunction with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, the American University School of Communication, the NGO ENOUGH and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Committee on Conscience presented a screening of *Fragile Peace: Reports from Southern Sudan*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion of authors and film makers working on different aspects of the Sudanese conflict. Among the panelists were **Dave Eggers**, the author of *What Is the What*, a novel about the harrowing tale of real-life hero Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee from the Sudanese civil war of the 1980s and 1990s who joined the thousands of other "Lost Boys" in fleeing the conflict; and **Karim Chrobog**, founder of 18th Street Films, a Washington, D.C.-based film company dedicated to bringing compelling stories from around the world to international audiences. His forthcoming documentary *War Child* focuses on Emmanuel Jal, a former Sudanese child

soldier who is an emerging hip-hop star with a message of peace for his battered homeland and beyond. Also on the panel was **Jen Marlowe**, a filmmaker and Pulitzer Center-sponsored journalist, who this summer accompanied three "Lost Boys" on their first return to the South Sudan villages they fled from nearly two decades ago. Her reporting with fellow Pulitzer Center journalist David Morse looks at connections between the conflict in South Sudan and other parts of Sudan, including Darfur, probing larger questions of identity and ethnicity.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER ATTACK! A LUNCH AND DISCUSSION WITH GUATEMALAN ACTIVIST RUTH DEL VALLE

The Center hosted Guatemalan human rights defender **Ruth Del Valle**, co-founder of the Movimiento Nacional por los Derechos Humanos (National Movement for Human Rights), a network of dozens of human rights institutions, and Director of the Unidad de Protección a Defensores y Defensoras de los Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit). As an activist in Guatemala, Ruth has been targeted with acts of intimidation, including having her office raided and looted in February of this year. She has worked tirelessly to promote human rights, raise awareness about increasing attacks against human rights defenders and organizations, and improve the rule of law and democratic institutions in Guatemala. She discussed the alarming increase in assaults against human rights defenders in Guatemala — an increase of more than 370 percent in the last six years. In the first half of 2007, the Guatemala Human Rights Commission registered more than 160 attacks, which would put Guatemala on track for a record year of more than 300 acts of violence against human rights defenders.

COOL HUMAN RIGHTS WORK I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

The Center, in conjunction with the Office of Career Services and the Office

of Public Interest, held a panel discussion featuring students discussing human rights work they did over their summer break and how they got their jobs. Students talked about working in the domestic and international spheres and the best and worst aspects of working abroad, and offered advice on finding a great summer experience. Presenters include students who spent their summers at the Center for Constitutional Rights (New York City), Southern Poverty Law Center (Mississippi), Farmworker Legal Services (Michigan), Save the Young (Cameroon) and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (Bosnia).

MUNCHING ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES

The Center inaugurated its annual “Munching on Human Rights” series with a presentation by Center Executive Director Hadar Harris. The series is designed to educate and engage students, especially first years, about basic issues in international human rights and humanitarian law. Held once a month, “Munching on Human Rights” provides an opportunity to informally interact with WCL’s internationally-known faculty and get a taste of international law. Other topics discussed during this fall’s series included a presentation by WCL Professor Rick Wilson on “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Inalienable Rights or New Concepts” and a panel discussion on the “Intersection of Human Rights and Intellectual Property, Business, and Environmental Law” featuring WCL Professors David Hunter and Daniel Bradlow.

CENTER PARTICIPATES IN FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WEEK

The Center participated in WCL’s first annual International Week, a week-long series of events to promote international law in an attempt to better understand what it means to live in an international community. Events ranged from lectures and panels to luncheons and socials covering topics including “CEDAW: Promoting Women’s Human Rights Across the World;” “Access to HIV/AIDS Medicine in the African & Caribbean Regions;” “Transitional Justice in Afghanistan;” “Holding Multinational Corporations Accountable in U.S. Courts;” and “Encounter Point: Jews and Palestinians.” For more information,

please visit <http://www.wcl.american.edu/ilsip/internationalweek.cfm>.

Webcasts and podcasts of most Center events are available for free download on the Center’s website at <http://wcl.american.edu/humright/center>.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Claudio Grossman, Dean of WCL, was reelected to the UN Committee against Torture in October by the State Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. He was first elected to the Committee in 2003 and, since that year, has served as the Committee’s Vice Chair. As part of a training program of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Service for Human Rights, he lectured for a course on the Inter-American and Universal Systems for the Protection of Human Rights. He also traveled to France where he participated, as a member, in the meetings of the Commission for the Control of Interpol’s Files, and to Nicaragua, where he participated in the First Meeting of International and Regional Courts of Justice in the World with the theme “Justice, Integration, and Human Rights.” In September, Dean Grossman received the Charles Norberg International Lawyer of the Year Award from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Inter-American Bar Association. He also served as a panelist on constitutional reform in the Dominican Republic at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), at an event that was cosponsored by CSIS, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, and the Inter-American Dialogue. He published a chapter on “The Velásquez Rodríguez Case: The Development of the Inter-American Human Rights System” in *International Law Stories*, and became a member of the Honorary Committee to organize the 175th anniversary of the Law Library of Congress. In August, Dean Grossman participated as a faculty member at the *International Human Rights Academy* at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. In July, Dean Grossman co-authored (with Robert Goldman, Claudia Martin, and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón) and published “Simposio: Una Revision Critica del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos: Pasado, Presente y Futuro,” (“Symposium: A Critical Review of the

Inter-American Human Rights System: Past, Present, and Future”) in *Anuario de Derechos Humanos 2007*. Dean Grossman moderated the “Session on Human Rights and Democracy” at the conference entitled “Democracy Bridge: Multilateral Regional Efforts for Promotion and Defense of Democracy in Africa and the Americas,” sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union, in Washington, D.C. He also presented a speech on “The Rule of Law, Human Rights and the Private Sector” at an informal meeting of the *North American-Chilean Chamber of Commerce* in New York. He participated in an Expert Meeting on the “United Nations Treaty Body System,” convened by Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Berlin, Germany. He also taught at the *International Institute of Human Rights* in San José, Costa Rica, and gave remarks at the Inter-American Press Association’s Hemispheric Conference on “Judicial Power, Press, and Impunity” in the Dominican Republic. Earlier in the summer, Dean Grossman presented on “International Standards for Freedom of Expression” at the *Second Meeting of Government Spokespersons of the OAS Member States*, in Montevideo, Uruguay. He served as moderator for “The Current Status of the Prosecutor’s Office before the International Criminal Court,” a presentation by International Criminal Court’s Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, at WCL’s *Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*. Dean Grossman also took part in several other Academy events, including moderating “The Future of the Inter-American System,” as well as serving as a panelist on “Strategic Litigation in the Inter-American System: the Law School Approach,” and “Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos.” His recent media activities include interviews by *CNN Spanish*.

Professor Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, Professorial Lecturer in Residence and Co-Director of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, co-hosted the *Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* during May and June of 2007. He also co-hosted the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, which brought a record number of participant teams from the Americas, as well as Europe, Asia and Africa. He delivered several lectures recently as well. In October he

delivered the lecture “International State Responsibility in Human Rights” in the First Inter-American Human Rights Congress in Bogota, Colombia. In September delivered the lecture “The Inter-American Human Rights System” in an event sponsored by the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru and the Instituto de Defensa Legal in Lima, Peru. In September, he presented “The United States Judicial Reform,” at the Instituto de Defensa Legal. In August he delivered the lecture “Inter-American Human Rights Law” in Brasilia, Brazil. In July he delivered the lecture “The Prohibition of Torture in the Inter-American System” in the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) in Geneva, Switzerland. In June he moderated the panel “Current Challenges in the National Implementation of Inter-American Human Rights System’s Standards and Decisions” at the Washington College of Law. Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón taught the course “The Inter-American Human Rights System” as visiting faculty in the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Guayaquil, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and in August taught the course “Inter-American Human Rights System” at the Human Rights Center of the University of Utrecht in Utrecht, The Netherlands. He serves as the Ad Hoc Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States. In October he attended sessions of the Court in Colombia to participate in the hearings of the case *Salvador Chiriboga v. Ecuador*. He serves as Co-Principal Investigator in a project for which funding has been recently renewed to develop and strengthen human rights legal education in universities of Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua. He has recently served as Faculty Coach of the Niagara Cup International Moot Court Competition which was the runner-up team and received additional awards for Best Advocate, Best Team Memorial, Best Petitioner Team Argument and Best Respondent Team Argument.

Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón recently published several articles and books. His article *Reparations of the Inter-American Human Rights System in Cases of Gross and Systematic Violations of Human Rights: The Colombian Cases*, appears in Volume 56 of the *American University Law Review*. He co-authored an article entitled *Simposio Una Revisión Crítica del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos:*

Pasado, Presente y Futuro, in *Anuario de Derecho Humanos*, a publication of the Universidad de Chile. He recently released Spanish and Portuguese translations of the previously released book the *Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the Inter-American System*, published by OMCT. He also contributes to the British publication *Butterworths Human Rights Cases* in his capacity as Correspondent for the Americas, and the *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* by reporting periodically on news from the Inter-American Human Rights System. Professor Rodríguez-Pinzón also made several press appearances recently. In September *La Republica* of Peru interviewed him about recent decisions of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, and about the extradition of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori from Chile to Peru. In September, he was quoted in the *Washington Times* concerning the extradition of Former Panama President Manuel Noriega to France. In September, *CNN Spanish* also interviewed him regarding the extradition of Fujimori. In October, he was interviewed for an article published by *Carta Maior* in Brazil. The interview dealt with the state of human rights in Brazil.

Richard Wilson, Professor of Law at WCL, recently served as a consultant to the Open Society Justice Initiative, *Conference on Clinical Legal Education* in Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico and on the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative’s *Working Group on Implementation of the ICCPR Index*. In mid-October, he facilitated the conference “Helping the World’s Endangered Children” at the OASIS Center in Bethesda, MD and presented “Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Inalienable Rights or New Concepts?” at the Washington College of Law. He also gave a lecture entitled “What’s New at Guantanamo? Situation: ‘Pending’” to the University of Virginia’s Amnesty International Chapter in September. He has two forthcoming publications — *A Long Strange Trip: Guantanamo and the Scarcity of International Law*, in *The Guantanamo Bar Speaks* (Mark Denbeaux ed.); and a book Review of Mark A. Drumbl’s *Atrocity, Punishment, and International Law* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2007), in *Peace & Change*.

Susana SáCouto, Director of the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) and adjunct professor at WCL, traveled to Turin, Italy, in May 2007 to participate in a *Conference on International Criminal Justice*, where senior personnel of international criminal tribunals, government representatives and NGO staff came together to discuss legacy issues related to the ad hoc criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as issues likely to come up in the 2009 Rome Statute Review Conference. In June 2007, she spoke on war crimes and crimes against humanity at the Summer School on International Criminal Law, hosted by the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies and the T.M.C. Asser Institute in The Hague, Netherlands. In July 2007, she attended the *International Association of Genocide Scholars’ Seventh Biennial Meeting* in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she presented on the “Significance, legal consequences and questions raised by the recent ICJ decision in the Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro case.” She delivered a presentation on “ICC and Africa — Lessons Learned” at a conference entitled *Justice and Accountability in the African Context: From Local Reconciliation to the International Criminal Court* held in Ballston, VA (September 17, 2007). She participated in the *Working Group on Implementation of the ICCPR Index*, hosted by the American Bar Association, where she was asked to comment on articles related to serious international crimes and gender issues. This winter, she will publish an article, with co-author Katherine A. Cleary, on *Victims’ Participation before the International Criminal Court in Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*, a journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. On October 30, 2007, she was presented with the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award by the Women’s Law Center of Maryland for her contributions to international women’s rights.

HRB