

Project Title: International Standards and UK Law and Practice

Date: 1 – 5 November 2010

Location: University of Nottingham and London

Unit: Short Courses and Training

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Project Summary

The Human Rights Law Centre delivered a week-long training course aimed at judges and lawyers from Iran. The course was designed around thematic areas related to international human rights law and the criminal justice process and focused specifically on the implementation of international and European standards in the UK legal system, as a means of providing examples of human rights law in practice. Academic seminars were supported by practical study visits to key legal institutions in Nottingham and London, including the UK Supreme Court.

Objectives

The course provided:

- Advanced knowledge on the international human rights regime in general as well as specific civil and political rights, such as freedom from torture and the right to a fair trial;
- An understanding of the UK's compliance with international human rights standards and the obligations of the UK with specific reference to the European Convention on Human Rights;
- Specialized knowledge on human rights pertaining to the adjudication of criminal justice, including the conduct of trials, pre-trial treatment of suspects, fair trial rights, imprisonment and sentencing;
- Understanding of the UK legal system by offering knowledge and practical insight into the criminal law process within the UK.

Participants

The course was attended by 12 members of the Iranian judiciary and legal practitioners.

Activities

The seminar included academic study of international human rights standards, with particular focus on civil and political rights relevant to the criminal justice process and

the UK's compliance with obligations under international and European human rights law. The classroom sessions were supplemented by study visits to British criminal justice institutions such as the UK Supreme Court, the Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute in London as well as the Nottingham Crown Court and Victim Support Service, Nottingham Magistrates' Court, HMP Nottingham and Bridewell Police Station.

Outcome

- Eight theoretical sessions conducted by renowned experts and practitioners in international human rights law
- Seven study visits to key institutions of the UK Criminal Justice system.