



Participants approach workshop venue in Erbil, Iraq



Mr. Redha Mizher provides feedback during a group exercise (Workshop 1 – August 2010)



Participants, UN staff and trainers (Workshop 2 – September 2010)

The Future of Human Rights Protection in Iraq: Empowering Civil Society

In Summer 2010, the Human Rights Law Centre was awarded a major contract by the United Nations (UN) for the delivery of training to Iraqi NGOs. The training programme, entitled *Human Rights Treaties: Maximising the Engagement of Iraqi Civil Society*, principally aims to provide the members of Iraqi civil society organisations (CSOs) with in-depth knowledge of UN human rights treaties and their monitoring bodies. Additionally, the training seeks to provide a practical understanding of standards related to human rights information gathering and reporting. The ultimate aim of the training is to empower Iraqi CSOs to produce effective shadow reports to be submitted to treaty bodies when examining Iraq's reports and follow-up to previous Concluding Observations.

This programme, funded by the Government of Finland and the European Union through the UN Development Group Iraq Trust Fund, forms part of an initiative which aims to build capacity among Iraqi CSOs in human rights monitoring and reporting so that they can effectively contribute to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) stakeholder report and to other human rights treaty body monitoring mechanisms. It is implemented by the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR).

The Centre has a long-standing commitment towards the promotion and protection of human rights in Iraq. Between 2003 and 2006, the Centre conducted a three year training and capacity building programme in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), which was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It devised and conducted two human rights training courses for over 60 officials of the MoHR and other key ministries. The training programmes focused on the national implementation of international human rights standards, including drafting a national human rights plan of action. Selected MoHR officials were then invited to a training-the-trainers course to ensure sustainability of the project. Based on its successful work with the Iraqi MoHR, the Centre undertook capacity building work with staff members of UNAMI as part of its *Consolidating the Profession: the Human Rights Field Officer* project.

Showcasing the National Implementing Legislation Database in Kampala

From 31 May - 11 June 2010, Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of the Human Rights Law Centre's International Criminal Justice Unit, and Research Assistant Annika Jones (PhD candidate) attended the first Review Conference of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Kampala, Uganda. During the two week conference, the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD), developed by HRLC for the International Criminal Court as part of the ICC's Legal Tools Project, was showcased.

Several informal side events were organised throughout the Review Conference to allow State Parties, civil society and other delegates to engage in further discussion both prior to and following the time allocated on the official agenda. Two side events were dedicated to *The Status and Further Development of the Legal Tools Project* on 3 and 4 June 2010, during which the Legal Tools including NILD were presented to representatives of State delegations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academics, receiving very positive feedback. Formal statements on the Legal Tools were read out in meetings on positive complementarity as part of the stocktaking exercise. Moreover, throughout the two weeks of the Review Conference, Dr. Bekou and Ms. Jones gave demonstrations of NILD and the rest of the Legal Tools to numerous interested stakeholders at the Legal Tools Project stand in the conference area.

For an insider's view on key developments at the Review Conference see page 4.

The Impact of the Dublin Statement: Triggering Debate on Treaty Body Reform

One of the main goals of *The Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System* adopted in November 2009 was to reinvigorate the debate around treaty body reform. Looking back on the trail of initiatives triggered by the Dublin Statement, it can be said that this goal has been achieved. HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty, convener of the Dublin Statement process, recently participated in two major related initiatives.

In June 2010, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across the world and other experts were invited by the Advisory Council on Human Rights of Morocco to a meeting on ways to further strengthen the treaty body system. Participants built on the Dublin Statement's reflections and recommendations when considering the role of NHRIs in the debate and process of treaty body reform. *The Marrakesh Statement on Strengthening the Relationship Between NHRIs and the Human Rights Treaty Body System* echoes the Dublin Statement, stressing the need for further harmonization of working methods, additional funding and preservation of the specificity of the current system. It contains recommendations for treaty bodies and UN member States, as well as commitments by NHRIs.

In September 2010 an expert meeting was convened in Poznan, Poland, bringing together nominated representatives of the treaty bodies and other specialists, to further build on the Dublin Statement and elaborate specific reform proposals. The meeting was organised by the Government of Poland, in association with the University of Poznan Human Rights Centre, with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Participants reflected on the independence of members and the enhancement of the role of treaty body Chairpersons. It was announced that OHCHR intended to facilitate consultations on reform proposals among treaty bodies with a reporting procedure until the end of June 2011.

Progress in treaty body reform debate was also discussed at the 11th Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), held in Reykjavik on 13 and 14 September 2010, where HRLC Research Associate Agnes Flues presented a paper on the subject on behalf of Prof. O'Flaherty.

Additional Dublin Statement follow up activities are being planned and will be reported in future editions of the Newsletter.



Participants at the Marrakesh meeting including Prof. O'Flaherty and other experts

Prof. Michael O'Flaherty Appointed to the Irish Joint Department of Foreign Affairs/NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights

In September 2010, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin TD, appointed HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty to the Joint Department of Foreign Affairs/NGO Standing Committee on Human Rights. The Committee meets four times per year, providing a formal framework for a regular exchange of views between the Department of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the NGO and expert community. The Committee currently has twelve NGO and ten expert members. Expert members such as Prof. O'Flaherty serve on the Committee on a voluntary basis and in an individual capacity.

HRLC Welcomes Short Course Autumn 2010 Cohort

HRLC's Autumn 2010 Short Course on International Human Rights Law began on 23 September and will run until December 2010. A diverse group of students and established practitioners from countries such as Spain, Belgium, Uganda, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Venezuela and Belarus will attend tailored seminars and LLM seminars. The course is aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of human rights standards across the world for those who are already practicing in the field and those who are entering it. The Short Course also runs in the Spring, from 6 January – 18 March 2011. The application deadline is 1 December 2010, some bursaries are available to cover tuition fees. For further details please visit our website:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcoursesandtraining>.

Human Rights in the UK – HRLC's Third Human Rights Film Festival

The Human Rights Law Centre in collaboration with the Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham, hosted the Third Human Rights Film Festival from 9 - 20 July 2010, featuring three films highlighting human rights topics relevant to the UK. Each screening benefited from the presence of the film's director, who provided insight in lively Q&A sessions. Director-protagonist David Bond, a passionate privacy advocate, introduced *Erasing David*, which analyses the erosion of privacy through new forms of data sharing technology. For the following screening, Director Chris Atkins was invited to present his latest film *Starsuckers*, which illustrates the downside of unregulated media. Director Henrique Goldman introduced the UK cinematic premiere of *Jean Charles*, which celebrates the life of Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian national shot dead by police in 2005 who mistook him for a terrorist.



Film Director Chris Atkins introducing his film Starsuckers

Thanks to the HRLC's student committee - Adam Qureshi, Ciana-Marie Pegus, Victoria Hunter and Fiona Law for their enthusiasm and dedication. The Centre extends its particular and sincere thanks to Gearóid O'Cuinn for his long-standing leadership and commitment to the Human Rights Film Series.

UN Human Rights Partnerships: Progress and Status

Prof. Mary Footer, Head of HRLC's Business, Trade and Human Rights Unit, attended the inaugural meeting of the EU-funded COST Action IS0702 Working Group 3 on *UN Human Rights Partnerships* in Copenhagen in June 2010. The meeting focused on three issues: Corporate Social Responsibility, the Private Sector, and Business and Human Rights. Mr Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, Chair, Danish Institute for Human Rights and Director of Global CSR, gave a presentation on the challenges related to business, human rights and responsible supply chain management, followed by a discussion on the theme with members of WG 3 and participants from the Working Group on Human Rights and Business under the Danish CSR Forum. The meeting concluded with a detailed plan of activities for WG 3 on 'Human Rights and Business' for 2010-2011. It focuses on strengthening human rights partnerships to meet the challenges facing the use of business Codes of Conduct on CSR, exploring the options to work through governments in order to develop their individual capacity to establish 'CSR risk free zones', and building on the State's duty to 'protect, respect and remedy', as outlined in the UN Framework, developed by John Ruggie, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Business and Human Rights.

A Close Look at the Human Rights Committee's 99th Session in Geneva

by Stacy Weld-Blundell

The United Nations Human Rights Committee (HRC) held its 99th session from 12 - 30 July 2010, in Geneva. As Student Research Assistant to HRC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty, I was fortunate enough to be present, and to assist Prof. O'Flaherty with his work in this core pillar of the international human rights system. This was a great opportunity to witness first-hand the translation of human rights theory into practice.

Foremost on the Committee's agenda was consideration of the country reports of the State Parties of Cameroon, Colombia, Estonia and Israel. The interactive dialogue between the 18 independent experts of the Committee and the government delegations brought home the importance of the critical but constructive engagement of the treaty bodies – recognising the challenges faced by many states, while firmly advocating the full alignment of national legislations with international human rights obligations. The vital contribution of NGOs and civil society was also patent, especially in drawing the attention of the HRC to specific areas of concern. Similarly, the tireless assistance of the secretariat in facilitating the work of the HRC should be loudly applauded.

Over the three weeks, the HRC considered some 30 individual communications, under the procedure established by the First Optional Protocol. In closed session, members also discussed collaboration with the other treaty bodies, and ongoing efforts to streamline and improve their *modus operandi*. Prof. O'Flaherty's work as Rapporteur for a draft General Comment on Freedom of Expression (Art. 19 ICCPR) took centre stage for two days of intense negotiations on the text.

This privileged glimpse into the practical functioning of the HRC was a truly fascinating experience, and provided an apt conclusion to a wonderful year on the LL.M in Human Rights Law at Nottingham.

HRLC Welcomes High-Level Delegation from Kano State, Nigeria

From 20 September - 2 October 2010, HRLC delivered a tailored training course on *Internet Regulation from a Human Rights Perspective* for 13 government officials from the Nigerian Kano State. The delegation comprised the Kano State Attorney General H.E. Alhaji Aliyu Umar, seven High Court judges, the Kano State Commissioner for Science and Technology and the Commissioner for Planning and Budget and other high level officials. The course offered a comprehensive overview of intellectual property law, internet regulation and governance, and information technologies in the criminal justice process. Particular attention was dedicated to the protection of children on the internet, main concerns related to freedom of expression and defamation on the internet, as well as threats to the right to privacy. Sessions were delivered by academic experts, legal professionals and advocates from the NGO community.

The Nigerian Kano State is in the process of developing its own legislation for the regulation of the internet. The HRLC training course will empower the Nigerian officials to draft effective national legislation to protect vulnerable internet users and adequately regulate cybercrime and defamation through the internet.



Prof. Harris in conversation with the Kano State Attorney General H.E. Alhaji Aliyu Umar

A New Policy Report on Mental Disability Law in Africa Published

HRLC is pleased to announce the launch of a new report, *Reforming Mental Disability Law in Africa: Practical Tips and Suggestions*, by Prof. Peter Bartlett (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Professor of Mental Health, University of Nottingham School of Law) and Vanja Hamzic (PhD candidate, King's College London). The report forms part of the HRLC project, *Designing Mental Health Law in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Lesotho*, and provides examples of best practice, suggestions for future legislative reform initiatives and guidance for legislation and policy related to the provision of services for persons with mental disabilities in Africa. The project was generously funded by the Nuffield Foundation and administered by HRLC.

HRLC Welcomes Visiting Scholar from Turkey



Prof. Harris welcomes Dr. Karaosmanoglu to HRLC

Dr. Fatih Karaosmanoglu, Professor of International Relations at the Faculty of Security Sciences of the Police Academy in Ankara, Turkey, visited the Human Rights Law Centre between August - October 2010.

Dr. Karaosmanoglu completed his LLM in International Law at the University of Nottingham in 1992 under the supervision of HRLC Co-Director Prof. David Harris. He currently teaches international relations, human rights and foreign policy in Ankara.

In 2010 Dr. Karaosmanoglu obtained a research grant from the Turkish Government to conduct research in the United Kingdom. Prof. Harris invited him to conduct his research at HRLC. In the three months he spent at HRLC, Dr. Karaosmanoglu investigated themes related to the remedy by which individuals may apply to the Turkish Constitutional Court, which is a new national procedure for the protection of human rights introduced in September 2010. In his research, Dr. Karaosmanoglu concentrated on various countries with different national systems, including the UK, France, Germany, and Turkey.

Bridging the Impunity Gap

Positive Complementarity and Other Key Developments in Kampala

Twelve years after the creation of the first permanent International Criminal Court and eight years since the entry into force of its Statute, the first ever Review Conference took place in Kampala, Uganda. Dr. Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit, represented the Centre at the Review Conference

The Review Conference provided the opportunity to address some of the unresolved issues of Rome, namely, the definition of aggression, and to reflect on the successes and failings of the Court following the first few years of its operation. The definition of aggression was discussed at a dedicated working group, while the reflection process occurred during the 'stock-taking exercise', which focused on four themes: the impact of the Rome Statute and system on victims and affected communities; peace and justice; cooperation; and complementarity. Numerous side events complemented the formal agenda and as with every major inter-governmental conference, the negotiations continued in numerous informal meetings.



Dr. Bekou and Ms Jones addressing the Review Conference

The most important and historical outcome of the Review Conference was the adoption of the definition of aggression on the last day of the conference by consensus (Resolution RC/Res.6 of 11 June 2010). The crime of aggression had been included in the ICC's mandate since its establishment in 1998 (Art. 5 ICC Statute), but ICC jurisdiction had been dormant until the adoption of a definition. The definition consists of two paragraphs, the first establishing that the crime of aggression 'means the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations', the second providing a detailed seven-paragraph enumeration of acts that qualify as an act of aggression.



The main hall of the ICC Review Conference in Kampala

The Review Conference also amended the war crimes provision (Article 8) of the Rome Statute (RC/Res. 5 of 10 June 2010), which now includes the prohibition of the use of poison or poisoned weapons, gases, liquids, etc. and of expanding bullets. This amendment is of symbolic nature and unlikely to lead to prosecutions in practice.

Of particular interest and importance for the Human Rights Law Centre were the discussions on complementarity during the stocktaking exercise, including the prominence that positive complementarity has acquired in States' agendas.

The ICC's unique complementarity regime places a primary obligation on States to investigate and prosecute international crimes. It does so by limiting ICC jurisdiction to situations where States are 'unwilling' or 'unable' genuinely to investigate and prosecute cases of sufficient gravity to justify action by the Court.

HRLC has developed a groundbreaking National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD) as part of the ICC's Legal Tools Project. NILD can assist States in overcoming the first challenge complementarity poses, namely the lack of adequate national implementing legislation. NILD enables States to compare implementation approaches adopted by different jurisdictions



Dr. Bekou demonstrating NILD to a State delegate

thus facilitating the drafting of a State's legislation. NILD also provides paragraph-level analysis highlighting facilitative national approaches.



The People's Space of the Review Conference

The ICC's Legal Tools, of which NILD forms part, constitute examples of 'positive complementarity', as recognised also in the Focal Points' Paper on *Compilation of examples of projects aimed at strengthening domestic jurisdictions to deal with Rome Statute Crimes*. Although the term 'positive complementarity' was originally used to refer to the ICC's role in the construction of national capacity, it soon became apparent that the Court does not have the resources to fulfil this task. At the Review Conference positive complementarity came to describe the involvement of States, international organisations and civil society in strengthening justice at the national level. By aiding States to draft effective implementing legislation, NILD supports the first step on the path towards efficient national prosecution of core international crimes. The Legal Tools more generally can be used by States, NGOs, civil society and academics alike to enhance national capacity in the fight against impunity. Access to the Legal Tools, including NILD, is available from the ICC's website at: <http://icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC/Legal+Texts+and+Tools/Legal+Tools+Extern/>

Free and Fair Elections in Sudan?

Former HRLC Short Course student on electoral observation mission in Sudan



Ms. Pallanch examines voters' lists in Sudan

Chiara Pallanch participated in HRLC's International Human Rights Law Short Course in 2009-10 and was a very active collaborator of the Centre. She has worked extensively on human rights and political issues in Sudan, both for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and for Amnesty International. An Italian national, she holds a Masters degree in Human Rights from the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa. Currently, she is researching issues of accountability of non-state armed groups and will be soon deployed for OHCHR to Kyrgyzstan. In April 2010, Chiara returned to Sudan as an electoral observer for The Carter Center to monitor Sudan's first competitive elections since 1986. HRLC had the pleasure to discuss this experience with her.

What is your overall impression of the political climate in Sudan? What have these elections achieved?

This year and the next are crucial for the political future of Sudan. The 2010 elections marked an important juncture in the process of democratic transformation begun in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the former rebel group of Southern Sudan, and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), led by President Omar al-Bashir. The CPA not only ended 22 years of civil war between North and South but



Counting ballots in El Fasher

also charted a six year period of transformation and democratisation, addressing the established wealth and power structures of the country. This transition period will culminate in the 2011 referendum, when the people of Southern Sudan will decide between unity with the central government or secession.

Hopes were high that the 2010 elections would cement Sudan's democratic transformation, facilitate political liberalisation, and support a nascent multi-party development. In the wake of the April elections, however, such hopes appear misplaced.

Opposition parties in Sudan have been mostly erased from the political arena. The strong majority secured by the NCP in the National Assembly will allow the party to pass whatever legislation it sees fit. At the level of the State assemblies, the two dominant forces, the NCP in the North and the SPLM in the South, have reinforced their grip on power in their respective strongholds. Post-election Sudan is thus better classified as a two-party State, where democracy takes a back seat to the regimes of SPLM and NCP. Secession of the South now seems the only realistic scenario.



Voters waiting outside a polling station in El Fasher

The 2010 elections were far from being the awaited first step in the democratic transformation of Sudan. In Khartoum and Northern Sudan, as Human Rights Watch confirmed, the NCP cracked down on opponents, activists, and journalists. In Southern Sudan, the SPLM sought to silence opposition to secession. Meanwhile, the on-going civil conflict and worsening humanitarian situation in Darfur is slowly being de-emphasized in favour of the southern self-determination referendum.

You have been an election observer with The Carter Center. What is the verdict? Were these free and fair elections?

The Carter Center's preliminary assessment indicates that the elections fell short of international standards and Sudan's own obligations for genuine elections.

The electoral process was marred by flaws and irregularities that undermined its integrity at different levels. There were multiple areas where the elections lacked critical safeguards and transparency, opening the door to manipulation. In some cases, there was a complete denial of or limited access for national and international observers at particularly vulnerable stages of the process.

Beyond the technical issues, serious incidents of intimidation, arbitrary detention and election-related violence were reported by The Carter Center and others. Of particular concern were restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, particularly in northern Sudan.

The situation in Darfur was so problematic that The Carter Center concluded that the environment was not conducive to acceptable elections. In addition to the state of emergency, repression of civil liberties, and ongoing conflict, much of the population of Darfur were unable to exercise their right to vote as they were disenfranchised.

How did the knowledge and experience you gained during HRLC's Short Course help you in your assignment as election observer?

My professional work as election observer benefited greatly from HRLC's Short Courses. International election observation monitors a range of civil and political rights, since genuine democratic elections cannot be achieved unless a wide array of human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed. For example, in assessing the electoral process against Sudan's international treaty obligations, I applied a lot of the knowledge gained in HRLC seminars and assigned readings on the right to freedom of expression and assembly, and the rights to personal security. This gave me the confidence to conduct effective observation and contributed to producing a solid analysis of violations.



Ms. Pallanch in conversation with party agents in Sudan

HRLC Summer School 2010 - Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms

In June 2010, HRLC ran a week long Summer School on *Protecting Human Rights through United Nations Mechanisms*. The Summer School was attended by 35 participants from various professional backgrounds, including experts and specialists working for international governmental organisations and national human rights institutions. They came from 28 countries worldwide.

The course focused on the practical and applied understanding of the UN human rights protection system. Dr. Bertrand Ramcharan, former UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered a keynote presentation on the work and procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. Susan Matthews, Secretary of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, facilitated a discussion on the challenges faced by treaty bodies. Tanya Ward, Deputy Director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and Mervat Rishmawi, Former Legal Adviser for Amnesty International, provided an overview of the treaty body reporting procedure from an NGO's perspective. Marie-Eve Friedrich, Associate Human Rights Officer of the Petitions Team of OHCHR analysed the individual communications procedure of the treaty bodies. Daria Davitti, former Human Rights Officer with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) spoke about the professional identity of a human rights field officer. Bela Kapur, Conflict Adviser with the UK's Stabilisation Unit, spoke about the challenges of human rights and peacekeeping in the field. Prof. George Ulrich, Rector of the Riga Graduate School of Law, reflected with participants upon the ethics of human rights work. Rachel Brett, Human Rights and Refugees Representative of the Quaker UN Office in Geneva, discussed the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.



Summer School participants enjoying Nottingham

With the active participation and the sharing of professional experiences in human rights diplomacy, the course concluded with dynamic contributions to an open topic panel discussion chaired by Prof. O'Flaherty, with input from many members of the training team.

This Summer School will run on the same theme from 13 June to 17 June 2011. For further details, please visit: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/SummerSchool

Implementation and Follow-Up of Human Rights Decisions

Two US-based institutions will soon publish major reports on UN human rights protection. The Brookings Institution report addresses the implementation of Human Rights Council Special Procedures recommendations, while the Open Society Justice Initiative will release a study on the implementation of international and regional human rights decisions. The two institutions are planning a conference in Geneva in late November on the topics, together with UPR-Watch (a Canadian NGO) and in collaboration with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty served on the Advisory Board for the Brookings Institution study, provided commentary for the Open Society report, and will address the Geneva Conference.

HRLC Welcomes Chevening Scholar from Belarus

Dr. Yauheni Bahdanau joined the Human Rights Law Centre in September 2010 for one year as a Chevening Scholar. He previously worked in the Research and Practical Centre of the Belarusian General Prosecutor's Office where he provided criminological expertise for proposed laws. Dr. Bahdanau received his PhD from Belarusian State University in 2003; it was the first PhD in judicial studies awarded in Belarus. His main research interests include judicial studies, criminal law, criminal procedure and criminology. At HRLC he is carrying out a study of compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights in Belarusian legislation.

The Future of Human Rights in the UK



Prof. O'Flaherty addressing NIHRC's Conference in Belfast

On 16 September 2010, HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty addressed the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Annual Conference in Belfast, on the topic 'Regionalism and Bills of Rights.' The conference marked the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Act (1998) coming into force and brought together UK national human rights institutions, government, lawyers and activists. Its purpose was to further the discussion started by the government on the future of human rights in the UK and to identify the challenges and opportunities presented by this debate. Other speakers included the heads of each of the human rights commissions in the United Kingdom, the FRA Director, Morten Kjaerum, and prominent human rights lawyers from the UK and elsewhere.

Human Rights in British Foreign Policy

On 15 September 2010, Foreign Secretary William Hague delivered a major foreign policy speech on "Britain's Values in a Networked World". This was the third speech in a series of four outlining the Coalition Government's strategy to protect British security, prosperity and people, working with third countries to reinforce the rules-based international system in support of British values. He said, "There will be no downgrading of human rights under this Government and no resiling from our commitments to aid and development. Indeed I intend to improve and strengthen our human rights work".

The Human Rights Law Centre is proud of its long-standing partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Since November 2008 the Centre has delivered introductory human rights training to FCO diplomatic staff, both headquarters based and from foreign postings. High quality, professional human rights training is essential for the achievement of Britain's foreign policy goals.

HRLC Welcomes Two Training Cohorts from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand

In June 2010, two delegations from the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand visited Nottingham to attend tailored-made seminars at the Human Rights Law Centre. The first group of 37 Thai judges participated in a seminar on *Labour Law: International and UK Standards* from 1 - 17 June. The delegation comprised senior judges from the Supreme Court of Thailand, including the President of the Labour Law Division, as well as judges from the Central Labour Court and the regional Labour Courts. The course comprised two weeks of training at the University of Nottingham, covering topics such as employment and working conditions, termination of employment, collective employment law and recognition of trade unions. The sessions were taught by academic experts and experienced practitioners. Four days of visits to relevant institutions in London complemented the taught curriculum. The group met with Judge Peter Clark at the Employment Appeal Tribunal and Judge Nick Wikeley at the Upper Tribunal, representatives of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, employment law barristers of 11 King's Bench Walk, one of London's leading law firms, and Hannah Reed, Senior Rights Officer of the Trade Union Congress. A visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Annual Reception of the Anglo-Thai Society in the House of Lords completed the London programme.

The second group of 46 judges and court officials participated in a seminar on *International Human Rights Standards, Juvenile and Family Law* from 21 June - 2 July 2010. The course provided an overview of international human rights standards, with a particular focus on the criminal justice process and issues related to children's and women's rights. Visits to the Magistrates and Crown Court as well as to HMP Lowdham Grange complemented the academic sessions, providing insight on the UK legal process in practice.



Thai judges and court officials in Nottingham, Summer 2010

Promoting the Right to Education: The Work of the Hilde Back Education Fund

Once you have a society that is ignorant, it becomes the breeding ground for violence, it becomes the breeding ground for intolerance. (quote from A Small Act).

A Small Act, an unexpected movie hit of 2010, has been winning prizes at film festivals over the world. It chronicles the remarkable life story of Chris Mburu and the inspiring work of Hilde Back. In the mid 1970s, Hilde Back and a small group of Swedish citizens participated in an international sponsorship programme helping Kenyan children from poor families pay for their education. One of those beneficiaries was Chris Mburu. Mr. Mburu was able to proceed with school and to eventually study law at the University of Nairobi and later at Harvard University, where he obtained a Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law. Mr. Mburu has since been working for different international organisations outside Kenya, including the United Nations.

In September 2001, Mr. Mburu and a team of Kenyan educationists created a small scholarship foundation aimed at providing funds and other assistance to bright children whose chances of pursuing education are diminished by poverty. The foundation was named after Ms. Hilde Back.

HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Hilde Back Education Fund. For more information on the film, visit: <http://www.asmallact.com/>

Prof. O'Flaherty Addresses the International Parliamentary Union

On 6 October HRLC Co-Director Prof. O'Flaherty addressed the International Parliamentary Union's (IPU) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in Geneva. He reflected on the role of parliamentarians in the promotion of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and on the freedom of expression of parliamentarians. Established in 1889 and with headquarters in Geneva, the IPU - the oldest multilateral political organization in the world - currently brings together 155 national parliaments and nine associated regional assemblies. The meeting was chaired by the Rt Hon Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, Chair of the British Group IPU and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

HRLC Talent Builder Interns and Summer Interns 2010

HRLC continues its involvement with the Talent Builder Internship programme, spearheaded by the University of Nottingham's Centre for Career Development. In September 2010, HRLC welcomed three interns to assist with a number of projects until mid November 2010. Sofia Lambrianidou is assisting the International Criminal Justice Unit with the development of the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD). Amy Weatherburn is providing editorial assistance to the Publications Unit and general support to HRLC projects, and Gillian Da Costa is incorporating her previous experience in communications and public relations to contribute to HRLC's website and their new Facebook fan page.

During the summer of 2010, HRLC's work greatly benefited from the support and input of LLM students Ciana-Marie Pegasus (public relations and communications intern), Nancy Williams (research assistance for reports and bulletins for the Fundamental Rights Agency; web-development assistance), Miléna Castellnou (International Criminal Justice Unit) and Amy Weatherburn (research assistance and support to HRLC projects).



Prof. Harris with HRLC's Summer Interns 2010

New Short Course on Criminal Justice and Human Rights

The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to announce the launch of its new Short Course on Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

Aim of the course:

Human rights have become central to criminal proceedings in the UK and across the globe. This Short Course is designed as advanced study for criminal justice professionals involved in the development or implementation of criminal justice policy, including police officers, prosecutors, legal defence representatives, government officials and administrators. It is also open to graduates in law, criminology or a related discipline.

Content of the course:

Participants will attend a term-long module on criminal justice policy; professional ethical practice; and human rights in practice in the police, prosecutions, trials, sentencing, the probation service and prisons. These will be supplemented by visits to criminal courts and a prison. Furthermore, participants will receive instruction in relevant study techniques and sources, including the use of information technologies in criminal justice and human rights research and the use of library resources. A seminar is given on the terminology and use of international human rights instruments that govern criminal justice. Welcome and networking events are organised within the induction programme.

In addition to the term-long module, participants will be able to choose three modules from the LLM in Criminal Justice and Human Rights, which may include:

- Imprisonment and Human Rights
- Counter-Terrorism and International Law
- The European Convention on Human Rights
- Criminal Justice and Globalisation
- Foundations of International Criminal Justice
- International Criminal Law: Substantive Law and Process.

Faculty of the course:

The Short Course on Criminal Justice and Human Rights lecturers are carefully selected to include a balance of criminal justice practitioners and academic experts, providing practical experience and theoretical insight into the subjects they teach. Their hands-on experience provides a unique environment for exchange and dialogue.

Lecturers from the University of Nottingham School of Law:

- Professor Paul Roberts, Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence
- Professor Dirk Van Zyl Smit, Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law
- Professor Vanessa Munro, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies
- Professor Nigel White, Head of HRLC's Security and Human Rights Unit and Professor of Public International Law
- Professor Alistair Mowbray, Professor of Public Law
- Dr Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit and Associate Professor in Law
- Guest lecturers from criminal justice practice.

Dates and deadlines:

The Short Course runs in the Spring term over ten weeks. Application is competitive, so early application is encouraged.

Course dates: 6 January - 18 March 2011

Application deadline: 1 December 2010

Fees:

International participants: £2,950.00 (3 months)
EU and UK participants: £1,950.00 (3 months)

Application:

Interested participants need to provide the following documents:

Detailed up-to-date CV;

500 word statement indicating why you should be offered a place on the course;

Brief details about means of funding;

Reference;

If applicable, proof of English language knowledge (6.5 overall score in a British Council English Language Test or TOEFL score of 600).

For more information please contact Kobie Neita,

Tel: +44 (0)115 84 66309, Fax: +44 (0)115 84 66 579,

kobie.neita@nottingham.ac.uk or visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/CJHR.

In Brief...



The Human Rights Law Centre is pleased to present its official Facebook fan page, featuring news, upcoming events and programmes. It will also serve as a point of connection for human rights practitioners, academics, students and collaborators across the world.

Serving as a platform for discussion on diverse human rights issues and a beacon highlighting important reports and announcements on the HRLC website, the fan page has grown rapidly over the last few months.

Future announcements will include screenings for the Human Rights Film Series, current and upcoming projects and events, and details about new HRLC publications.

For all this and more, sign up to the fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/hrlcentre> or find us via the website www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc

Contact Details

Human Rights Law Centre
School of Law
University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham, NG7 2RD
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)115 846 6309
Fax: +44 (0)115 846 6579

Human Rights Law Centre Co-Directors:
Professor David J Harris, LLM PhD CMG
Professor Michael O'Flaherty, BCL BPH STB MA
M Phil FRSA Solicitor

HRLC Coordinator: Bailey Grey
HRLC Newsletter Editor: Agnes Flues

Website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hrlcentre>

