



Offered by Lawyers Rights Watch Canada and UBC Continuing Studies

International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Lectures

Learn about the critical role of international human rights and humanitarian law to global peace and human dignity.

This four-lecture series provides information about the development, purpose and substance of international human rights and humanitarian law and its application to current humanitarian crises. Each lecture offers a unique opportunity to engage with a distinguished expert on the law and its application to specific issues of global concern.

The lecture series is motivated by the fact that lack of knowledge of these laws, at all levels, remains an impediment to meaningful enforcement and the resulting gap between law and practice has left millions unprotected from military aggression and grave human rights abuses and has ensured impunity for violators.

The goal of the lecture series is to raise public understanding of legal issues essential to human well-being and to improve participants' skills to engage in public debate and advocate for enhanced implementation and enforcement of human rights and humanitarian law, domestically and globally.

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC) is a committee of Canadian lawyers who promote human rights and the rule of law internationally by providing support to advocates in danger because of their work as human rights defenders. LRWC is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

This lecture series is the first step towards the development of a Canadian Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law offering free public education.

There is no greater responsibility of citizens in a democracy than to self-govern. This includes becoming informed on critical issues and engaged in demanding of governments that they act honourably. Human rights, at home and abroad, should be at the top of all of our policy lists, and this important series of public discussions is a call to action.

– **Stephen Owen**, Vice-President, External and Community Relations, University of British Columbia

4 Saturdays: Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 15 and Apr 19, 7-9 pm (doors open at 6 pm); UBC Robson Square Theatre.

FREE. Seating limited. Call 604-822-1444 to preregister for one or more lectures.

Jan 26

The Development of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

UP 460 W08A

THE HONOURABLE CLAIRE L'HEUREUX-DUBÉ



Mme Claire L'Heureux-Dubé traces the development of international human rights and humanitarian law from the early days of the League of Nations, to the formation of the United Nations and the historic signing of the UN Charter, to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and on to the creation of the major human rights instruments and their incorporation into domestic legal systems around the world. She relates the vision and legacy of those who strove through these law reforms to create a better world based on peace and justice.

THE HONOURABLE CLAIRE L'HEUREUX-DUBÉ, an eminently distinguished Canadian jurist and an internationally respected lecturer on human rights, was appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada in 1987, after having served for 14 years as a judge in the Quebec Superior and Appeal courts. Mme L'Heureux-Dubé's contributions to Canadian jurisprudence and legal debate have been acknowledged by honorary doctoral degrees from 11 Canadian universities and many awards, including the Order of Canada and the National Order of Quebec. Since her retirement from the Supreme Court of Canada in 2002, she has been active in many human rights organizations and initiatives around the world.

Feb 23

Bush's War on the Rule of Law

UP 460 W08B

MARJORIE COHN



Professor Cohn analyzes the six major ways the Bush administration has violated US and international law. Since 11 September 2001, the Bush administration has used the "war on terror" as an excuse for the illegal invasion of other countries, torture, illegal spying on Americans, summary executions and willful killing, the Guantánamo Gulag and refusal to execute the law. Professor Cohn will also discuss political responses and explain legal remedies.

MARJORIE COHN lectures throughout the world and provides legal and political commentary on human rights and US foreign policy. She is president of the National Lawyers Guild and a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Professor Cohn's books include *Cowboy Republic: Six Ways the Bush Gang Has Defied the Law* and *Cameras in the Courtroom: Television and the Pursuit of Justice*. She is a contributing editor to *Jurist*, *Guild Practitioner* and *MWC News*, and a frequent columnist for *AlterNet*, *HuffingtonPost*, *Counterpunch*, *CommonDreams*, *GlobalResearch*, *OpedNews*, *AtlanticFreePress*, *AfterDowningStreet*, *Buzzflash* and *ZNet*. Professor Cohn was named one of San Diego's top attorneys in academics for 2005 and 2006, and was awarded the 2007 Bernard E. Witkin, Esq. Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Law. She has participated in delegations to Iran, Cuba, China and Yugoslavia.

Mar 15

Security Integration and Rights Disintegration in the War on Terror

UP 460 W08C

MAUREEN WEBB



After 9/11, the US pressured other states to integrate their police, intelligence and military with US security systems and policy. Canada has been in the forefront of complying states. Maureen Webb examines how measures such as Project AO Canada (which left Maher Arar and other Canadians exposed to torture), the Anti-terrorism Act, the Smart Border Agreement, the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the Safe Third Country Agreement, the Security Certificates system, global surveillance initiatives and the military mission in Afghanistan have resulted in Canada violating international legal obligations to refugees, immigrants, criminal suspects, prisoners of war and Canadian citizens. Ms Webb will also discuss consequences for Canadians and the cost to democracy.

MAUREEN WEBB is a Canadian lawyer who writes and speaks on the legal implications of post 9/11 surveillance and security changes to Canadian law. She is the author of *Illusions of Security: Global Surveillance and Democracy in the Post 9-11 World*. She was counsel on some of the first constitutional cases heard under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and has participated in cases before the House of Lords and Privy Council in the UK and before the US District Court for the District of Columbia. In 2001 she was a Fellow at the Human Rights Institute at Columbia University. She is co-chair of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, a founder of the International Campaign Against Mass Surveillance and a director of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada.

Apr 19

Transferring to Torture: Canada, Human Rights, and Detainees

UP 460 W08D

MICHAEL BYERS



Michael Byers analyzes the role of the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan within the context of applicable Canadian and international law including the Geneva Conventions, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Act. Dr. Byers will examine whether the Canadian practice of transferring people detained in Afghanistan to the custody of US and/or Afghan authorities, thereby exposing them to the risk of torture, denial of due process or other abuses, violates these laws.

MICHAEL BYERS holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at UBC. Prior to 2005, he was Professor of Law and Director of Canadian Studies at Duke University; from 1996-1999 he was a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford University. Professor Byers writes and teaches on issues of military force, terrorism, human rights, international law, and Canada US relations. He is the author of *War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict, Custom, Power and the Power of Rules and Intent for a Nation: What is Canada For?*. He is the editor of *The Role of Law in International Politics* and *United States Hegemony and the Foundations of International Law*. Dr. Byers is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*, *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Star*.