



Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

SIDE EVENT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S 69TH SESSION
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN
OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

THE ROLE OF FORENSIC AND MEDICAL SCIENCES IN THE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND OTHER ILL- TREATMENT

The work of forensic scientists plays a key role in helping States address impunity for acts of torture and other ill-treatment by bolstering their efforts to fulfill their obligation under international law to investigate, prosecute, and punish all such acts. Forensic medical evidence is one of the most powerful tools available to victims to corroborate allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and is crucial to States' efforts to meet other legal obligations ranging from the exclusion of torture-tainted evidence during proceedings to non-refoulement and the provision of reparations and rehabilitation to victims.

Based on the latest thematic report by **Special Rapporteur Juan E. Mendez (SRT) on the role of forensic and medical sciences in the investigation and prevention of torture and other ill-treatment (A/69/387)**, the side-event seeks to sensitize member States to the important role played by forensic science in the fight against torture and ill-treatment, and to ways, in which they can contribute to supporting improvements in the quality of investigations by effectively documenting torture in full compliance with the standards contained in the Istanbul Protocol. The side-event also intends to highlight the importance of establishing standards for the effective use of expert forensic evidence in legal investigations, including procedural safeguards, and of sharing of scientific knowledge and technological advances.

The panel will discuss practical challenges and the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur's new report and participants will have a valuable opportunity to provide input on both the substantive and the advocacy levels, offering strategies for member States, UN mechanisms, and civil society organizations on how to best raise awareness regarding the essential role of forensic sciences and the reinforcement and implementation of the Istanbul Protocol.

**Representatives of Member States, UN agencies and
civil societies are cordially invited**

THE EVENT WILL BE BROADCASTED THROUGH
"LIVE WEBCAST" AT
<http://webtv.un.org/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVENT PLEASE VISIT THE ANTI-
TORTURE INITIATIVE'S WEBSITE AT: www.antitorture.org

**WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER
2014
1.15-2.45 PM; Conference Room 7**

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

H.E. Mr. Erik Laursen

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Olivier Zehnder

Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

PANELISTS:

Mr. Juan E. Méndez

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or Punishment

Sir Nigel Rodley

Chair of the the Human Rights Committee (HRC) and former Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Mr. Steen Holger Hansen

MD, Deputy Chief Forensic Pathologist, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen

MODERATED BY

Ms. Miriam Reventlow

Director of Legal and Advocacy Team, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

The side-event is collaborative and organized by the Special Procedures Branch of OHCHR in cooperation with the IRCT, American University Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law's Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI) and cosponsored by Switzerland and Denmark, Amnesty International (AI).

Following presentations by the panelists and a brief introduction to the civil society-led "Istanbul Protocol Plan of Action," an interactive dialogue with participants will take place.

The event is open to the public (registration 3 days in advance required for participants without UN badges) and will be broadcasted through "webcast".

UN identification badges are required for entry. Interested guests without a UN identification badge should send an email to vasic@un.org before 12pm (New York time) on Tuesday, 21 October 2014.