



## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

SIDE EVENT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S 70TH SESSION  
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL,  
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

### THE EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF THE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

The absolute and non-derogable prohibition against torture and other ill-treatment in international law cannot be territorially limited. In his latest thematic report on **the extraterritorial application of the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and attendant obligations (A/70/303)**, **Special Rapporteur Juan E. Méndez (SRT)** reminds States that denying responsibility for acts of torture or other ill-treatment committed, sponsored, or effectively controlled by their agents abroad creates dangerous incentives to avoid international legal obligations and results in serious breaches of international law. States are required to ensure a broad range of attendant positive or preventive obligations whenever they bring person within their jurisdiction by exercising control or authority over an area, place, individual, or transaction abroad – this includes actions taken in their own jurisdictions to prevent such acts in different jurisdictions.

The side-event seeks to sensitize Member States to the importance of recognizing their fundamental extraterritorial obligations, and to ways in which they can fulfill them in light of the increasingly globalized and transnational nature of their activities, such as cross-border military operations and the use of force abroad; anti-migration operations; and renditions to justice and extraordinary renditions, among many other practices. It will also help explain the nature of an array of legal obligations imposed by the Convention Against Torture – such as the obligation of non-refoulement, to apply the exclusionary rule, to provide redress to victims, and to criminalize and investigate, prosecute, and punish every act of torture, including aspects of universal jurisdiction – from an extraterritorial perspective.

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 the extraterritorial application of the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and attendant obligations in international law.

**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](http://www.antitorture.org)

**WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2015**  
**10:00 AM – 12.00 PM**  
**Conference Room F**

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

**H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen**  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

#### PANELISTS

**Mr. Juan E. Méndez**  
Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**Mr. Jamil Dakwar**, Director, American Civil Liberties Union Human Rights Program

**Ms. Georgette Gagnon**, International Human Rights Lawyer; Former Director, Human Rights for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

**Ms. Margaret L. Satterthwaite**, Director, New York University Law Global Justice Clinic

**Ms. Naureen Shah**, Director, USA Security and Human Rights Program, Amnesty International

#### MODERATOR

**Mr. Jonathan Horowitz**, Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative

*The side-event is collaborative and organized by American University Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law's Anti-Torture Initiative in collaboration with the Special Procedures Branch of OHCHR and cosponsored by Denmark, the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, and the Open Society Justice Initiative.*

*Following a brief presentation of the Special Rapporteur's new thematic report and presentations by the panelists, 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 [anicoles@wcl.american.edu](mailto:anicoles@wcl.american.edu) before Sunday, October 18, 2015.