



Welcome to IADL,  
International Association of Democratic Lawyers

# United Nations Activities Bulletin

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

In Consultative Status with ECOSOC and Represented at UNESCO and  
UNICEF

[www.iadllaw.org](http://www.iadllaw.org)

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### **IADL members join in sadness and outrage at killing of NUPL Philippines lawyer Benjamin Tarug Ramos**

IADL members join in sadness and outrage at the killing of people's lawyer Benjamin Tarug Ramos, a founding member of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) Philippines, and Secretary General of the Negros Occidental Chapter. NUPL is a member association of the IADL. Attorney Ramos was shot dead by a gunman on a motorcycle. Philippine police had falsely tagged him as member of the underground armed movement. He is the 34<sup>th</sup> lawyer killed under the 2-year administration of President Duterte. Please see the IADL website homepage at [www.iadllaw.org](http://www.iadllaw.org) for an article in remembrance of Attorney Ramos by his friend Edre Olalia, NUPL President and IADL bureau member.

### **NEW YORK REPORT**

*IADL Alternate Representative Beth S. Lyons provided the below report on her United Nations activities during the last period.*

*During the last period, Alternate Representative Claire Gilchrist handled the accreditation process for the IADL delegation to the Assembly of States Parties and produced this abridged Bulletin.*

#### **Report from Alternate Representative Beth S. Lyons**

1. My work for IADL in the past period continues to be circumscribed by my ICC trial obligations as a Co-Counsel (Defence) in the *Ongwen* case. Since June 2018, I am mostly based in the Hague and unavailable to attend any UN or UN related activities in New York.

2. *Assembly of States Parties (ASP)* – The ASP takes place in the Hague during the week of 5-12 December. I have focused on a) doing outreach (both within IADL and my ICC team) to form a delegation; and b) providing assistance to Alternate Representative Claire Gilchrist who has handled the accreditation process (within IADL as well as with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court),

and Bureau member Carlos Orjuela, who is organizing an IADL side event on Palestine on 10 December at the ASP.

For the side event, Bureau member Raji Sourani has agreed to be the main speaker and has suggested other possible speakers. A main focus of the event is the *International Lawyers Campaign for the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crimes Committee Against the Palestinian People*.

The IADL Delegation to the ASP includes Bureau members Bernard Anoumo Dodji Bokodjin, Hasan Tarique Chowdhury, Richard Harvey, Carlos Orjuela and Raji Sourani; Associate Bureau member Beth Lyons; ICC Victims' attorney Mayombo Kassongo; lawyer Nkongho Felix Agbor Anyior with the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), and a few team members from the *Ongwen* defence team. Reports from the ASP will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

3. *International Lawyers Campaign for the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crimes Committee Against the Palestinian People* – I have lobbied (albeit unsuccessfully) within the Defence Committee of the ICC Bar Association (ICCBA), and also with the ICCBA President Chief Charles Taku for organizational endorsement of the Petition. The decision of the ICCBA Executive Committee was that individuals could sign, but the organization would not endorse it. I have put the Chair of the Defence Committee, who is from Lebanon, in contact with our Lebanese association. In addition, I sent the petition to a personal list of colleagues (approximately 100) for signature. The last time I looked, only a few people actually signed and I did not have time to follow up.

#### 4. *Organizational Issues*

*Dues and Membership*: I want to re-iterate that the logistics need to be resolved urgently. I meet

individuals who want to join IADL (and where there may not be a national association), but the information for membership (including a membership application) is not available on the website.

*Coverage of UN events in New York*: At this point, we have no IADL presence at the major UN events, with a few exceptions (CSW in March, ASP twice a year, etc.) In the past, we regularly covered at least 5 or 6 events a year, plus UN related events at venues outside UN Headquarters. Coverage was provided by Alternate Representatives and law student volunteers (who were supervised by Alternate Representatives). One problem is that no Alternate Representatives to the UN in New York City are currently based there: Beth is in the Hague, Claire is in Boston and Aaron commutes between New York City and Detroit. Similarly, it is difficult to find law school volunteers without a major outreach effort. This has worked in the past, but we do not have Alternate Representatives with the time to put effort into this. My thought was that we should work through the NLG International Committee, and I have requested our President to identify a person or persons in the International Committee who would be interested in attending UN events on behalf of IADL. This is an excellent opportunity for lawyers and law students interested in international law. If Bureau members have other ideas, please let us know.

### VIENNA REPORT

*IADL Permanent Representative Evelyn Dürmayer provided the following report on her United Nations activities in Vienna from June to December 2018.*

On June 22, 2018, Liberato Bautista, the newly elected president of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative

Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), was in Vienna to meet members of the NGO Committees and to share his views on the role of NGOs in the international community. He emphasized the importance for NGOs of strengthening relationships with the United Nations and its agencies.

The first meeting of the NGO Committees after the summer break took place on September 27, 2018. The meeting began with discussion and preparation of the written statement for the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women. Following the preparation of the statement, members were presented with an event entitled «Contemporary enslavement and trafficking of women and girls», organized by ACUNS, Soroptimist and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna. Eight panelists each had five minutes in which they presented different and strong statements on the subject from various angles.

The following are a few of the essential arguments of the speakers at the event :

-the need to introduce an international legal definition of «human trafficking» provided in the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ;

-the 2017 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery revealed that women and girls account for nearly three-quarters of victims of modern slavery ;

-the need to widen the theoretical concepts and find an integrated theory for a better explanation and response ;

-new approaches are to be established, to overview human trafficking and follow new prevention strategies such as the «Nordic Model» (Jacki Jones, Feminist Legal Studies, Bristol Law School, UK);

-the need to address «temporary marriages» in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan ( Behnaz Hosseini, Research Fellow, University of Alberta, Canada);

-the need to eliminate poverty as one of the root causes and introduce a model in Nepal (Soroptimist International);

-the need to frame acts « Family-Based Non-State Torture » (Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, independent researchers, Canada).

The sole meeting in the month of October was held on October 25, 2018. The focus of the meeting was on the written statement for CSW63. A new and different approach to the statement this year is the fact that the statement was signed by the member organisations and three organizations of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva.

Another matter was preparing the annual two weeks against violence at the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 2018. Films will be presented in movie theaters and at the organisation by four NGO Committees in Vienna namely the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna, the Peace Committee, the Committee on Sustainable Development, and the Committee on Aging. Each Committee will choose a speaker to comment on the Declaration. The details will be the sole point on the agenda for the meeting on November 15.

## **IADL UN ADVOCACY ON PALESTINE**

*The following report was provided by IADL bureau member Carlos Orjuela.*

In September, IADL launched the 'International Lawyers Campaign for the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crimes Committed Against the Palestinian People'. This followed a meeting

between IADL representatives and members of the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor to press for urgent legal action on Palestine. Since its launch, the campaign has garnered the support of tens of thousands of lawyers worldwide.

The Campaign invites lawyers, jurists, Human Rights NGOs and Bar Associations from around the world to sign a petition which demands that the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor 'immediately move forward to investigate and refer for prosecution by the International Criminal Court those violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law committed by individuals acting or purporting to act on behalf of the State of Israel, which have occurred and continue to occur within the jurisdiction of the Court.'

The petition is inspired by our previous international action begun in the 1980s, calling upon lawyers to support the campaign to free Nelson Mandela. We believe that this petition, just as the previous one proved to be for those living under Apartheid in South Africa, 'is an essential first step in securing equal justice under law' for the Palestinian people.

Please share the petition, which can be found here <http://iadllaw.org/2018/09/international-lawyers->

[campaign-for-the-investigation-and-prosecution-of-the-crimes-committed-against-the-palestinian-people/](#) with your members and with organisations and individuals you think would be interested in signing.

*The Campaign will be hosting a side event at this year's ICC Assembly of States Parties session in The Hague. The meeting will take place in the Antarctica Room within the World Forum between 8am and 10am on Monday 10 December 2018.*

## **UPCOMING UNITED NATIONS EVENTS AND CONFERENCES**

Please visit the following website for the calendar: <https://conf.un.org/DGAACS/meetings.nsf/wByDate?OpenForm&Start=1&Count=30&Expand=3&Seq=2>

### **WATCHING United Nations MEETINGS ON THE WEB**

If you are interested in a particular United Nations event but cannot personally attend, you can watch it on WEBTV from the United Nations. You can sign up at [webtv.un.org/subscribe](http://webtv.un.org/subscribe) to receive daily/nightly schedules of events to be webcast

The IADL *United Nations Activities Bulletin* is prepared under the direction of the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Professor Lennox S. Hinds. This issue was edited by Claire Gilchrist. Reports were contributed by Evelyn Dürmayer, Beth S. Lyons, and Carlos Orjuela.