

**Holding Officials Accountable for Violations
of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**

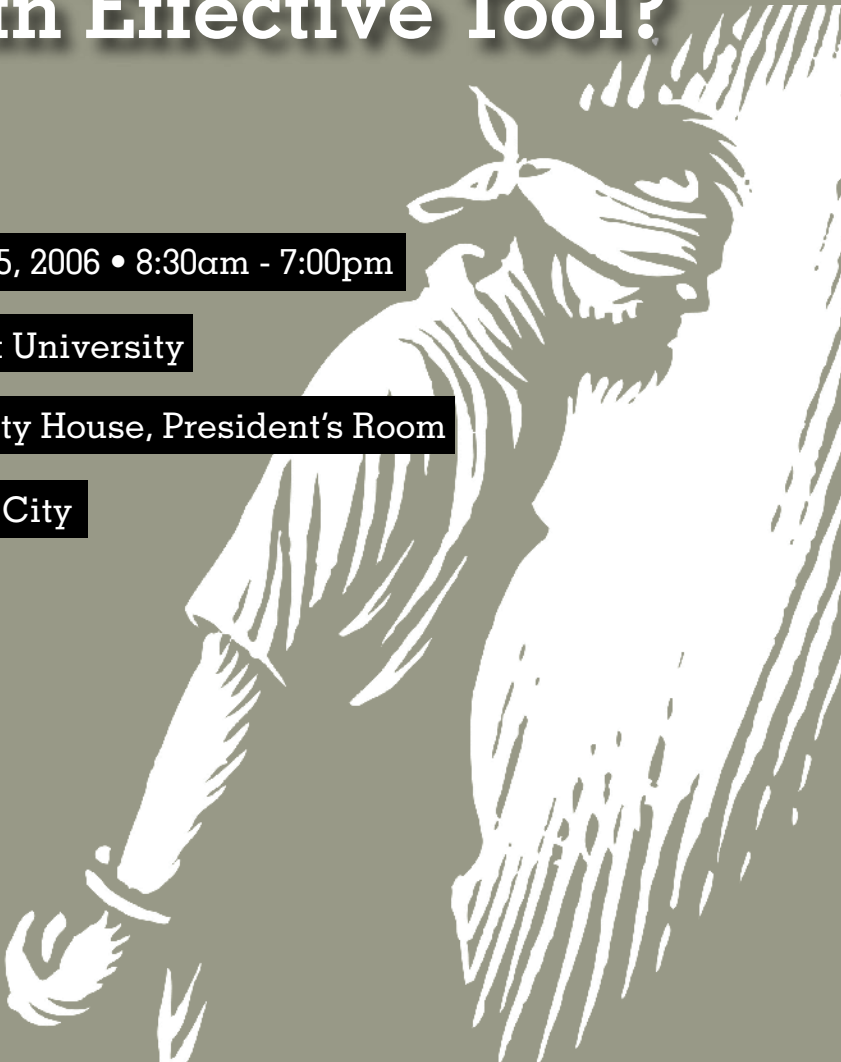
Is Universal Jurisdiction an Effective Tool?

October 25, 2006 • 8:30am - 7:00pm

Columbia University

The Faculty House, President's Room

New York City



This conference is free and open to the public

Sponsored by The Center for Constitutional Rights
and the International Federation for Human Rights

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Conference Program

Reception, Introduction and remarks

Michael Ratner, *CCR President*

Sidiki Kaba, *FIDH President*

Morning Theme: Is universal jurisdiction (UJ) an effective tool to hold higher officials responsible for war crimes?

Chair: **Mary Ellen O'Connell**, *Robert and Marion Short Chair in Law, University of Notre Dame*

First Panel: Growing interest in the use of UJ

Peter Weiss, *Vice President of CCR and FIDH*: Review of recent UJ cases in various countries. Some theoretical and practical comments about the problems raised by those cases.

Jeanne Sulzer, *Attorney at Law, Coordination of the FIDH Legal Action Group on Universal Jurisdiction in Europe*: Explanation of the UJ statutes in several countries adopted in relation to the International Criminal Court statute, and the experience of UJ in Europe.

Deena Hurwitz, *Assistant Professor of Law, University of Virginia School of Law, Director, International Human Rights Law Clinic and Human Rights Program*: The Politics of Atrocity: What's Law Got To Do With It? Lessons of the Sabra and Shatila Case in Belgium.

Second Panel: Strategies and experiences of lawyers with UJ cases

Almudena Bernabeu, *Attorney at the Center for Justice and Accountability*: Achieving full Justice. The impact of Universal Jurisdiction in Latin America.

Maria LaHood, *CCR Attorney*: Efforts to hold Israeli officials responsible for war crimes in US courts.

Reed Brody, *Human Rights Watch*: History and recent developments in the Case against Hissène Habré, Chad's former president.

Wolfgang Kaleck, *Attorney and President of the Republican Lawyers Association, Germany (RAV)*: UJ cases in Germany: the Falung Gong case, the Zokirjon Almatov case and the Argentinean cases.

Lunch break: lunch boxes will be available on-site at \$10 each

Afternoon Theme: Holding U.S. officials accountable for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law

Chair: **Michael Ratner**, *CCR President*.

First Panel: From Guantánamo to Abu Ghraib: The responsibility of U.S. higher officials in the context of the so-called “War on Terror”

Karen Greenberg, *Executive Director, Center on Law & Security, NYU School of Law*: Guantánamo: Its place in the torture debate, a comparison with Abu Ghraib.

Mark Denbeaux, *Seton Hall School of Law Professor, author of the report featuring statistical analysis of 517 Guantánamo detainees: Detention of innocents, interrogation techniques, inhuman treatment and suicides at Guantánamo.*

Janis Karpinski, *Former US Army Brigadier General, Commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade in Iraq, the unit responsible for Abu Ghraib*: Justifying Torture, Creating Distractions and Distorting the Truth.

Philippe Sands QC, *Professor of Law at University College London, barrister at Matrix Chambers and author of “Lawless World” (2005)*: U.S. Government Lawyers’ role in authorizing international illegal acts and potential exposure to investigation and prosecution: the legal advices on the treatment of detainees.

Second Panel: Universal Jurisdiction as a last resort for holding US Higher-Ups Accountable?

John Sifton, *Human Rights Watch, co-author of “By the Numbers, Findings of the Detainee Abuse and Accountability Project”*: The Achilles Heel: CIA Operations in Europe.

Scott Horton, *Adj Prof, Columbia Law School, Chair, Committee on International Law, Association of the Bar of the City of New York*: The Military Commissions Act of 2006 - impunity for War Criminals? Can the immunization work under US law? Does it have consequences under international law?

Wolfgang Kaleck, *Attorney and President of RAV, Germany*: Presentation of German Case I and II against Donald Rumsfeld and other civilian and military officials, including government lawyers.

Concluding Remarks

Peter Weiss, *CCR and FIDH Vice-President*

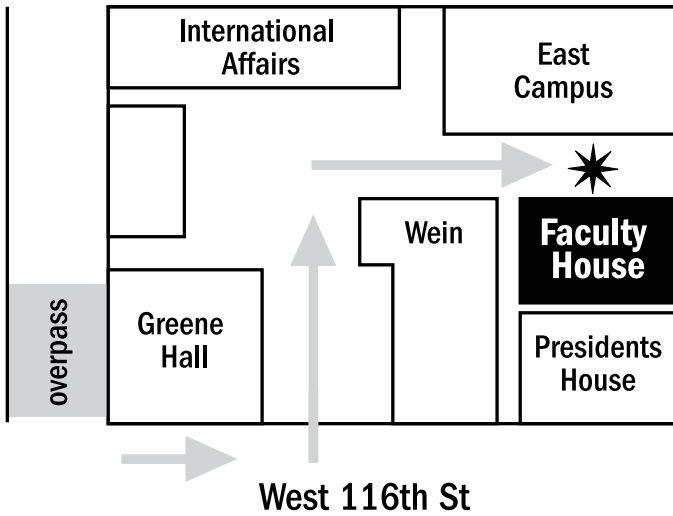
Antoine Bernard, *FIDH Executive Director*

Wine and cheese reception to follow

Sponsored by the **Columbia Law School NLG Chapter**

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West 118th St



Columbia University Faculty House is located on East Campus adjacent to the President's House. The building may be accessed by entering the gate on 116th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive as indicated on this map.

Subway directions: Take the #1 to 116th.



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