

FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law is in its seventh year of existence and evolving at a dramatic and exciting pace. As you will see in this Newsletter, our projects truly aim to reflect our mission to combine cutting-edge scholarship with advocacy and litigation in order to defend core human rights and advance global justice. We hope you will continue to engage with our work as we grow and expand in the coming years.

OUR THEMATIC PRIORITIES

One of the Center's priority areas of concern these past several years has been the international and human rights law implications of counter-terrorism and national security policies, particularly the human rights violations carried out in the name of the "War on Terror." This has led to cutting-edge scholarship published in law reviews, books, and online forums as well as reports published by the Center on the issues of informal transfers of terrorism suspects; the intersection of human rights and other bodies of law, such as aviation law; and norms governing inter-State collaboration in intelligence activities. Through the International Human Rights Clinic, and with support of Center staff, we continue to undertake ground-breaking representation of two former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) "black site" detainees. One of our clients is a plaintiff in an *ACLU-led litigation against Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*, a pioneering case that attempts to hold private actors to account for their role in State-perpetrated human rights abuses in the "War on Terror."

Through *Freedom of Information (FOIA) litigation* in collaboration with Amnesty International USA and the Center for Constitutional Rights, we continue to press the CIA, Department of Defense and Department of Justice (DOJ), among others, to turn over documents vital to understanding the true scope of the U.S. rendition, secret detention and coercive interrogation program. Motions in this lawsuit have been accompanied by a full range of exhibits, among which was a declaration by Professor Satterthwaite, providing the most thorough account of what is known about U.S. rendition, secret detention and coercive interrogation practices. Because of the comprehensive nature of this declaration, we recently transformed it into a Center report: "**On the Record: U.S. Disclosures on Rendition, Secret Detention, and Coercive Interrogation**", which we launched at our first event of the season on September 30, 2008, at a panel discussion on the Jeppesen case mentioned above. We hope that the report—which aggregates all that has been publicly disclosed about the program to date, countering the U.S. government's constant invocation of the "state secrets privilege"—will be a useful tool for lawyers, advocates, and students. The Center continues to work with the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) to *support freedom of information initiatives by local actors in Poland and Romania.*

CHR&GJ Faculty and Staff



Faculty Directors: Margaret Satterthwaite, Philip Alston, Smita Narula

Philip Alston

Faculty Director and Chair

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Program Assistant

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Clinic Administrator and Paralegal

Work also continues on our *Detainee Abuse and Accountability Database Project*, an ongoing project of the Center that utilizes a framework combining international, criminal, and military law to analyze U.S. government documentation of abuses in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay with a view to, *inter alia*, informing decisions about the nature and sequencing of future transitional justice mechanisms in the United States.

An exciting development for 2008-09 has arrived by way of a request to the Center to work on the issue of *gender and counter-terrorism*. Given our extensive expertise in the area of counter-terrorism and our staff's expertise on gender, we will author a comprehensive analytical report on the topic, which will inform related inter-governmental initiatives. In February 2009, the Center will host a high-level expert consultation meeting of prominent scholars to inform both the report and an associated book project.

In early 2008, the Center and the Brennan Center for Justice agreed to collaborate on a project analyzing the policy, principles and practice of *anti-radicalization* initiatives in the U.S. and several western European countries. By way of clarification we should indicate that the "radicalization" approach isolates behavioral characteristics as a means of identifying those thought to be in the process of "radicalizing" and thus possibly preparing to launch terrorist attacks. The project—which analyzes current trends in anti-radicalization through a human rights lens—is now in its most active phase and will culminate in a published report and public launch in early Winter 2009. Both Centers anticipate that the results of this research will unpack the rationale informing anti-radicalization initiatives and inform U.S. and European government approaches, including decisions in the newly elected U.S. administration, among others.

In a related project, work continues on our first foray into the *use of film as a human rights documentation and advocacy tool*, with production of a documentary based on the Center's 2007 report "**Americans on Hold: Profiling, Citizenship, and the 'War on Terror'**". The report analyzes the role that expanded security checks have played in delaying citizenship applications in the United States since the events of September 11, 2001 and the impact that these delays have on applicants' rights. The documentary aims to humanize the effects of these policies and to expose the dangers of reactionary measures which are borne out of and institutionalize fear. At a pivotal moment in U.S. politics, portions of the documentary will be used this election season as part of our broader advocacy around issues of disenfranchisement. Work on the documentary is ongoing and we hope to showcase it at NYU and at film festivals by as early as Winter 2009.



Prakash Khatri, former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, featured in our Documentary

The Center has also substantially increased its work on economic, social, and cultural rights. This past February, we launched "**On the Margins of Profit: Rights at Risk in the Global Economy**" which we jointly prepared with Human Rights Watch. The report looks broadly at how everyday business decisions have significant implications for the human rights of workers, local communities, suppliers, and consumers. In addition to the report, the Clinic and Center have been developing a *Business and Human Rights*

Student Highlight

From NYU to the World:

Amanda Klasing



JD candidate 2008

Right to Water Project,
Port-de-Paix, Haiti

Amanda Klasing and
Jude Jean, Haiti

"In 2007 and 2008, I served as the primary investigator on a Right to Water Project that was a collaborative effort between NYU's International Human Rights Clinic, the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights, and Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health/Haiti). The project was an innovative approach to the documentation of violations of the right to water and the impact of those violations on the right to health. My position involved overseeing the implementation of the study, based on quantitative and qualitative research instruments. During the spring semester, this entailed applying for approval from the Internal Review Board at the university, drafting participant consent forms, and designing a household survey to the human right to water. Over the summer, I traveled to Haiti and worked with two Haitian co-investigators. Together, we set up and attended meetings with local officials, coordinated with a physician in the development of a right to water/right to health household survey, and tested the quality of water and undertook various other activities.

A typical day working on the project required me to rise early; the church bells in town began tolling at 5:30 am. I lived in the same location with my two Haitian co-investigators and we prepared for the day over breakfast. Shortly after breakfast, we would begin our survey work or focus groups. Conducting interviews at randomly chosen households allowed us an opportunity to meet many people in the community and our morning walks to our survey locations presented the chance to speak to many community members. At the end of the project, I felt very close to the community.

After I finished my time in the clinic, I worked with a clinic team during 2007-2008, as well as staff from RFK and ZL to finalize and publish a human rights report based partially on the data gathered while I was in Haiti. Conducting this study was a defining moment in my career and in my life. Through the IHRC, I was able to do the work I came to law school to do and it was more amazing than I could ever have imagined."

Documentation Project which will work on building an interactive database of human rights reports on corporate accountability.

We have also had two major accomplishments on resource-specific human rights cases. On April 30, 2008, we experienced a **major victory in a right to water case** that challenged the installation and functioning of pre-paid water meters in Johannesburg, South Africa. The case—brought by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies against the City of Johannesburg, Johannesburg Water, and the Department of Water Affairs—benefited from work completed by the Center’s International Human Rights Clinic, which assisted with the preparation of a third-party submission (amicus curiae brief) for the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) in the case.

We also launched a major report in June 2008, following several years of collaborative empirical field research with partners at the RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights, Partners In Health (PIH), and Zanmi Lasante, a Haitian NGO. The 87-page report, **“Wòch nan Soley: The Denial of the Right to Water in Haiti,”** presents results of a household survey and socio-medical study led by International



Margaret Satterthwaite, Twa Rivye, Haiti

Human Rights Clinic student Amanda Klasing (’08) that illustrated the impact of the U.S. government’s role in blocking the disbursement of millions of dollars in loans on the intolerably poor state of potable water in Haiti. The report is innovative in its use of both human rights and public health methodologies to assess the right to water in Haiti and the Center looks forward to further developing its inter-disciplinary approach to human rights. Follow-up work is ongoing and will include the Winter 2009 launch of French and Haitian Kreyòl versions of the report by Center staff and partners who will travel to the region featured in the report to present it to the local community, Haitian government representatives, and members of the international community in Haiti.

Work also continues on the issue of caste discrimination, with the Center—in cooperation with its 2007-08 International Human Rights Clinic students—researching, writing, and, in April 2008, simultaneously launching the 89-page report, **“Recasting Justice: Securing Dalit Rights in Nepal’s New Constitution”** in both New York and



Smita Narula and Jayne Huckerby

Kathmandu. The report demonstrates the points of intersection between international human rights law, constitutional law, and the field of transitional justice. To this end, it analyses Nepal’s Interim Constitution to inform how the new constitution should be drafted in accordance with the country’s international human rights obligations to secure the rights of Dalits—a group which has faced more than 2000 years of systematic discrimination on the basis of caste. As follow-up to the report, Center staff will travel to Nepal in the coming months to conduct several intensive training sessions on the topic of human rights in transition, drafting of constitutions from a human rights perspective,

Detainees and the “War on Terror” Project Highlights

The Center’s cutting edge legal analysis exposes the practices of extraordinary rendition, disappearances, and detainee abuse as violations of domestic, regional and international law. The Center works closely with human rights organizations, litigators, regional groups, parliamentary bodies, and other actors working to end abuses by the United States and collaborating countries in the “War on Terror”

On the Record: U.S. Disclosures on Rendition, Secret Detention, and Coercive Interrogation (2008)

Based on publicly available information, **On the Record** aggregates a wide range of disclosures on U.S. rendition, secret detention, and coercive interrogation activities. It



includes statements by current U.S. officials and a plethora of other publicly available information from foreign government officials, former U.S. officials, the media, inter-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, and former detainees and rendered individuals themselves. As an informational resource, this report sheds light both on what has been revealed and what has been obscured by the U.S. government, underlining both the selectivity and undue secrecy informing what it chooses to disclose on the record.

Litigation:

On behalf of Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah, the NYU International Human Rights Clinic joined an ACLU lawsuit against Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc., a subsidiary of Boeing Company. Filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, the lawsuit alleges that Jeppesen knowingly provided extensive flight services that enabled the CIA’s rendition of Yemeni citizen Bashmilah and four others into the U.S. government’s publicly-acknowledged secret detention program.



Recasting Justice Report Launch, Kathmandu, Nepal

and inclusion of marginalized groups (particularly Dalits) in transitional justice processes. The training sessions will target new members of the Constituent Assembly as well as various factions of Nepalese civil society and the international community in Nepal. On September 27, 2008, the Center's Program Director attended a private roundtable with the new Prime Minister of Nepal

in New York, where she outlined the Center's position and recommendations on drafting a new Constitution that protects the human rights of all marginalized communities in Nepal.

Although *transitional justice* has long been counted as a thematic priority for the Center, this past year we have actively expanded our engagement with this field. In April 2008, we hosted a panel discussion on the cutting-edge issue of the relationship between diaspora communities and truth-seeking processes in their country of origin. As a case-study, the event focused on the issues that arise in integrating members of the local Staten Island diaspora community into the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) processes. The panel featured students of NYU Law School who had been engaged with the TRC, as well as members of the diaspora and several human rights actors who have worked closely on related issues. As you will see in the list below, Fall 2008 features several events that address transitional justice as a field and career path, with a key focus being the tensions that arise between the imperatives of securing peace and justice, as well as several events that look deeply into accountability issues that we expect will come to the fore in the U.S. with the upcoming change of administration.

It has also been a year of unprecedented activity for our work on *extrajudicial executions*—the Center's Project in support of work of Philip Alston's role as U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. Over the course of this year, Project staff members have accompanied Professor Alston on fact-finding missions to Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, and the United States, and have continued to follow-up on last year's missions to Brazil and the Philippines. Our work in this area has demonstrated the concrete importance of combining sophisticated legal scholarship with an active engagement in public affairs. Our legal and policy analyses have assisted the Special Rapporteur in crafting recommendations that influence decision-makers. This work has included comparative research on the law and practice of national commissions of inquiry, witness protection programs, military justice systems, and other institutions. In addition to producing reports to the U.N. the project has also generated a number of scholarly studies on aspects of the issues.



Philip Alston, Kabul, Afghanistan

Racial Profiling and the "War on Terror" Project Highlights

In its work to end human rights abuses in the global "War on Terror," the Center has tried to address the disparate impacts the so-called war has had on particular communities, both within and outside of the United States. Around the world, many governments have institutionalized policies of discriminatory profiling of individuals deemed to be terrorism "suspects" on the basis of their race, religion, ethnicity, and/or national origin. Two of the Center's recent reports highlight the problematic use of such profiling in the context of "shoot-to-kill" policies and in security checks for U.S. naturalization applications. The Center is currently producing a documentary based on its report on citizenship delays.

Americans on Hold: Documentary Project

In 2007, CHRGI released its report "Americans on Hold: Profiling, Citizenship, and the 'War on Terror,'" which documents the impact of citizenship delays on the lives of applicants who are kept in limbo, sometimes for years on end. Inspired by these stories, CHRGI is producing a documentary film, which will be used as an advocacy tool to raise awareness on the issue.

Americans on Hold (2007)

The 63-page report, titled "Americans on Hold: Profiling, Citizenship, and the 'War on Terror,'" documents the impact of expanded security checks on the lives of those experiencing citizenship delays, often for years on end. The report analyzes these delays and their impact within an international human rights framework, and offers specific policy recommendations to help end discrimination in access to citizenship and other human rights violations.



The results of this intellectually rigorous approach to responding to situations of human rights abuse have been highly encouraging. For example, the findings and recommendations of the mission to the Philippines have influenced European Union and U.N. Development Programme technical assistance priorities and the advocacy strategies of international human rights organizations. Most notable, however, may be that the U.S. Senate amended the annual appropriation bill to make \$2,000,000 of military assistance to the Philippines conditional upon a finding by the U.S. Secretary of State that “the Philippine Government is implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.” Nor have the results been purely institutional: the annual number of extrajudicial executions in the Philippines has dropped from 209 in 2006 (before the mission) to 68 in 2007 to 20 in the first half of 2008.

Finally, the Center continues programs aimed at providing students with opportunities both for professional experience and academic growth, specifically the *International Law and Human Rights Student Fellowship Program*, the *Emerging Human Rights Scholarship Conference*, and NYU’s participation in the *Jean-Pictet Competition*. With support from the Institute for International Law and Justice, the Center



Tafadzwa Pasipanodya, Neville Dastoor, and Jayne Huckerby in Kathmandu, Nepal

takes the lead in coordinating the Fellowship Program. This past year, we placed 24 students—12 LL.Ms and 12 1Ls—in summer internship placements at 17 tribunals and organizations, including the ICTY and ICTR, the International Law Commission, UNHCR in Geneva and Bangkok, and a host of non-governmental groups around the world, from Adalah (the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel)

and Timap for Justice in Sierra Leone, to the International Center for Transitional Justice in Bogotá, Peoples Watch Tamil Nadu, and the International Women’s Rights Watch Action in Kuala Lumpur. Coupled with the academic research paper due after the internship, the Fellowship Program provides Student Fellows with unique educational opportunities in both the theory and practice of international law and human rights law.

The Center continues to host its annual *Emerging Human Rights Scholarship Conference* every Spring, to encourage scholarly inquiry into human rights topics at the Law School by providing a forum where students receive substantive feedback and engage in critical dialogue on their human rights research. Several students are selected each year to present their papers at the half-day conference and each paper receives comment by one faculty member,



Paige Arthur and Veerle Oppenhaffen, Emerging Human Rights Scholarship Conference

one staff member or global visitor of the Center, and selected fellow panelists, followed by an open discussion. In 2007, the Center initiated the policy of selecting one paper from each Conference to be published as part of the Center’s *Working Paper series*, which has added an extra element of prestige to the event and a further opportunity for students to showcase their work. The 2009 Conference will be held in late March of that year.

Caste Discrimination Project Highlights

The Center has consistently worked to widen the human rights movements anti-discrimination agenda to move beyond the race paradigm to also look at discrimination based on caste, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and immigration status, as well as race. In much of Asia and parts of Africa, caste is the basis for the definition and exclusion of distinct population groups by reason of their descent. Over 250 million people worldwide continue to suffer under what is often a hidden apartheid of segregation, modern-day slavery, and other extreme forms of discrimination, exploitation, and violence. Caste imposes enormous obstacles to their full attainment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

To date, the Center has published two landmark reports pertaining to caste discrimination in South Asia and continues to engage in a number of research and advocacy projects related to caste discrimination.

Recasting Justice (2008)

The 89-page report “Recasting Justice: Securing Dalit Rights in Nepal’s New Constitution” analyzes Nepal’s Interim Constitution to inform how the new constitution



may be drafted in accordance with the country’s international human rights obligations to secure the rights of Dalits—a group which has faced more than 2000 years of systematic discrimination on the basis of caste. As Nepal prepares its new constitution after years of prolonged civil war, **Recasting Justice** provides Nepalese lawmakers with tangible means to demonstrate the country’s commitment to the inherent dignity and human rights of all individuals.

The Center also coordinates NYU Law's participation in the *annual Jean-Pictet Competition* organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which provides participants with substantive knowledge of international, humanitarian, refugee, and human rights law and strengthens their oral advocacy and negotiation skills in this highly specialized and demanding field. The three-member NYU Law Team (this past year, comprised of two LL.Ms and one 3L) must apply annually to participate in the Competition. This year NYU Law was only one of four U.S.-based institutions selected to participate.

CHRGJ EVENTS

Alongside all of this exciting, ongoing work on our projects, we have also planned a number of high-profile and stimulating events for the next few months as part of our commitment to provide human rights learning opportunities at the Law School. In particular, we are excited about the launch of our *Litigating Human Rights Series* and *Challenges in Transitional Justice Series*, both of which seek to elucidate the intersections between law and practice in some of the most challenging areas of the human rights and transitional justice fields. Please see below for a brief description of events for Fall 2008:

- **CHRGJ's Litigating Human Rights Series: *Mohamed et al. v. Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*** 9.30.08: 6-8 PM/ Furman Hall 216
 Meg Satterthwaite (CHRGJ Faculty Director) and Jayne Huckerby (CHRGJ Research Director), along with a panel of distinguished guests, will discuss the ACLU lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on behalf of five plaintiffs who were kidnapped and secretly transferred to U.S.-run prisons or foreign intelligence agencies overseas. The lawsuit alleges that Jeppesen, a Boeing subsidiary, knowingly aided in these violations by providing flight planning and other logistical support services for the U.S. secret detention and rendition program. The discussion will feature several of the key attorneys on the case and others involved in its preparation, who will present some of the significant challenges, themes, and tactics involved in litigating cases concerning the "War on Terror," in which domestic litigation is one part of a broader international strategy to seek redress for human rights abuses.
- **CHRGJ Careers in Human Rights Series: *From Law School to the World of Transitional Justice- A Conversation with Paul Van Zyl.*** 10.2.08: 4:00-5:30 PM/ Furman Hall 212
 For students considering a career in the human rights field and curious to hear about the trajectory from law school to a professional life in the transition justice field, Executive Vice President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, Paul Van Zyl will present on his experiences and host a Q&A.
- **CHRGJ's Challenges in Transitional Justice Series: *The Merits of Justice in Transitions from War to Peace.*** 10.8.08: 6-8 PM/ Furman Hall 216
 Paul Van Zyl (Executive Vice President of the International Center for Transitional Justice and CHRGJ Transitional Justice Program Director) and Fabienne Hara (Vice President (Multilateral Affairs) of the International Crisis Group) will dialogue about the comparative merits, challenges, and sequencing issues posed by the use of justice mechanisms during transitions from conflict to peace.

Economic Social and Cultural Rights Project Highlights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes rights to food, housing and education alongside rights to liberty, freedom of expression, and equal protection of the law. However, the "civil and political rights" have often been favored while the "economic, social and cultural rights" have been neglected.

The Center aims to correct this imbalance by analyzing problems of implementation at the national level, examining the roles played by institutional actors within the international community, and fostering dialogue between the development and human rights communities.

Woch Nan Soley: Denial of the Right to Water in Haiti (2008)

The 87-page report—which combines health and water data gathered on the ground in Haiti, legal analysis, and discussion of the historical context—presents the findings of a joint project conducted by RFK, PIH, Zanmi Lasante, and the Center who worked together to research, author, and release it. The groups used human rights and public health methodologies to assess the right to water in Haiti by surveying community members, testing water sources, and meeting with community leaders and government officials.



On the Margins of Profit: Rights at Risk in the Global Economy (2008)

The 53-page report, was jointly prepared by Human Rights Watch and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. It illustrates how everyday business decisions have significant implications for the human rights of workers, local communities, suppliers, and consumers.



- **CHRGJ Special Guest Lecture: *Confronting Impunity in Peru: Francisco Soberon on the Fujimori Trial and Implications for the Promotion of Human Rights.*** 10.9.08: 1-2 PM/ Furman Hall 110
 CHRGJ will welcome esteemed guest, Francisco Soberon, head of Peru's non-governmental Association for Human Rights (APRODEH) as he discusses the challenges faced both by lawyers and victims groups during the ongoing trial of former head of state, Alberto Fujimori. Mr. Soberon will be introduced by Eduardo Gonzales, of the ICTJ's Latin America program.
- **CHRGJ Panel Discussion: *Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World.*** 10.13.08: 6-8 PM/ Furman Hall 216
 Jayne Huckerby (CHRGJ Research Director), Elaine Pearson (Deputy Asia Director at Human Rights Watch), and others will present the results of an eight-country research survey on the human rights impacts of anti-trafficking measures, with a particular focus on Australia and the United States.
- **Annual Emilio Mignone Lecture on Transitional Justice, featuring Aryeh Neier.** 10.15.08: 6-8 PM/ Tischman Auditorium (Vanderbilt Hall)
 CHRGJ and the ICTJ will host esteemed guest speaker Aryeh Neier (President of the Open Society Institute). This year's lecture, *"Peace v. Justice. Is there a conflict? If so, what should be done?"* will be introduced by ICTJ's President, Juan E. Mendez, to be followed by discussion moderated by Paul Van Zyl, ICTJ's Executive Vice President and CHRGJ Transitional Justice Program Director.
- **CHRGJ Lunchtime Series: *Responding to Unlawful Killings: The Role of the UN Special Rapporteur.*** 10.28.08: 1-2 PM/ Furman 326
How are the UN Special Rapporteur's fact-finding missions conducted? How do governments respond to the Special Rapporteur's findings? How effective is this part of the UN human rights system in responding to human rights abuses?

 Please join CHRGJ at our lunchtime series discussion featuring Bill Abresch, Director of the Project on Extrajudicial Executions here at NYU School of Law, in answering these questions in a lively discussion about the UN Special Rapporteur's role in responding to unlawful ("extrajudicial" killings around the world).
- **Special Guest Lecture: *Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina, Dr. Ricardo Luis Lorenzetti: "Human Rights Lessons from the Argentine Experience of Seeking Accountability for Past Crimes."*** 11.13.08: 6-8 PM/ Greenberg Lounge (Vanderbilt Hall)
 CHRGJ and the International Center for Transitional Justice will welcome esteemed guest, Dr. Lorenzetti, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Argentina, as he presents Argentina's experience with holding individuals accountable for crimes committed during the country's "dirty war", including the Supreme Court's decision to overturn amnesty laws that had sought to block prosecution. Dr. Lorenzetti's talk will be introduced by NYU School of Law's Dean Revesz and followed by discussion moderated by CHRGJ Faculty Director Margaret Satterthwaite.

We look forward to expanding our reach, deepening our work, and to contributing to the Law School's growing reputation as one of the pre-eminent universities in the world for students and scholars interested in human rights law and global justice. To learn more about our work or to make a contribution to our Center, please visit www.chrgj.org

Project on Extrajudicial Executions Highlights

The Center's Project on Extrajudicial Executions was established to provide rigorous analysis of international law protecting the right to life and to support the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. Philip Alston, the Center's Faculty Director and Chair, was appointed Special Rapporteur in 2004. His mandate is to act on allegations transmitted to him by victims and their families, engage governments in constructive dialogue, and provide early warning to the U.N. Human Rights Council of emerging patterns of unlawful violence.

2008 Fact-Finding Missions

United States
 Afghanistan
 Central African Republic

8th Session of the Human Rights Council Reports (2008)*

A/HRC/8/3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
 A/HRC/8/3/Corr.1 Corrigendum to Annual Report
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.1 Communications to and from Governments
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.2 Mission to the Philippines
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.3 Follow-up to country recommendations (Sri Lanka and Nigeria)
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.4 Preliminary note on Brazil
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.5 Preliminary note on Central African Republic
 A/HRC/8/3/Add.6 Preliminary note on Afghanistan

*Available here:

<http://www.extrajudicialexecutions.org/reports/>