

EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES FOR EXCEPTIONAL TIMES: THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE UNDER THREAT

High-Level Discussion and Reception

DATE 9 June 2017

TIME 14:00-18:00

PLACE Peace Palace, The Hague

REDRESS Nederland is organising this timely event to bring together decision makers, diplomats, journalists, academics and representatives from relevant international organisations and civil society to discuss how best to respond to xenophobic and populist rhetoric that justifies and promotes torture in the name of national security and the fight against terrorism. The meeting will also explore the different facets of the absolute prohibition in the context of armed conflict. It will conclude with a roundtable discussion on innovative options for the way forward to re-affirm the absolute prohibition in the contemporary political environment.

The event will be followed by a drinks reception from 18:00-19:30.

To RSVP, please contact Jürgen Schurr, Head of REDRESS Nederland, at juergen@redress.org

PROGRAMME

- 14:00 - 14:15** **Introduction** - Prof. Dr. Rianne Letschert, Rector of Maastricht University, Trustee, REDRESS Nederland
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- PANEL I: Torture in Conflict** [Moderator: TBC]
Accountability for systematic torture in the war in Syria - Stephen Rapp, former US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues
- 14:15 - 15:15** **Sexual and gender based violence as a tool of war in South Sudan** - Rita Martin, Executive Director, EVE-Organization for Women Development in South Sudan
Reparation for victims of torture of Hissène Habré - Jürgen Schurr, REDRESS Nederland
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- PANEL II: Xenophobia, terrorism and security rhetoric** [Moderator: Prof. Dr. Rianne Letschert]
The political discourse to justify torture - Dick Oosting, Chair of the Martin Ennals Foundation, former CEO, European Council on Foreign Relations
- 15:15 - 16:15** **Suffering torture en route: the plight of migrants** - Elham Saudi, Director, Lawyers for Justice in Libya, Associate Fellow, International Law Programme, Chatham House
Torture as a tool to fight terrorism - Christophe Marchand, Lawyer, Jus Cogens
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- 16:15 - 16:30** **Coffee break**
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- Strengthening the absolute prohibition: a roundtable discussion** [Moderator: Dr. Carla Ferstman, Director, REDRESS]
Victor Madrigal-Borloz - Secretary General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Lawrence Mute - Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Chairperson of Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa
Laura Dolci-Kanaan - Secretary of the UN Fund for Victims of Torture, Research Fellow, Intervict
Dr. Ahmed Shaheed - UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and former UN Special Rapporteur on Iran
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- 18:00 - 19:30** **Reception**
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