



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE - COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) is honoured to announce the appointment of Mrs. Mary Robinson as ICJ President. Mrs. Robinson, who has been a member of the Commission for a number of years, was elected ICJ President at the end of 2008. She succeeds Justice Arthur Chaskalson who served in the role from 2002 – 2008.

Mrs. Robinson is a world renowned human rights lawyer and advocate. In 1990 she was elected the first woman President of Ireland. Before that she was a practicing barrister in Ireland, arguing landmark human rights cases before the European Court of Human Rights and in the Irish courts. She was also Professor of Law at Trinity College Dublin. In 1997 she was appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position she held until 2002. She is currently Founder and President of *Realising Rights: The Ethical Globalisation Initiative*.

Mrs. Robinson was first elected to the ICJ in 1987. In 1991, she resigned as a Commissioner due to her election as President of Ireland. In 2004, she was elected to the Commission once more, following the end of her term as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since 2005, both Mrs. Robinson and Justice Chaskalson have been members of the Eminent Jurists Panel on Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, which was commissioned by the ICJ to study the global impact of counter-terrorism measures on human rights. The report of the eight member Panel will be released in mid-February 2009 after three years of intensive inquiry spanning more than forty countries.

The ICJ is also delighted to note the election in 2008 of a number of new Commissioners and three Honorary Members.

The three newly elected Honorary Members are: Professor Georges Abi-Saab (Egypt), Mr. Louis Joinet (France) and Professor Luzius Wildhaber (Switzerland).

The newly elected Commissioners include: Mr. Muhand Alhassani (Syria), Mr. Ghanim Alnajjar (Kuwait), Mr. Abdelaziz Benzakour (Morocco), Professor Santiago Corcuera (Mexico), Justice Hisham El Bastawissi (Egypt), Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile), Professor Robert Goldman (United States of America), Justice José Antonio Martín Pallín (Spain), Justice Sanji Monageng (Botswana), Professor Iulia Motoc (Romania), Dr. Jorge Eduardo Pan Cruz (Uruguay), Mr. Belisario dos Santos Jr. (Brazil), Justice Phillipe Texier (France), and Justice E. Raúl Zaffaroni (Argentina).

Biographical information is available at www.icj.org.

The International Commission of Jurists is dedicated to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights. The Commission was founded in Berlin in 1952 and its membership is composed of up to sixty eminent jurists who are representatives of the different legal systems of the world. Based in Geneva, the International Secretariat is responsible for the realisation of the aims and objectives of the Commission.

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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