

34TH ASIA-EUROPE LECTURE TOUR “HUMAN RIGHTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS”

BANGKOK - PHNOM PENH – VIENTIANE

Abstract

The Criminal Justice System has to carefully balance different and sometimes conflicting interests: first, the legitimate interest of the State to fight crime and maintain internal security; second, the interest of the victims of crime; and third, the rights of the accused or convicted. International human rights law acknowledges the need to balance State power and individual liberty, and sets out minimum guarantees that States must observe throughout their criminal justice process. During his lecture, Professor Nowak will present the various safeguards which have been developed in order to ensure that human rights of the accused, guaranteed by international conventions, are observed.

The lecture will be based on the background paper “Human Rights in Criminal Justice Systems”, which was co-authored by Manfred Nowak, the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment, and Dato’ Param Cumaraswamy, the first United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Lawyers and Judges, in preparation of the 9th Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights held in Strasbourg, France in 2009 where they acted as the two Main Rapporteurs. The lecture largely draws on to the experiences and results gathered in the course of numerous fact-finding missions conducted by Professor Nowak during his tenure as UN Special Rapporteur.

Lectures will be organised on **22-29th November 2010** in three locations in Southeast Asia - Bangkok, Cambodia and Laos.

A limited number of copies of the proceedings of the 9th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights will be made available at each lecture. The published proceedings has been widely acknowledged as an important reference on the topic and the background paper, in particular, has been translated into other languages.

Profile of Speaker

Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak

Professor for International Human Rights Protection, University of Vienna; Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna; Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (2004-2010)



Professor Manfred Nowak graduated from the Vienna Law School (Dr. iur. 1973) and from Columbia University New York (LL.M. 1975). He has been professor at the Institute of Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Vienna since 1986. In 1989, he founded the Austrian Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna. From 1996-2003, Manfred Nowak was a judge at the Human Rights Chamber in Bosnia. From 1993 until 2006 Professor Nowak served in various functions as expert on enforced disappearances for the United Nations. In 2004, he was appointed

as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. His mandate ended in late 2010. In addition, Manfred Nowak was also Chairperson of the European Master’s Degree in Human Rights and Democratization. Manfred Nowak has published more than 400 books and articles on international, constitutional, administrative, and human rights law, including the standard commentary on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and on the Convention against Torture (together with Elizabeth McArthur). He was awarded the UNESCO Prize for the Teaching of Human Rights in 1994 and the Bruno Kreisky Prize for Human Rights in 2007.

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For details on the Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights, please visit: http://www.asef.org/index.php?option=com_programme&task=view&id=13&Itemid=162

* ASEM now brings together 46 countries (Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. <http://www.aseminfoboard.org>



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