

- Call for Applications -

ESF-LIU Conference

Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Investigation and Prevention of Torture and Death in Custody

Scandic Hotel Linköping Väst, Linköping, Sweden
3-7 May 2010

Chaired by: **Prof. Bernice Elger** Center for Legal Medicine, U. Geneva, CH



Co-Chairs:

- **Prof. Paola Gaeta**, Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, University of Geneva, CH & University of Florence, IT
- **Prof. Marcelo Aebi**, Institute of Criminology and Criminal Law, University of Lausanne, CH

Europe has unique mechanisms for the enforcement of human rights law and the prevention of violations. However, as the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights stated "the gap between standards on paper and the actual situation in Europe is striking". Prison visits of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) show that torture, death and inhuman or degrading treatment related to healthcare in prisons still occur regularly in Europe.

Thousands of detainees spend extended periods in overcrowded, unhygienic prisons where health care standards are not equivalent to those outside prisons. Torture and inadequate health care of prisoners might cause death in custody and are considered violations of Articles 3 and/or 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Their investigation, punishment and prevention are an important and timely issue not only for international organizations, NGOs and governments. Academic disciplines from different fields can make important contributions which will greatly benefit from an interdisciplinary approach. Research that bridges the gap between empirical social science and legal analysis is scarce. The scientific quality of this research, through access to the realities of the research field, will be significantly enhanced if different academic disciplines interact more with each other and with international organizations and NGOs.

The aim of this conference is to bring together scientific leaders from human rights law, criminology, sociology, ethics and legal medicine with CPT experts, ECHR judges and ONG members and to attract more young researchers in order to further research in this important domain. The conference will help to build highly efficient research groups throughout Europe and to facilitate research contacts with international researchers outside Europe, while at the same time increasing international awareness about unique human rights protections in Europe.

Invited Speakers will include:

- **Dr. Bruno Aubusson**
Centre de recherche sociologique sur le Droit et les Institutions pénales, CNRS, FR
- **Prof. Andrew Coyle**
International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College London, UK
- **Prof. Manfred Nowak**
UN special rapporteur on torture
Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna, AT
- **Prof. Derrick Pounder**
Director of Centre for Forensic and Legal Medicine, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
- **Dr. Jean-Pierre Restellini**

Swiss Member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), FR

- **Prof. Theophilos Rifiotis**
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, BR
- **Prof. William Schabas**
Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway, IE
- **Mr. Stephen Shaw**
CBE Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, UK
- **Prof. Adam Stapleton**
Human Rights lawyer, Center for Human Rights, Northwestern University, Chicago, US
- **Prof. Theophilos Rifiotis**
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, BR
- **Dr. Morris Tidball-Binz**
Forensic Coordinator (ICRC), CH
- **Prof. Duarte Nuno Vieira**
Director of the National Institute of Legal Medicine of Portugal, PT
President of the International Academy of Legal Medicine, PT

Full conference programme, including list of invited speakers, and [application form](http://www.esf.org/conferences/10318) accessible online from www.esf.org/conferences/10318

Closing date for applications: **8 February 2010.**

ESF Contact: Alessandra Piccolotto - apiccolotto@esf.org

This conference is organised by the European Science Foundation ([ESF](http://www.esf.org)), in partnership with the University of Linköping ([LiU](http://www.liu.se)).



Links of Interest:

ESF-LiU Conferences - 2010 Programme:

- **THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: FROM PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE**
Linköping, Sweden, 8.6 - 12.6 2010
- **HOME, MIGRATION AND THE CITY: NEW NARRATIVES, NEW METHODOLOGIES**
Linköping, Sweden, 6.8 - 10.8 2010
- **PAYING ATTENTION: DIGITAL MEDIA CULTURES AND GENERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**
Linköping, Sweden, 6.9 - 10.9 2010

Further information available from www.esf.org/conferences/2010