



BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Dear members,

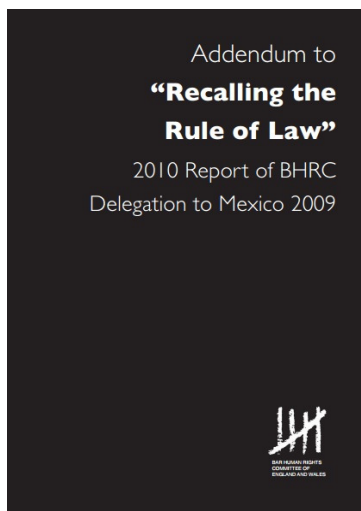
We hope to work with as many of you as possible and always welcome your feedback and ideas, so please do not hesitate to get in contact with the BHRC Project Coordinator, [Illari Aragon](#).

BHRC LETTERS OF CONCERN - International Criminal Tribunal in Bangladesh

On the 16th of November, the BHRC issued a statement on the International Criminal Tribunal in Bangladesh (ICT). In particular, the BHRC expressed urgent concern following the alleged abduction of a defence witness, Shukho Ranjon Bali, ("Bali") in front of the International Crimes Tribunal on Monday 5th November 2012. To access the BHRC Press Release click [here](#).

BHRC REPORT LAUNCHED AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS Addendum to "Recalling the Rule of Law"

MEXICO



On Wednesday 7 November, Jeremy Corbyn MP the Vice chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Mexico, hosted the launch of the Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) report [Addendum to "Recalling the Rule of Law 2010"](#) at the House of Commons in London. This was an up-dating of the report of the BHRC delegation which went to Mexico in 2009. The panel of speakers included the BHRC delegation of barristers Ajanta Kaza, John Traversi, Adam Hiddleston and Joanne Cecil along with representatives of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) Daniel Joloy and Juan Carlos Gutierrez.



Jeremy Corbyn MP with BHRC delegation members



Event participants at the launch

At the launch event, the delegation of barristers presented their report and commented upon their findings. While evidence of slow progress in relation to some of the human rights cases specifically cited in the original report from 2010 continues to be a focal point of concern, the delegation also commented upon some positive developments such as recent Supreme Court decisions that limit the applicability of military jurisdiction for cases involving civilians. Daniel Joloy offered an analysis of *arraigo* (extended preventive detention) in Mexico, which is believed to be in breach of a number of fundamental freedoms and in many cases linked to the practice of torture. Juan Carlos Gutierrez commented upon his recent submission before the UN Committee Against Torture, highlighting the fact that there has never been a conviction for torture in Mexico in spite of a great number of documented cases reported by human rights groups in recent years. The BHRC delegation of barristers closed the event by reaffirming their conviction to maintain their long-standing support to Mexico and to those working to defend and protect human rights there.

4th TRAINING DELEGATION RETURNS - UNICEF-BHRC partnership 'Case management, monitoring and documentation of child rights protection' NIGERIA.

From the 19th to the 23th of November 2012, a BHRC expert delegation traveled to Calabar, Cross River State in Nigeria to conduct training on Child Rights Documentation and Monitoring with representatives from different Child Protection Networks (CPNs) across Nigeria. The delegation was led by BHRC Vice-Chair Kirsty Brimelow QC and integrated by barristers Nathan Rasiah and Smita Shah. The team was accompanied by BHRC Project Coordinator, Illari Aragon.



Kirsty Brimelow QC with CPN training participants

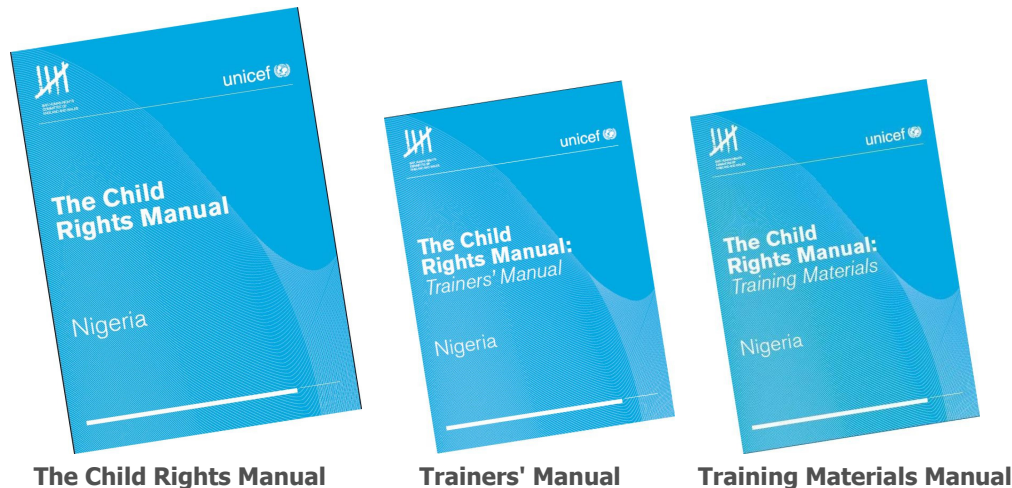


Practical group sessions at the Calabar training.

This project not only comprises the roll out of 5 training phases across the country, but also the development of three comprehensive **Training Manuals**. The Child Rights Manual and its accompanying Training Manual and Case Materials Manual provide a detailed and practical guide to

domestic, regional and international child rights remedies. In addition, the BHRC team is also producing **video demonstrations** that feature 'best practices' in interviewing techniques with children. For more information [click here](#).

Keep in touch for the official launch event in early 2013!



The Child Rights Manual

Trainers' Manual

Training Materials Manual

BHRC session "Mediating justice in war and peace" at the ANNUAL BAR CONFERENCE 2012

The BHRC session looked at 'Mediating justice in war and peace' in the context of 'Responsibility to Protect'. The workshop addressed a number of issues, including the balance between the need to mediate conflict yet hold individuals accountable, with a view to discussing the role of the International Criminal Court vis-à-vis reconciliation efforts in post-conflict societies.

The Speakers invited by the BHRC were Sir Kieran Prendergast, Former under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations; Ben Emmerson QC, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Matrix Chambers and Mark Muller QC, Chairman of the Bar Human Rights Committee, Garden Court Chambers.

The event was moderated by Kirsty Brimelow QC, Vice-Chair of BHRC, Doughty Street Chambers and Sudhanshu Swaroop, Vice-Chair of the BHRC, 20 Essex Street.

BHRC MEMBERS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS - The Hague

In light of the BHRC statement on the International Criminal Tribunal in Bangladesh earlier in November, Schona Jolly, BHRC Executive Committee member and barrister at Cloisters, was invited to speak on behalf of the BHRC at a side event on the Bangladesh ICT at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The event took place on the 21st November and was organised by the NGO No Peace Without Justice.

PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD IN LONDON THIS MONTH

- A presentation by Fatou Bensouda, Chief Prosecutor at the ICC "The next five years for the International Criminal Court". The event took place in Parliament Chamber on Wednesday 28th November. The BHRC co-hosted the event with Inner Temple.

- The Centre for Capital Punishment Studies (CCPS) in association with the BHRC held a Death Penalty Forum on Friday 30th November at Doughty Street Chambers.

2012 BHRC Elections!

Thanks to those of you who are standing for a place on the Executive Committee. Nominations are now closed and ballots will be sent out by e-mail this week.