



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

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## **Expert Legal Panel on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes**

### **Update August 2006**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Update on the ICJ Complicity Project. The project was launched at the start of 2006 and involves the establishment of an Expert Legal Panel on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes comprised of eight eminent lawyers tasked with developing the legal and public policy meaning of corporate complicity in the worst violations of international human rights and humanitarian law that amount to international crimes. See below for information on the Panel.

#### **Launch of Online Consultations**

The ICJ is launching the first stage of these consultations with an online invitation for submissions. Those interested are asked to make submissions to the Expert Legal Panel on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes in response to a series of questions and relevant issues including:

*How can businesses ensure that their actions and omissions do not contribute to international crimes?*

*What kinds of business actions and omissions contribute to international crimes?*

**The invitation for submissions will be available from 21 August on the following website:**

[http://www.business-humanrights.org/Updates/Archive/ICJP\\_aneloncomplicity](http://www.business-humanrights.org/Updates/Archive/ICJP_aneloncomplicity)

#### **Expert Researchers**

Over 10 expert researchers from different legal fields have been contracted to provide the Panel with research papers on a variety of topics from international criminal law to commercial law. The expert researchers range from academic legal experts to practicing lawyers working with international corporate law firms.

**Commercial Law:** Ms. Rachel Nicholson (Law Firm of Allens Arthur Robinson); Professor Anita Ramasastry (Shidler Center for Law, Commerce & Technology, University of Washington School of Law); Mr. Joseph Mwaura (Queens University Belfast); Mr. Sunny Mann (Law Firm of Baker & McKenzie).

**International & Comparative Criminal Law:** Professor Larissa van den Herik, (University of Leiden); Professor Celia Wells (University of Durham).

**Environmental Law:** Professor David Hunter, (American University); Mr. Marcos Orellana, (Center for International Environmental Law).

**National & Regional Legal Systems:** Professor Beth Stephens (Rutgers School of Law); Dr. Jennifer Zerk (CSR Vision); Professor Olivier de Schutter (Catholic University of Louvain); Professor Rebecca Wallace (Aberdeen Business School); Dr. Olga Martin-Martinez (Napier University).

### **The Panel**

- Professor Andrew Clapham (UK)
- Mr. Claes Cronstedt (Sweden)
- Professor Louise Doswald-Beck (Switzerland)
- Professor John Dugard (South Africa)
- Mr. Alberto León Gómez-Zuluaga (Colombia)
- Dr. Howard Mann (Canada)
- Dr. Usha Ramanathan (India)
- Professor Ralph Steinhardt (US)

For further background information see the June 2006 Update and Profiles of the Panelists: [http://www.business-humanrights.org/Updates/Archive/ICJP\\_aneloncomplicity](http://www.business-humanrights.org/Updates/Archive/ICJP_aneloncomplicity)

## **October Consultation Meeting**

On 5 October 2006 the ICJ and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) will host a Consultation Meeting and Workshop in Geneva. The meeting will enable the Panel to discuss relevant issues with key groups including: corporate lawyers and business representatives, NGO's, trade union representatives and employer's organizations.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Panel Meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Panel Meeting will be held on 6 & 7 October. At the meeting the Panel will review the expert research papers and submissions received and will begin to outline a framework of principles to explain when companies should be held liable in law and public policy for complicity in international crimes.

### **Special Advisor on Corporate Law**

Professor Peter Muchilinski, (Professor of International Commercial Law, School of Oriental and African Studies) has been appointed Special Advisor to the Panel on commercial law issues.

***If you would like your name to be added to the mailing list for updates, if you have any questions in relation to the project, or would like any further information, please contact Leah Hctor: [hctor@icj.org](mailto:hctor@icj.org)***