

# Sexual Violence as International Crime

A newsletter presented by the Center on Law and Globalization  
a program of the University of Illinois College of Law and the American Bar Foundation

Second Hague Colloquium Follow-Up Issue, Late Spring 2011

## Second Hague Colloquium on Systematic Sexual Violence and Victims' Rights

7-8 April 2011

The Center and its partners convened the Second Hague Colloquium, Systematic Sexual Violence and Victims' Rights in April 2011. More than two hundred participants- academics, local and international activists, specialists in compensation for victims, nonprofit leaders, and international lawyers and court officials - joined in this unique cross-disciplinary dialog.

Leading researchers and activists reported on patterns of violence in Bosnia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Darfur and Iraq. Judges, lawyers and observers reported on the uneven progress of international tribunals to prosecute and convict perpetrators for crimes of sexual violence. Others showed how the costs of violence to many victims continues for years of medical, psychological, social and community difficulties, leading to widespread depression, suicide and social isolation. The Trust Fund for Victims (International Criminal Court) reported on its many programs in Africa to provide reparations, medical interventions, counseling, jobs and re-building of communities.

All agreed that research is fundamental to every facet of sexual violence- predicting its onset, mapping its scope, demonstrating its long-term harms, and evaluating the effectiveness of post-conflict interventions.



Participants of the Second Hague Colloquium at the Dutch Foreign Ministry on April 7, 2011 (photo used with permission)

## Keynote Address

## In This Issue

- Colloquium Summary
- Keynote Address by Elisabeth Rehn
- Video Interview with Patricia Viseur Sellers
- Select Resources from the Colloquium

## the global sexual violence network:

The Center on Law and Globalization encourages you to contribute to our discussions. We aim to develop a global network connecting individuals with this common interest through our social media platforms listed below, which in combination with our website will be used to create a general resource of case law, institutions, and individuals who are working in this area.

## follow us on twitter

Follow us on 

## sexual violence newsletter:

We always welcome guest contributors and suggestions for future content. If you know of others who would like to be added to our mailing list, we would gladly add their names and contact information.

Please send any and all comments or suggestions to

by Elisabeth Rehn, Minister of State of Finland and Chair of the Board of Directors at the Trust Fund for Victims, ICC

"It is a great honour for me to be invited to give the keynote speech at this timely and important event that brought us all together today, the Second Hague Colloquium which will focus on sexual violence and victims' rights. I am especially honoured because the topic of this colloquium is very close to my heart. As someone who herself has experienced war and met with victims and affected communities around the world, the rights of victims and in particular the rights of victims of sexual violence have been so very important to me.

Only recently, in October 2010, as a member of a high level panel organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, I again personally met with victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or as they prefer to be called, survivors. During this visit, I have listened to survivors of sexual violence, ranging from a girl raped when she was three years old to a 61-year old grandmother. These survivors told us about their actual needs, and what they felt about the remedies and reparations currently available to them. Many of them described in detail what had happened to them and to the other victims in the neighborhoods...."

[Read more of this keynote address](#)

[Read a Center on Law and Globalization Press Release on the Opening Session of the Colloquium](#)



*Dr. John Hagan, Center on Law and Globalization Co-Director, discussing Government-Led Sexual Victimization and Torture in Darfur and Pre-Invasion Iraq at the Dutch Foreign Ministry (photo used with permission)*

## Video Interview with Patricia Viseur Sellers

Patricia Sellers, a Fellow at Kellogg College at Oxford University, gave the closing remarks at the end of Day One of the Second Hague Colloquium. Center on Law and Globalization staff had a quick conversation with her about the complex definition of rape and justice and her hopes for the international community as a whole. Watch this short video to hear what she had to say.

Allison Lynch, Center Program Associate, at [alynch@abfn.org](mailto:alynch@abfn.org)

join the linkedin discussion group



To gain membership into this private group email Allison Lynch, Center Program Associate, at [alynch@abfn.org](mailto:alynch@abfn.org)

### looking ahead:

the summer newsletter will focus and highlight local activists and organizations making a difference in the field.

please contact us with any suggestions

[CLG Sexual Violence Program](#)

[Center on Law and Globalization Website](#)

[American Bar Foundation](#)

[University of Illinois College of Law](#)

[Rape & Genocide Smart Library](#)



An Interview with Patricia Sellers on Systematic Sexual Violence at the Second Hague Colloquium

Professor Sellers is also a Special Legal Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict. From 1994-2007, Professor Sellers was the Legal Advisor for Gender Related Crimes and Senior Acting Trial Attorney in the Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. In that capacity, she advised teams of investigators and trial attorneys on the prosecution of sex-based crimes under the tribunals' Statutes and pertinent doctrines of humanitarian law.

## Select Resources from the Colloquium

For more information on the activities and outcomes of the Second Hague Colloquium including the colloquium program, notes from each session, center press releases, images, and presentations please see the [Center on Law and Globalization's website](#).

### [Colloquium Report, Session Summaries](#)

Matthew Bown, Iris Haenen, Marzena Jowiak, Andrew Lesko, Alponse Muleefu, and Loena Sosa, *Colloquium Reporters*

### [Session I: Causes of Systematic Sexual Violence- Presentation; State Rape: Government-Led Sexual Victimization and Torture in Darfur and Pre-Invasion Iraq](#)

John Hagan, Ph.D., *Co-Director, Center on Law and Globalization & John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University*

### [Session I: Causes of Systematic Sexual Violence- Presentation; Pursuit of Justice, Systematic Sexual Violence and Depression: Victims' Views from BIH](#)

Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovich, Ph.D, S.J.D, *Michigan State University*

### [Session V: Victims, Victimhood, Victims' Narratives- Resource; Best Practices Manual, For the Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Violence Crimes in Situations of Armed Conflict, Lessons from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, 2008](#)

Renifa Madenga, *Appeals Counsel ICTR & Member Sexual Violence Committee, Former Executive Director, Musasa Project Zimbabwe*

### [Session VIII: Support and Outreach to Victims of Sexual Violence- Presentation; Support and Outreach to Victims of Sexual Violence in Cambodia](#)

Duong Savorn, *Project Coordinator, Cambodian Defense Project (CDP)*



A Partnership of the **University of Illinois College of Law**  
and the **American Bar Foundation**

