



# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **Eminent jurists to hold public event on counter-terrorism and human rights**

On **24-25 April 2007** (see venue and schedule below), two members of the International Commission of Jurists' Eminent Jurists Panel will hold public hearings in Toronto and Ottawa to examine and assess Canada's counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices and their impact on human rights and the rule of law. The Panel will hear evidence from a wide range of people including legal academics, practicing lawyers, human rights organizations and members of the public. The Canada hearing is co-organized by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and its Canadian section.

**Members of the press are welcome to attend the hearing. No accreditation is necessary.**

#### **Venue and schedule:**

- Tuesday 24 April, 8.30am-5.30pm: Osgoode Hall Law School's Professional Development Facility, 1 Dundas Street West, Suite 2602, Toronto
- Wednesday 25 April, 8.30am-4pm: Ottawa Congress Centre, Capital Hall 3B, 55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa

Panel members present in Canada and available for interviews will be **Arthur Chaskalson (South Africa)**, chair of the Panel, and **Professor Robert K. Goldman (United States)**.

Arthur Chaskalson is former Chief Justice of South Africa and former President of South Africa's Constitutional Court. He has been a leading human rights lawyer during apartheid in his country, where he acted as counsel in key human rights cases such as the Rivonia Trial in 1963-64 when Nelson Mandela and other African National Congress members were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Robert K. Goldman is a renowned Professor of Law at the American University Washington College of Law. Professor Goldman is a former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and former UN Commission on Human Rights' expert on counter-terrorism and human rights

**On 27 April, the Panel will hold a press conference at 10:30 a.m. in the Charles Lynch Room (!30-S) on Parliament Hill to share its preliminary conclusions on its visit to Canada.**

*For further information, please contact Isabelle Heyer ([hey@icj.org](mailto:hey@icj.org) or + 41 22 979 38 00 or + 41 78 680 01 18) or, during the week of April 23, professor Craig Forcese at [cforcese@uOttawa.ca](mailto:cforcese@uOttawa.ca) or Micheline Laflamme, Communications officer, [Micheline.Laflamme@uOttawa.ca](mailto:Micheline.Laflamme@uOttawa.ca), (613) 562-5926*

## **Background on the Eminent Jurists Panel**

The Eminent Jurists Panel is an independent high-level group of jurists established by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in October 2005 to enquire into counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices, their implications and justifications. Public hearings have already been held in all regions of the world. The conclusions of the Panel concerning how Canada has responded, and continue to respond, to the threat of terrorism will be used in the drafting of its global report on terrorism, counter-terrorism and human rights, which the Panel is planning to release in autumn 2007. *For more information on the Eminent Jurists Panel, see <http://ejp.icj.org/>.*