

# Students for Human Rights

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For Attention: Secretary for fundamental RIGHTS Sent By: Students for human rights

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### Message / Instructions:

Invitation to an international human rights law conference

**N.B.:** Please notify us immediately if there are any errors in transmission.

# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CONFERENCE



University of the Witwatersrand  
Senate Chamber

Saturday 2nd of October 1993

A one-day conference designed to provide you with essential facts about international Human Rights law ... and its relevance for a changing South Africa.  
Addressed by top international speakers as well as local experts.

## THE CONFERENCE

For over forty years South Africa has been isolated from the international community. As a result it is not a party to any international human rights convention and has not felt the influence of international human rights law. This situation is about to change - dramatically. South Africa is about to adopt a Bill of Rights that draws heavily on the jurisprudence of contemporary international human rights conventions. In January of this year South Africa signed (but still has to ratify) a number of human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture.

In the foreseeable future therefore, South African lawyers will be required to interpret a Bill of Rights modeled on international human rights conventions and to advise clients on their rights arising from international human rights conventions incorporated into South African law. Likewise members of the judiciary will have to increasingly preside over cases in which the influence of international human rights is felt. Members of political parties and non-governmental organisations will also be required to be conversant with the essentials of international human rights law.

International human rights law will soon cease to be a matter of mere academic interest and will become an essential feature of South African law and politics.

In order to introduce lawyers, members of the judiciary, diplomats and politicians to this jurisprudence, a conference is to be held under the auspices of Lawyers for Human Rights, Students for Human Rights of the University of the Witwatersrand and the newly formed South African branch of the International Law Association. This one-day conference will be held on Saturday the 2nd of October 1993.

## THE SPEAKERS

The conference will be addressed by international experts and recognised world authorities in the field of International Human Rights Law. They will represent important institutions such as the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, the International Commission of Jurists, the European Commission for Human Rights and the Organisation of African Unity. South African experts will also address the Conference.

## PROGRAMME

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration.
- 9.00 - 9.15 Welcome
- 9.15 - 10.30 Recent Developments in International Human Rights Law and their relevance to South Africa at present.  
**Speaker: United Nations Centre for Human Rights**
- 10.45 - 12.00 The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.  
**Speaker: Mr Adama Dieng,  
General Secretary  
International Commission of Jurists**
- 12.15 - 13.30 Protection of Human Rights under the African Charter.  
**Speaker: Mr Sam Ibok,  
Political Adviser  
Organisation of African Unity Observer Mission  
in South Africa**
- 13.30 - 15.00 Lunch.
- 15.00 - 16.15 Protection of Human Rights under the European Convention.  
**Speaker: Dr. Hans Danelius,  
European Commission for Human Rights  
Permanent Court of Arbitration  
Justice of the Swedish Supreme Court**
- 16.30 - 17.45 Protection of Human Rights under the Inter-American Convention.  
**Speaker: Prof. Dinah Shelton,  
University of Santa Clara  
Executive Council of the  
International Institute of Human Rights**
- 18.00 - 19.15 International Human Rights Law as presently applicable in South Africa & Preparing South Africa for ratification of International Human Rights Instruments.  
**Speakers: Prof. John Dugard,  
University of the Witwatersrand  
Prof. Kader Asmal  
University of the Western Cape**
- 19.15 - 19.30 Closure
- 19.30 - Dinner

## HOW TO REGISTER

The number of delegates who will be able to participate in the conference is limited. If you wish to secure a place at the conference you should:

- 1) Phone the conference secretariat between 09h00 and 13h00 at 716-5821  
OR Fax the conference secretariat between 13h00 and 09h00 at 716-5821
- 2) Pay the Conference fee of R200 in the following manner:
  - a) A deposit into Nedbank account number: 1951073029. Branch: Wits Mini.  
The deposit slip must be faxed to 716-5821 for administrative purposes.

OR

- b) A cheque made out to: Students for Human Rights.

This can be posted to: Cecille van Riet  
International Human Rights Law Conference  
Lawyers for Human Rights  
713 van Erkom Building  
Pretoria Street  
Pretoria 0002

Payment includes teas and coffee, lunch and dinner as well as a conference pack containing relevant documentation

Limited bursaries for people in need of financial support are available.

- 3) The full name of the person attending should be provided upon payment. You should also state whether you will be staying for both meals and whether you are a vegetarian or keep kosher.
- 4) The Conference will be held in the Senate Chamber, 3rd Floor Senate House, University of the Witwatersrand, 1 Jan Smuts Avenue Johannesburg. Delegates are requested to present themselves for registration no later than 08H30 on Saturday the 2nd of October.

In an emergency you may contact:

Paul van Zyl  
Tel: (011) 646-1104