



# IARLJ

## International Association of Refugee Law Judges

established at Warsaw, 18 september 1997

Draft program 18Oct2014

International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ)  
10th World Conference  
Tunis, Tunisia, October 22-24, 2014

*Advancing Refugee Law Around the World:  
Contemporary Challenges in Emergent and Established Asylum Systems*

Director of programme: Prof. Amor Boubakri

### Rationale:

When Mohamed Bouzazi set himself alight in Tunis in 2011, to protest harassment by government agents, none could have foreseen the impact on the country, region and the world. Since then, dramatic events swept across the Middle East and various parts of Africa, causing millions of persons to seek asylum abroad. "Unprepared" is the word commonly used to describe the reaction of host governments, including that of Tunisia, in providing an adequate humanitarian response, managing the wave of refugees and asylum seekers, and ensuring international protection for those who fear for their lives, security or freedom. Emergency situations are not the only challenges. The tremendous increase in people in need of protection worldwide has created new strains and stresses on asylum systems and those charged with adjudicating their claims for refugee protection. In these circumstances, concerns arose about transnational threats, including terrorism and crime, and how these broader forced migration trends have further challenged the advancement of refugee law and asylum systems. At the same time, many states have shown remarkable commitment and sought out opportunities to develop laws and policies in line with international legal standards for the protection of refugees, including in North Africa.

Against this background the International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ) is organizing its tenth World Conference that will seek to examine the contemporary challenges that are confronting refugee law at both the international and municipal levels. The focus of this year's World Conference will be on how emergent and established asylum systems are addressing these contemporary challenges in refugee law and practice.

### **Arrival Tuesday 21 October**

All afternoon until 21h00

Registration Desk at Foyer El Mouradi Hotel

18:00 – 19:30 Cultural event; transport provided.

Evening free time for individual arrangements

21:00

Council meeting



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### DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2014

Registration 07:30 to 08:45 at registration desk in the foyer of Hotel El Mouradi

#### Delegates be seated by 09:00

09:15 – 10:30 SESSION 1

Opening Ceremony Announcements Prof Amor Boubakri

Chair: TBD

09:30 National Anthem

Speakers:

- President International Association of Refugee Law Judges (IARLJ) Judge Sebastiaan de Groot
- President of the Republic of Tunisia - President Dr Moncef Marzouki
- Director of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Dr Volker Türk
- President of the Administrative Tribunal of Tunisia, Judge Mohamed Fauzi Ben Hammed
- Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation Ms Rita Adam

10:30 – 11:30 SESSION 2 *Advancing Refugee Law Around the World: Contemporary Challenges in Emergent and Established Asylum Systems*

Chair: Judge Rolf Driver, IARLJ Vice President

- Key note address: Dr Volker Türk, Director of International Protection, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): a Global Perspective;
- Ahmed Arbee Chairperson IARLJ Africa Chapter Reply (regional perspective)
- Mr Guilhem Ravier, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC, Head of the Unit for Protection
- Q&A

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 SESSION 3 *Recent Developments related to Interception, Interdiction and Offshore Processing ; impact on Refugee Status Determination and case law*

Chair: Justice Tony North (Australia)

Speakers:

- Justice Debra Mortimer (Federal Court of Australia)
- Professor Lilian Tsourdi, Brussels
- Mr Irfan Rahim, International Maritime Organisation (UK)
- Mr Eng. Colomel Mohammed Abdo Haider Saeed, Coast Guards, Gulf of Aden, Yemen
- Q&A

13:00 - 14:15 Lunch



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14:15 – 16:00 SESSION 4 *Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Refugees and Asylum Seekers; what can the Judiciary do?*

Chair: Mr Tjerk Damstra (SA)

- Key note address: Mr Martin Jones (York, UK)
- Australia: Rolf Driver (Australia)
- Respondent Jacob van Garderen, Director Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) (SA)
- Q & A

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee/tea break

16:15 – 17:30 SESSION 5 *Comparative Refugee Status Determination*

Chair: Justice Prof. Dr Harald Dörig (Germany)

Panel discussion followed by Q&A: panellists from different regions/systems

- Africa: Ms Clementine Awu Nkweta Salami (UNHCR Southern Africa Regional Representative)
- Americas: Ken Sandhu (Interim Chair Person Immigration & Refugee Board Canada)
- Europe: Professor Philippe De Bruycker (Brussels)
- Africa: Justice Fred Ochieng (Kenya)
- Australasia: Ms Rea Hearn Mackinnon (Refugee Review Tribunal, Nauru)

19:00 Cocktail reception hosted by the President of the Republic of Tunisia Dr Moncef Marzouki.  
Transport provided.

Women Judges Forum Dinner, details to follow.

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### DAY 2 – THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2014

07:15 - 08:15: SESSION 6 IARLJ Working Parties Rapporteurs and Associate Rapporteurs Breakfast Meeting

08:30 – 09:45: SESSION 7 *Convergence and Consistency in Processes and Case Law; identification of areas of divergence, including “The Children of 2014 in Refugee Law: The Cry of the Weak and Helpless”*

Chair: Judge Isaac Lenaola (Kenya)

- Key note address: Judge Bernard McCloskey (UK)
- Justice Russel Zinn (Canada)
- Justice Dato Mah Weng Kwai (Malaysia)
- Q and A

09:45 - 11:05: SESSION 8 *Country Experiences on Legislation regarding Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

Chair: (TBC)

Reform of Asylum Systems in North Africa

Speaker: Prof Amor Boubakri (Tunisia)

Panel discussions followed by Q&A:

- Africa: Deputy Minister of Home Affairs: Fatima Chouhan (SA)
- Americas: Ross Pattee (Canada)
- Europe: Judge Martine Denis-Linton (France); Judge Boštjan Zalar (Slovenia)  
Judge Bernard Dawson (UK)
- Australia: Ms Kay Ransome (Australia)

11:05 - 11:20 Coffee/tea break

11:20 - 12:00: SESSION 9: *IARLJ Regional Chapter Reports*

Chair: Katelijne Declerck (Belgium)

- Australasia: Rolf Driver
- Americas: Lois Figg
- Africa: Ahmed Arbee
- Europe: Hugo Storey

12:30 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:30 SESSION 10 - *Working Parties Break Out Sessions*

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee/tea break

14:45 – 15:45 SESSION 11 *Reports from the IARLJ Working Parties*

Chair: Prof. Dr James Simeon (Toronto, Canada)

Consolidated Working Parties Report

Presentation by the respective coordinators of the Working Parties

16:00 Photo shoot of delegation

16:15 Chapter meetings



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19:00 Reception hosted by the Administrative Tribunal of Tunisia.



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### **DAY 3 – FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2014**

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 12 *'The Role of Regional Human Rights Courts and Regional Arrangements for the Advancement of International Refugee Law'*

Chair and introductory remarks: Judge Jody Kollapen (SA)

- Professor Pene Mathew (Australia)
- Justice Bernard Ngoepe, past member of the African Court of People's and Human Rights (SA)
- Judge Robert Barnes, Inter American Human Rights Court (Canada)
- Mr Stefano Piedimonte Bodini, European Court of Human Rights
- Q and A

10:30 – 11:00 SESSION 13 - *Closing Ceremony*

Chair: Dr Hugo Storey (UK)

Keynote Message: Minister Hamed Ben Salah, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice of Tunisia

Vote of Thanks: President Sebastiaan de Groot

### **END OF CONFERENCE**

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11:15 – 12:00 IARLJ AGM including Election of Council Members and Office Bearers

12:00 - 12:30: Meeting of New Council