

**Bangkok workshop on the prohibition of incitement to  
national, racial or religious hatred:**  
**Biography of experts**

*Ahmer Bilal Soofi*

Mr. Soofi is a leading lawyer from Pakistan practicing before the Supreme Court and is also a senior partner of a law firm with offices in both Lahore and Islamabad. He is the founding president of the Research Society of International Law, the only think tank of international law in Pakistan that is dedicated to activities for lawyers, journalists and government officials for improving capacity and awareness about legal commitments of Pakistan under various treaties and conventions.

Mr. Soofi and his team carried out a comprehensive comparison of Pakistan's entire legislation with the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocols, and the Rome Statute. He also supervised preparation of a ratification memo for the ICCPR containing comparison of Pakistan's domestic legislation with the provisions of the ICCPR that formed one of the basis to ratify the ICCPR by the government.

He has delivered talks and lectures at venues like the International Development Organisation (Rome), the Regional Center for Strategic Studies (Sri Lanka, Shanghai University (China), Fletcher School (USA), and the Royal United Institute (UK).

Mr. Soofi graduated in law from the University of Punjab and later obtained his LLM from the University of Cambridge, in the United Kingdom.

*Amy Sim*

Sim Kok Eng Amy is Senior Programme Officer for Asia at ARTICLE 19. She currently manages projects in the Asia region, and carries out advocacy on a range of freedom of expression issues. She is the author of a number of reports on access to information in Indonesia and China. Prior to joining ARTICLE 19, she worked at the World Bank in Indonesia, where she developed information campaigns and public outreach strategies for community-driven development and post-conflict programmes. She also spearheaded a culture-based community empowerment project. In her home country, she was previously a

journalist with the Singapore Press Holdings and still contributes to the national Chinese newspaper Lianhe Zaobao.

### *Bushra Gohar*

Ms. Bushra Gohar is the Central Vice President of the Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan and was elected as a Member of Parliament in the 2008 National elections. She was elected as the chair of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Women's Development and is a member of the Working Council of the Women Parliamentary Caucus. She is also a member of the National Assembly's Standing Committees on Finance and Revenue, Interior and Kashmir Affairs.

Ms. Gohar has a Master of Science in Human Resources Management from USA in 1991 with over 20 years of experience in policy development, planning, evaluation and implementing human rights and developmental programmes in Pakistan and the region. She has been a member of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), National Council on Social Welfare, Chair of the South Asia Partnership-International (SAP-I), Regional and Global Vice President of the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) and a member of a number of Provincial and Federal Government's advisory committees on women and children's rights. She has represented the civil society and the Government of Pakistan in the United Nations and other International forums on several occasions. During the course of her professional career, Ms. Gohar has had the opportunity to work with a number of National and International NGOs and donor agencies on a number of integrated, multi-sectoral projects.

Ms. Gohar was born in a village named Jhanda, District Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

### *Frank La Rue*

Mr. La Rue has been serving as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression since August 2008. He is a lawyer and the current Director of the Centro-American Institute for Social Democracy Studies (DEMOS) in Guatemala. He holds a degree in law from the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, and a postgraduate degree in U.S. foreign policy from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. La Rue has worked extensively on human rights

issues, and as founding member and Director of the Centre for Legal Human Rights Action (CALDH), he was involved in presenting the first Guatemalan human rights case before the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. Mr. La Rue also brought the first case of genocide against the military dictatorship in Guatemala. As a human rights activist, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

Mr. La Rue has previously served as Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala (2004 – 2008), Human Rights Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, President of the Governing Board of the DEMOS, and consultant to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He was also a professor of human rights at the University of Rafael Lavinder de Guatemala.

### *Fu Hualing*

Professor Fu's is the Head of the Department of Law at the University of Hong Kong. His research interest includes constitutional law and human rights, with a special focus on criminal justice system and media law in China. His recent work include *National Security and Fundamental Freedoms: Hong Kong's Article 23 Under Scrutiny* (Hong Kong University Press, 2005) (co-edited with Carole Petersen and Simon Young) and *The Struggle for Coherence: Constitutional Interpretation in Hong Kong* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) (co-edited with Lison Harris and Simon Young). Professor Fu teaches Corruption, Human Rights in China, and Legal Relations between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Professor Fu has obtained an LLB (Southwestern, China, 1983), an MA (Toronto, 1988), and is Doctor of Jurisprudence (Osgoode Hall, 1993).

### *Galiya Azhenova*

Ms. Azhenova is the Head of the Public Center of Linguistic Expertise with the organization "Adil Soz" (International Foundation for Protection of Speech) in Kazakhstan. Previous professional experience includes work for the Republic corporation "Television and Radio of Kazakhstan" in Almaty. Ms. Azhenova has also worked as a host, editor or chief editor for a number of political, economical and social TV programs.

Ms. Azhenova has studied journalism at the Saint Petersburg State University and completed the Law Academy "Adilet" in Kazakhstan.

## *Githu Muigai*

Professor Muigai was appointed as UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in 2008. He is a Kenyan lawyer and academic specializing in Public law. He holds law degrees from Kenya and the United States and has taught law in both countries. He practices law in Nairobi in the law firm of Mohammed & Muigai Advocates, one of Kenya's leading law firms. He also serves as an Associate Professor of Public law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Nairobi. Over the last eighteen years he has been actively involved in the legal profession as a member of the Law Society of Kenya, the International Commission of Jurists, the Institute of Education in Democracy, the East African Law Society, the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, the International Bar Association and, in championing legal and constitutional reforms in Kenya and the region.

Professor Muigai has been involved in numerous consultancies in the region on behalf of individual States and international organizations. He has acknowledged expertise in the areas of justice sector reform generally and constitutional reform specifically. He served as a Commissioner on the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission which prepared the draft Constitution of the Republic of Kenya (2004). He was legal adviser and draftsman to the Somali peace process and was involved in the drafting of the Somali Federal Transitional Charter. He is also the author of several works on law, politics and justice.

## *Huang Yong'an*

Mr. Huang Yong'an graduated from the Beijing University of International Studies and also studied at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Lund, Sweden. He took part in the Advanced International Programme of Human Rights organized by the Swedish Government.

Mr. Huang Yong'an has also occupied various official positions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, including as Permanent Representative to UN ESCAP and as Ambassador to Eritrea.

Mr. Huang Yong'an is currently a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

## *Katharine Gelber*

Kath Gelber commenced an appointment as Associate Professor in Public Policy at the University of Queensland in January 2011. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Tasmania, an Honours (I) degree at the University of Sydney and her PhD at the University of Sydney. She worked at the University of New South Wales for nine years, and has been appointed an Honorary Associate Professor there. Her research interests are in human rights policy, with a particular emphasis on freedom of speech and the regulation of hate speech.

Kath is the recipient of several ARC grants, including the current ARC DP 'The Impact of Hate Speech Laws on Public Discourse in Australia' (2010-2012) with co-CI Professor Luke McNamara (University of Wollongong), as a co-CI on the ARC Linkage 'Democratic Dialogue and Capabilities: New Opportunities in Post-Reconciliation Era Australia' with Prof Pat Dodson and A/Prof Sarah Maddison (UNSW), and the now-completed ARC DP 'Securing Freedom: Freedom of Political Speech in Australia'.

Kath Gelber is the President of the Australian Political Studies Association. She is also a member of the human rights research streams of the International Political Science Association, the International Studies Association and the American Political Science Association. Kath regularly makes submissions to government enquiries into speech-related matters, including academic freedom and anti-terrorism laws. In 2009 Kath presented the Mitchell Oration in Adelaide on the topic of 'freedom of speech and its limits'.

## *Mohamed Eltayeb*

Mohamed Saeed M. Eltayeb is a human rights lawyer, scholar and consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Khartoum, two post-graduate Diplomas in international relations and international law (University of Khartoum and Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) and two Masters Degrees in international relations and international law from the University of Amsterdam and Lund University (Sweden) respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. in international human rights law from Utrecht University (The Netherlands).

Dr. Eltayeb has worked, *inter alia*, at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (SIM), International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Faculty of

Law of the University of Khartoum and the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies of the Ahfad University (Sudan). He currently works as a legal expert for the Bureau of Human Rights of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Eltayeb also served as a visiting researcher at several institutes in Europe and USA, including the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law of the University of Lausanne, the Human Rights Centre at Essex University, the Law and Religion Program at Emory University School of Law, the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School and Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund University.

### *Natan Lerner*

Mr. Natán Lerner was born in Poland and educated in Argentina, where he obtained his law degree in 1950 and his doctorate in Law and Social Sciences in 1958, both from Buenos Aires University. He was a practicing lawyer in Buenos Aires until 1963. From 1963 to 1966 he worked in New York for the World Jewish Congress. In Israel since 1966, he was director of the Israeli office of the World Jewish Congress until 1983. From 1984 to 1989 he was director of the International Center for the University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. Simultaneously, he taught International Law and Human Rights at the university level. Since 1989 his main activity is university teaching.

Since his retirement from Tel Aviv University, after more than 20 years, he teaches at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. His main course is International Law and he also conducts seminars on State and Religion, Racial Discrimination, Minorities, and Genocide. Mr. Lerner is the author of the following books in English: *Religion, Secular Beliefs and Human Rights* (Leiden, 2006); *Religion, Beliefs and International Human Rights* (New York, 2000); *Group Rights and Discrimination in International Law* (The Hague, 2003); *The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (Alphen an den Rijn, 1980); *The Crime of Incitement to Group Hatred* (New York, 1965). He also published several books in Spanish. He is the author of many articles in Spanish, English and Hebrew, published in books and journals of Israel, the USA, Spain, Argentina and other countries.

### *Rafendi Djamin*

Mr. Rafendi Djamin is the executive director of the Human Rights

Working Group (HRWG). Based in Jakarta, HRWG is a coalition of more than forty national and local Indonesian NGOs representing a variety of issues including women's rights, urban poor, trade advocacy, and development. He is the former convener of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights, a platform of more than 60 NGOs from ASEAN countries.

In October 2009, he was elected and appointed as the Indonesian Commissioner of ASEAN's Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). Mr. Djamin is currently the Chair of AICHR. For nearly twenty years, Mr. Djamin has advocated for human rights, democracy and humanitarian issues in Indonesia, lobbying inter-governmental bodies and UN human rights mechanisms. He holds a Masters Degree in Development Studies from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands.

### *Teesta Setalvad*

Ms. Teesta Setalvad is an educationist, journalist and human rights activist who has worked with law and the Indian legal system, been committed to an egalitarian and diverse India, at the forefront of the struggle for justice equality and non discrimination.

Based in Mumbai, India, she co-edits "Communalism Combat" and heads and directs "Education for a Plural India" programme and is Secretary of "Citizens for Justice and Peace". CJP is a Mumbai based trust committed to accountability, transparency and punishment to perpetrators of mass crimes within Indian democracy. Hate speech and hate writing resulting in mass crimes against targeted sections has been an area of specialisation and concern.

### *Vitit Muntarbhorn*

Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn is a Professor of Law at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He has served in various capacities for the United Nations system. From 1990 to 1994, he was Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and between 2004 and June 2010, he was Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He was awarded the 2004 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education for human rights and diverse activities at national, regional and international levels in favour of promotion and protection of all human rights for all.

Mr. Muntarhorn has produced the background study for the OHCHR expert workshop for Asia and the Pacific and is the moderator of this Bangkok workshop.

### *Yahia Shukkeir*

Mr. Yahia Shukkeir is a Jordanian journalist at Alarab Alyawm, a daily newspaper in Jordan. He is a member of International Media Lawyers Association (IMLA) at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Shukkeir has drafted the Freedom of Information Law in Jordan which was the first of its kind in the Arab world. He is a human rights activist with specific focus on freedom of expression. The last book he authored is titled: "Introduction to Media Laws & Policy in Jordan", 2011, Published by IREX and School for Communication at Pennsylvania University, Philadelphia.

### *Zainah Anwar*

Ms. Zainah Anwar is a founding member and former Executive Director of Sisters in Islam (SIS), a non-governmental organisation working on the rights of Muslim women within the framework of Islam. She is now on the Board of SIS and is the Director of Musawah, the SIS-initiated Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family. She also writes a monthly column, Sharing the Nation, for the Star, the largest English-language daily in Malaysia.

Sisters in Islam is at the forefront of the women's movement which seeks to end discrimination against women in the name of religion. It has successfully created a public voice and a public space for ordinary women to claim their right to speak out on Islam and the impact of Islamic laws on women's rights and status. The group's activities in research, advocacy and public education help to promote the development and understanding of an Islam that upholds the principles of equality, justice, freedom and dignity within a democratic state.

Ms. Anwar's other work experience includes: Chief Programme Officer, Political Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London; Freelance Writer; Senior Analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur; Political and Diplomatic Writer, The New Straits Times, Kuala Lumpur. She was also a member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia from 2000 – 2004. Her book, *Islamic Revivalism in Malaysia: Dakwah Among the Students* has become a standard reference in the study of Islam in Malaysia. She was educated at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston University and the MARA Institute of Technology, Malaysia, in the fields of international relations and journalism.

### *Zonke Zanele Majodina*

Ms. Majodina, a South-African national, is the current Chairperson and member of the UN Human Rights Committee. She has obtained a BSc Hons in psychology from the University of South-Africa, a M.Phil in clinical psychology from the University of London, and a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Cape Town. Ms. Majodina is also a clinical psychologist with the Medical School of the University of Ghana. She is a visiting Fellow with the Refugee Studies Programme of the University of Oxford and a Senior Lecturer with the Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Witwatersrand.

Ms. Majodina is currently National Commissioner of the South-African Human Rights Commission on the issues of rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and migration policy. She is also a member of the Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (Netherlands), member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Institute of South-Africa, and member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Policy Studies in South-Africa. Ms. Majodina is furthermore member of the Organisation of Women for a Better World (Spain) and Advisor on Human Rights for the organization Congolese Women in the Disapora (South-Africa).