

Press Release

Norwegian legal expert joins UN Group on Arbitrary Detention

17 August 2009

GENEVA -- Mads Andenas, Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Oslo and former Director of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights has joined the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Dr. Andenas succeeds former Chairperson-Rapporteur Manuela Carmena Castrillo (from Spain), who was member of the Working Group since 2003.

Dr. Andenas, who assumed his UN mandate on 1 August, is also Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, and Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford.

Previous assignments include as the Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London, and of the Centre for European Law at King's College, University of London. Dr. Andenas is an editor of the International and Comparative Law Quarterly. He holds the degrees cand. jur. from Oslo, PhD from Cambridge and MA and DPhil from Oxford. He is an Advokat in Norway, and a Barrister of England and Wales, and a Bencher of the Inner Temple, London.

The Working Group has been entrusted with the investigation of instances of alleged arbitrary deprivation of liberty, according to the standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international instruments accepted by the States concerned. Its mandate also covers the issue of administrative custody of asylum-seekers and immigrants.

The Working Group is composed of five independent experts appointed according to criteria governing equitable geographical distribution which apply within the UN. It is headed by Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow (Senegal) as its current Vice-Chairperson and, in addition to its new member, is composed of Mr. Aslan Abashidze (Russian Federation), Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile) and Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (Pakistan).

By its resolution 6/4 adopted on 28 September 2007, the Human Rights Council confirmed the scope of the Working Group's mandate and extended it for a further three-year period.

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For more information about the Working Group, please visit:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/detention/index.htm>

For further details and media requests, please contact Nikolaus Schultz (Tel: +41 22 917 9402 / e-mail: nschultz@ohchr.org or write to wgad@ohchr.org

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Media Unit
Rupert Colville, Spokesperson: + 41 22 917 9767
Xabier Celaya, Information Officer: + 41 22 917 9383

For inquiries and media requests: press-info@ohchr.org