In brief - Meeting between the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee against torture

On December 2nd of 2016, the René Cassin Foundation supported the organisation of a meeting between the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee against Torture.

This event was the occasion to open a fruitful discussion about the procedural difficulties of these two human rights protection organs and to clarify some interpretations and differences between them. This meeting also focused on the return of persons exposed to a risk of torture in their country. Jean-Paul COSTA, Former President of the ECHR and President of the René Cassin Foundation and Paulo PINTO DE ALBUQUERQUE, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, gave speeches. Sébastien TOUZÉ, Member of the UN Committee against Torture and Director of the René Cassin Foundation intervened on the individual communication procedure before the UN Committee against Torture. Alessio BRUNI, Member of the UN Committee against Torture focused on the article 3 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Jens MODVIG, President of the UN Committee against Torture welcomed the participants.

René Cassin Foundation

Created in 1969 by René Cassin, Nobel Peace Prize, the association International Institute of Human Rights contributes to the promotion and the protection of human rights.

True to the vision of René Cassin and to develop its activities thanks to sponsorships, the International Institute of Human Rights became a state-approved foundation in December 2015: the Fondation René Cassin - International Institute of Human Rights.

This Foundation is chaired by Jean-Paul COSTA, former President of the European Court of Human Rights and led by Sébastien TOUZÉ, Professor at the University Panthéon-Assas and Member of the United Nations Committee against Torture.

The objective of René Cassin Foundation is to develop the training in the field of human rights and to support the research to ensure effective application of these rights.

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48th annual study session - Health and International Human Rights Law

The 48th annual study session of the Fondation René Cassin will focus on the theme « Health and International Human Rights Law » and will take place from July 3 to 21, 2017 in Strasbourg (France).

Registration are open until May 15, 2017.

Created in 1970, the annual study session last three weeks and consists in courses and conferences provided by international experts.

This training session allows to participant to deepen their knowledge in international and comparative human rights law but also to familiarize themself to specific issues linked with the topical subject of the annual study session.

You can find all the information about registration and archives on our website.

Registration
Booklet

20th Summer Course on Refugee Law

The French Representation of the UNHCR and the Fondation René Cassin will organise a 20th Summer course on Refugee Law. This two weeks course will take place from June 6 to 17, 2017 at the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Courses will be provided in french by UNHCR experts and institutional, academics and judicial specialists.

Programme and registration on our website
Our next training sessions

4th training session in Bamako (Mali)

The 4th training session in Bamako (Mali) will take place from 6th to 11th of February 2017 and will explore the theme «Challenges of the International Criminal Court». This session will be organised by the René Cassin Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, with the support of the MINUSMA.

The program will focused on the international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and specific issues of the protection of refugees rights.

Registration and provisional program are available on our website

1st training session in Buenos Aires (Argentina)

The 1st training session in Buenos Aires (Argentina) will take place from 7th to 17th of March 2017 and will focus on international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law. General courses will be supplemented by thematic courses on international protection of women rights, protection of indigenous people or the United Nations Committee against torture.

Registration and provisional program are available on our website

Timetable of training sessions abroad 2017

From 6th to 11th February 2017 : 4th training session in Bamako (Mali)

From 20th to 25th February 2017 : 1st training session in Lima (Peru) followed by a private seminar in Cuzco (Peru)

From 7th to 17th of March 2017 : 1st training session in Buenos Aires (Argentina)

From 10th to 15th April 2017 : 2nd training session in Yaoundé (Cameroon)

May 2017 : 5th international training session "Mona Haddad" of human rights in Beirut (Lebanon)

September 2017 : 8th training session in Dakar (Senegal)

October 2017 : 1st training session in Pretoria (South Africa)

November 2017 : 5th training session in Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

December 2017 : 6th training session in Port-au-Prince (Haiti)
Our previous training sessions

7th training session in Dakar (Senegal)

The 7th training session in Dakar (Senegal) took place from 19th to 30th of September 2016 and was organised by the René Cassin Foundation and the West Africa Office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, with the support of the Cooperation and Cultural Action Office of the French Ambassador in Senegal, the West Africa Regional Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Senegalese Committee of Human Rights. The theme of this session was « Human Rights and Fighting against Terrorism ».

This session welcomed 98 participants and 15 nationalities were represented with a majority of Senegalese, Cameroonian and Burkinabe citizens. Participants were mainly professionals, legal officers, practitioners, lawyers, journalists, members of NGOs and some students. The program included general and thematic courses but also a moot court exercise.

4th training session in Abidjan (Ivory Coast)

The 4th training session in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) took place from 14th to 19th of November 2016. The theme of this training session was the international humanitarian law and was organised by the René Cassin Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. The session welcomed 76 participants and 64% of them obtained the certificate of success. This rate demonstrates a high level of courses. Participants were mainly judges, lawyers, legal officers and members of NGOs.

General courses on international humanitarian law, international criminal law and international human rights law were supplemented by special courses such as the consolidation of human rights in the reconstruction process in Ivory Coast, the fighting against terrorism and the international humanitarian law, the truth commissions and the peace process or the protection of Children during armed conflicts.
Continuing training

Winter School - Human Rights as a Horizontal Issue in EU External Policy

From January 9 to 13, 2017, the Fondation René Cassin, the University of Bologna and the Higher School of Economics of Moscow, will organise a Winter School which will take place in Forli (Italia). The theme is « Human Rights as a Horizontal Issue in EU External Policy ». This Winter School is made in the context of a partnership between the Fondation René Cassin, the University of Bologna and the Higher School of Economics of Moscow. On 2015, a first Spring School was organised by the three partners in Strasbourg on the theme « Family Law in the European Legal Framework ».

Information and registration on our website.

Pleading Competition on Women’s rights

The René Cassin Foundation supported the organisation of the first Pleading Competition on Women’s Rights which was organised in Budapest on November 25th, 2016. This Competition focused on domestic violences against women and took place at the Supreme Court of Budapest. This French-Speaking event allows to french and hungarian students to plead before juries of professionals.

The Foundation was represented by Susana SANZ CABALLERO, Professor at the University CEU Cardenal-Herrera of Valencia and Vice-President of the Association of Friends of the International Institute of Human Rights. Susana SANZ CABALLERO was the President of the jury and noted the high level of participants.

The CNCDH and the René Cassin Foundation organise a day in memory of René Cassin. This event will take place on January 20th, 2017 at the European Court of Human Rights.

Registration: www.iidh.org
I decided to register to the Human Rights Clinic of the René Cassin Foundation and the University of Strasbourg in order to boost my doctoral studies by practical teaching provided by professionals and academics that have a sharp eye on the specific issues of human rights such as technical, procedural and substantive aspects. These training added values to my specialization in international human rights law by a practical dimension, the daily and solitary consultation of books in library was not sufficient.

The common work, as a result of the organisation of students in different groups, focused on the study of central and transversal issues such as euthanasia, comparative criminal legislation on genocide, the Jurisconsulte or the protection of personal digital data. This organisation answered to my expectation in terms of knowledge enhancement. Moreover, the diversity of students who are students, lawyers, Ph. D Candidates and the dialogue between groups are the wealth of this University Diploma and I enjoy of it for these two-years of training. I also benefit of the timely support of former students of the Clinic who always were available to answer to my questions and to share their experience.

Speakers came from variety backgrounds and contributed to create intensive and fruitful exchange between them and students during seminars. Indeed, theoretical and practical aspects of this training on specific problems such as the development of a judicial strategy in the field of human rights, the procedure before the European Court of Human Rights with the three points of view of lawyer, judge and registry, the main principles of lawyer’s office, are some example to show the practical methodology of the Clinic. This is almost never present during classic university training.

The creation of the Human Rights Clinic is a confirmation of the educational purpose of the René Cassin Foundation from which the human rights training presupposes knowledge of international human rights protection instruments but also knowledge of the entire legal tools to ensure effectiveness. Beyond the Human Rights Clinic, I was a part of many training sessions of the Foundation and I can be sure of its objective.
Students of the Human Rights Clinic had the opportunity to attend to three seminars in November:

On November 16th, Mr. Jean-Pierre SCHOUPPE, Professor at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, gave a speech on « The freedom of religion »

On November 17th, Mr. Frédéric EDEL, Researcher at the Center of Experties and Administrative Research (CERA) of the ENA, Deputy Editor of the French Review of Public Administration (RFAP) and Lecturer in Public Law at the University of Strasbourg, intervened on the theme « The principle of non-discrimination and international human rights law”

On November 30th, Mr. Philippe KALFAYAN, Legal Officer, Former Secretary General of the FIDH, gave a speech on « The development of a judicial strategy in the field of human rights ».

René Cassin Thesis Prize 2017

The application for the René Cassin Thesis Prize is open to any candidates who defended their doctoral thesis in the course of the year 2016 in one of the following disciplines:

- International Human Rights Law
- Regional Human Rights Law
- Comparative Human Rights Law
- Legal Theory of Human Rights

The English section of the Prize was created in 2011. Persons wishing to apply should send three paper copies of their doctoral thesis to the Fondation René Cassin - International Institute of Human Rights, accompanied by a report certifying their thesis defence or an equivalent document, and an electronic copy of their work before the January 30, 2017.

Competing theses will be examined by a jury composed of university professors specialized in the above-mentioned areas of Human Rights Law. The jury’s final decision will be reached in May 2017.

The prize-winning candidate will be offered the opportunity to have his or her work published in the foundation’s Collection and the costs of publication be borne by the foundation. More information on our website.

Contact person
Evangelia VASALOU
Research assistant
evangelia.vasalou@iidh.org
Depuis octobre 2012, la France a initié une vaste campagne mondiale pour l’abolition universelle de la peine de mort. Si celle-ci n’est plus appliquée en Europe, bien des nations, et notamment certaines grandes puissances démocratiques comme les États-Unis, l’Inde ou le Japon, la pratiquent encore. À ce jour, 99 États ont aboli la peine de mort pour tous les crimes, 8 l’ont aboli pour les crimes de droit commun, et 33 respectent un moratoire sur les exécutions, soit 140 États au total ne la pratiquent plus. Pourtant, 58 États et territoires l’appliquent toujours malgré la pression internationale. La coopération et le dialogue avec ces derniers États ainsi qu’une action efficace et pragmatique sont donc indispensables.

Dans ce contexte et face à ce défi, la Fondation René Cassin - Institut International des Droits de l’Homme, à l’initiative de la Représentation permanente de la France auprès du Conseil de l’Europe, a organisé, en octobre 2014 au Costa Rica, une conférence mondiale réunissant de nombreux spécialistes de plusieurs pays. Focalisée sur les concepts des droits de l’homme liés à l’abolition de la peine de mort, cette manifestation avait plus largement pour ambition de participer à une prise de conscience de l’opinion publique et du rôle que les praticiens du droit ont à jouer dans l’abolition “du plus prémédité des meurtres”. Ainsi, cette manifestation a permis de mener une réflexion sur le sens et la fonction des peines alternatives et, plus globalement, sur le fonctionnement du système pénal et judiciaire.

Le système européen des droits de l’homme a été et se voit actuellement confronté à plusieurs défis majeurs cristallisés par une opposition de plus en plus sévère et ferme portée par plusieurs gouvernements européens.

Si le défi de l’« efficacité » et de la rationalisation de la gestion du contentieux devant la Cour est en passe d’être gagné après des années d’efforts, d’autres, plus redoutables, pointent à l’horizon. Ces défis se rapportent tous, bien que formulés dans des expressions diverses et des cadres internes distincts, au thème de la souveraineté tel qu’il est perçu au niveau judiciaire, et singulièrement par les cours suprêmes et constitutionnelles nationales, ainsi qu’au niveau politique dans de nombreux États.

L’objectif de cet ouvrage qui rassemble les réflexions de juges européens, d’avocats, de conseils des États et d’universitaires, est d’identifier de manière précise les causes de ces positions juridiques et politiques et de contribuer à la réflexion sur des solutions permettant de pérenniser le système de contrôle et de restaurer une confiance nécessaire pour l’affirmation de l’autorité de la Cour européenne et de sa jurisprudence.
Agenda of our President

November—December

Member of the panel for the Entrance Exam of the «Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature» (Bordeaux)

03 of December: Meeting between the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Committee against Torture

Agenda of our Director

November

3 of November: Thesis Defense, University of Poitiers

7 of November – 7 of December: 59th Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture

December

03 of December: Meeting between the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Committee against Torture

13 of December: Conference on the Execution of Judgements given by the European Court of Human Rights, University of Fribourg, Sweeden

14 of December: Conference on the fighting against the sexual slavery (Sakharov Prize)
I have the privilege to have profound connections with the René Cassin Foundation - International Institute of Human Rights of Strasbourg. I participated to its first and second annual study session and I obtained the First Diploma of International and Comparative Human Rights Law of the Institute. I also taught during several training sessions and I sat in the Council of the Institute since its creation. In the 1970s, I represented former participants and then, I became one of the Vice-President of the Institute. I knew all presidents of the Institute, from René CASSIN to Jean-Paul COSTA, and all secretaries general, From Karel VASAK to Sébastien TOUZÉ. After some crises, this is great to know that the Institute is in good hands and that the government contributes randomly to its funding.

I have been able to contribute to the defense of human rights as Professor of international law at the University of Anvers, General Commissioner for Refugees and Stateless Persons; Judge and then President of the Constitutional Court of Belgium. In all these duties, and especially as Government Delegate to the Commission on Human Rights, Expert to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, I have enjoyed the complicity and enthusiasm of many others human rights defenders, who were former participants to training session of the Institute. True to the vision of René Cassin, its founder, who wanted to « train the trainers », the Foundation plays a key role in the dissemination of human rights in the world. Its contribution is invaluable.
On September 20, 2016, the Fondation René Cassin and the "Caisse d’Epargne Alsace" signed a sponsorship agreement. The signing of this agreement was followed by a conference of our President, Jean-Paul Costa, on the theme "Human Rights and Humanism" which took place at the National and University Library of Strasbourg.

On September 22, 2016, the Fondation René Cassin and the Banque Populaire Alsace Lorraine Champagne signed a sponsorship agreement. The Fondation René Cassin is grateful to the Caisse d’Epargne Alsace and to the Banque Populaire Alsace Lorraine Champagne for their supports which allows us to maintain and develop our activities.

The state-approved foundation statutes allows to the Fondation René Cassin to receive donations thanks to tax advantages for the donor. If you would like to support the activities of the Foundation, please contact administration@iidh.org