



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE - COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

17 September 2003

IMMEDIATE

P
R
E
S
S
R
E
L
E
A
S
E

ICJ/CIJL Welcomes Appointment of New Special Rapporteur on Judges and Lawyers

The Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers of the International Commission of Jurists today welcomed the appointment of Mr. Leandro Despouy, from Argentina, as the new Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. Mr. Despouy previously chaired the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2001 and the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 1987. He was also Argentina's human rights representative from 1999 to 2001 and presided over his country's delegation to the Commission on Human Rights in 2000. The new Special Rapporteur further represented Argentina at numerous international organisations, among them the UN and OAS General Assemblies.

Mr. Despouy is a renowned human rights expert who has taught and written on a number of human rights topics. The new Special Rapporteur previously served as an independent expert for the Sub-Commission on Human Rights on various topics such as human rights and states of emergency and the relationship between extreme poverty and human rights. He has furthermore lectured on human rights at various universities in Europe and the Americas and has extensively published in various fields.

The ICJ/CIJL expresses its gratitude to the outgoing Special Rapporteur, Dato' Param Cumaraswamy, for his tireless commitment to promoting the rights and duties of judges and lawyers.

The CIJL looks forward to working closely with the new Special Rapporteur.

For further information, please contact Ms. Linda Besharaty-Movaed at +41 22 979 3809.

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

81A, avenue de Châtelaine, P.O. Box 216, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0) 22 979 3800 – Fax: +41(0) 22 979 3801 – Website: <http://www.icj.org> - E-mail: info@icj.org