



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 "

For immediate release

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International Commission of Jurist makes public report on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes

Today, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) made public the final report of the *Expert Legal Panel on Corporate Complicity in International Crimes* it set up in 2006 to explore when companies and their officials could be held legally responsible under criminal and/or civil law when they are involved with other actors in gross human rights abuses. The report, comprising three volumes, addresses corporate complicity from the angles of criminal law, the law of civil responsibility and public policy.

The report is part of a global effort to advance the rule of law and the respect of human rights in the ambit of business and corporate activities. The report finds that there is a growing body of international criminal law and domestic criminal law establishing liability for corporate officials or corporations. It also finds that many countries use the law of civil responsibility to impose civil liability on legal entities when these engage in conduct that harms human rights interests. Volume 1 of the report, moving from legal to public policy analysis, provides guidance about the grounds and scope of possible corporate liability to assist prudent companies in avoiding the risk of legal liability.

"The three volumes are expected to make a bold contribution to current global debate and actual efforts to hold companies accountable for involvement in gross human rights abuses", said the ICJ.

The Expert Legal Panel was integrated by eight expert jurists in different fields of expertise, from five continents, and representing both common law and civil law legal traditions. They are: Professor Andrew Clapham (UK), Mr. Claes Cronstedt (Sweden), Professor Louise Doswald-Beck (Switzerland), Professor John Dugard (South Africa), Dr. Alberto León Gómez-Zuluaga (Colombia), Dr. Howard Mann (Canada), Dr. Usha Ramanathan (India), and Professor Ralph G. Steinhardt (USA).

During the more than two years of deliberations and drafting, the Panel benefited from the expertise and advice of scores of jurists, businessmen and human rights activists. It commissioned papers from leading academics, practitioners and corporate counsel on several relevant and sought input from lawyers, business representatives and others via an online request for submissions. "The legal quality of the Panel, the length and considered deliberation process and the clarity in addressing the issue of corporate complicity from various angles makes this report a necessary reference and an invaluable guidance tool for all stakeholders, foremost companies, who want to avoid corporate involvement in gross human rights abuses", added the ICJ.

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

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“In the next few months, the ICJ plans to hold a series of events across regions to present to different audiences the results of the Panel’s work and seek comments and recommendations on the ways to move forward with this report”, said the ICJ.

The report can be found in the web page of the International Commission of Jurists www.icj.org

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