



FOR THE RULE  
OF LAW

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*The  
International  
Commission  
of Jurists*

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ICJ-COM\*INT



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Secretary-General: NIALL MACDERMOT

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, 109, ROUTE DE CHÊNE, 1224 CHÊNE-BOUGERIES  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

is a non-governmental and non-political international organisation which has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. It draws its support from judges, law teachers, practitioners of law and other members of the legal community and their associations.

International Commission  
of Jurists (ICJ)  
Geneva, Switzerland

## objectives

The Commission's object is to promote the understanding and observance of the rule of law throughout the world. It has defined this term as:

The principles, institutions and procedures, not always identical, but broadly similar, which the experience and traditions of lawyers in different countries of the world, often having themselves varying political structures and economic background, have shown to be important to protect the individual from arbitrary government and to enable him to enjoy the dignity of man.

The Commission's work thus focuses on the recognition of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the classical sense. It realises, however, that the formal observance of the rights of the individual is not enough, and that the jurist cannot ignore the material problems of his community. The rule of law thus emerges as a dynamic concept which should be employed not only to safeguard and advance the civil and political rights of the individual in a free society, but also to promote the social, economic and cultural conditions under which his legitimate aspirations may be realised.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Commission consists of up to 40 eminent jurists dedicated to the service of the rule of law and representative of the different legal systems of the world. Distinguished jurists, including former Members of the Commission, are eligible for election as Honorary Members, and other persons and organisations who subscribe to the objectives of the Commission may become Associates. The Commission meets triennially and elects an Executive Committee which meets three or four times a year.

## INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat at Geneva comprises the Secretary-General, supported by Legal Officers, the staff of the Library and Archives, and administrative personnel. The present Secretary-General is Mr. Niall MacDermot, Q.C., former Minister of State of the United Kingdom.

## NATIONAL SECTIONS

National Sections of the International Commission of Jurists have been established in over 50 countries in order to uphold and strengthen the principles of the rule of law in their respective countries. They supply the International Secretariat with material on legal developments in their respective countries, undertake research on matters of particular concern to their members or their country, hold local and regional meetings, organise public lectures, and occasionally hold joint sessions with other Sections to discuss matters of common interest and engage in other related activities. In a number of countries, they have taken the initiative in putting forward and elaborating proposals for law reform which have subsequently been adopted into the law of their country. Pamphlets and special studies

designed to this end are published from time to time. The Commission maintains contact with the legal profession at the local level through its National Sections, which are increasingly recognised as representative of the entire legal community in their respective countries.

## activities

Among the many activities of the International Commission of Jurists are:

- (1) Organising *International Congresses and Conferences* in which the principles underlying the rule of law are examined and elaborated. Past Conferences include those held in Athens, Greece (1955); Vienna, Austria (1957); New Delhi, India (1959); Lagos, Nigeria (1961); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1962); Bangkok, Thailand (1965); Colombo, Ceylon (1966); Dakar, Senegal (1967); Stockholm, Sweden (1967); Bangalore, India (1968); Strasbourg, France (1968); Aspen, U.S.A. (1971).
- (2) *Publications*. These have included the NEWSLETTER, the bi-annual JOURNAL and quarterly BULLETIN, now amalgamated in the bi-annual REVIEW, and special studies and reports on important topics of immediate concern, on the results of conferences and congresses and on the findings of inquiries and investigations. The REVIEW includes sections on Human Rights in the World, Special Articles, Notes on Human Rights Cases, Basic Texts and ICJ News.
- (3) *Inquiries and Special Reports*. In cases of especial gravity, the ICJ has initiated inquiries on an international scale,

and published reports on them. Past reports have included those on the suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956, the Chinese invasion of Tibet (1959), South Africa and the Rule of Law (1960), The Berlin Wall (1962), Spain and the Rule of Law (1962), Cuba and the Rule of Law (1962), Report on Events in Panama (1964), Constitutional Commission on British Guiana (1965), Apartheid in South Africa and South West Africa (1967), South West Africa: the International Court's Judgment (1967), Right of Privacy and Rights of the Personality (1967), the Erosion of the Rule of Law in South Africa (1968), Torture of Political Prisoners in Brazil (1970), Events in East Pakistan in 1971 (1972), Violations of Human Rights in Uganda (1974), Report of Mission to Uruguay (1974), The Legal System in Chile (1974).

- (4) *Press Statements.* The Commission's press statements, commenting upon flagrant violations of the rule of law wherever they occur, carry considerable weight. Its pronouncements are resented by authoritarian governments but respected by lawyers throughout the world.
- (5) *Observer Missions to Trials.* The Commission has on many occasions despatched observers to trials of major significance. The purpose of these missions is to ascertain the correctness and fairness of the trial procedures and the extent to which the rights of the defence are respected, and they have achieved considerable success in acting as a brake upon arbitrariness.
- (6) *International Organisations.* Having consultative status with the UN, UNESCO and the Council of Europe, the International Commission of Jurists have been active within these organisations in sponsoring proposals for improved procedures and conventions for the better protection of human rights.

## FINANCES

In order to carry on its work, the International Commission of Jurists, a private organisation, is dependent on contributions, subscriptions, gifts and bequests from Members, National Sections, professional and learned societies, private trusts, foundations and individuals. It has also recently received grants from a number of governments. The scope of the Commission's activities increases in proportion to the growing appeal and recognition of its work; further contributions are indispensable to maintain and improve its effectiveness. The Commission is grateful to all its friends who have extended financial assistance and thereby make possible the successful pursuit of its objects.

## CONCLUSION

Through its Members, National Sections and the staff of its International Secretariat, the International Commission of Jurists is the corporate expression, on a world-wide scale, of the jurist's faith in justice and human liberty under the rule of law. It takes heart from the fact that the principles upon which the rule of law is founded have received universal acceptance, at least in theory if not yet everywhere in practice. The all-important task now is to secure their universal application. For this the Commission needs the help of every enlightened jurist in the world.

*For further information, write:*

International Commission of Jurists  
109, Route de Chêne  
CH-1224 Chêne-Bougeries Geneva  
(Switzerland)



It is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the Rule of Law.

— United Nations Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights, 1948

Geneva  
January 1975

## ASSOCIATES

If you are in sympathy with the objectives and work of the International Commission of Jurists, you are invited to help their furtherance by becoming an Associate.

Associates, who may be either individual or corporate persons, are of three categories:

Patrons, contributing annually not less than SFr. 1,000.—

Sponsors, contributing annually not less than SFr. 500.—; and

Contributors, contributing annually not less than SFr. 100.—

Patrons and Sponsors will receive by airmail copies of the REVIEW and of any special studies produced by the Secretariat.

Contributors will receive copies of these by surface mail.

You are invited to complete and return the form below.

## APPLICATION FORM

To: The Secretary-General, International Commission of Jurists  
109, Route de Chêne  
1224 Chêne-Bougeries/Geneva  
Switzerland

I/We ..... of  
(address) .....  
(country) ..... support the objectives and work of,  
and wish to become an Associate of, the International Commission  
of Jurists.

I/We apply to become (please delete whichever does not apply):

a Patron, and agree to pay an annual sum of SFr. 1,000.—

or

a Sponsor, and agree to pay an annual sum of SFr. 500.—

or

a Contributor, and agree to pay an annual sum of SFr. 100.—

I/We also agree to pay an additional annual sum of .....

Total annual contribution: SFr .....

Date: ..... Signature: .....

*Note:* Contributions may be paid in Swiss Francs or in the equivalent amount in other currencies either by direct cheque valid for external payment or through a bank to Société de Banque Suisse, Geneva, account No. 142.548. Pro-forma invoices will be supplied on request to persons in countries with exchange control restrictions to assist in obtaining authorisation.

## HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

SIR ADETOKUNBO A. ADEMOLA	Former Chief Justice of Nigeria
ARTURO A. ALAFRIZ	Former Solicitor-General of the Philippines
GIUSEPPE BETTIOL	Professor of Law; former Member of Italian Parliament
DUDLEY B. BONSAI	U.S. District Judge of Southern District of New York
VIVIAN BOSE	Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India
PHILIPPE BOULOS	Former Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Lebanon
U CHAN HTOON	Former Judge of the Supreme Court, Burma
A. J. M. VAN DAL	Attorney-at-Law, Netherlands; former Secretary-General of the ICJ
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JEAN-FLAVIEN LALIVE	Member of the Geneva Bar; former Secretary-General of the ICJ
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JOSE T. NABUCO	Member of the Bar of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
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LORD SHAWCROSS	Former Attorney-General of England
JOSEPH T. THORSON	Former President of the Exchequer Court of Canada
H. B. TYABJI	Barrister-at-Law, Karachi, Pakistan; former Judge of the Chief Court of the Sind