



## **Private Contractor Accountability: Seeking Justice for Torture at Abu Ghraib**

*15 September 2016*

*11:00-12:00*

*Palais des Nations Room XXVII*

The International Commission of Jurists, the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), and the Center for Constitutional Rights will present a panel discussion featuring two Iraqi torture survivors, Salah Hassan Nsaif and Ali Shallal Abbas, who will share their first-hand accounts serious abuse suffered at Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib prison, and the role of U.S. contractors in that torture and abuse.

CCR Senior Staff Attorney Katherine Gallagher will discuss legal cases, *Saleh v Titan* and *Al Shimari v CACI*, brought in the United States on behalf of victims as they seek justice. The cases will be placed in context of broader corporate accountability efforts, including those of the UN Working Group on Mercenaries and the Open-Ended Working Group on a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

### **Speakers:**

**Salah Hassan**, journalist and photographer for Al Jazeera network and Abu Ghraib torture survivor

**Ali Shallal Abbas**, Founder and President of the Association of victims of the American and Iranian prisons in Iraq, and Abu Ghraib torture survivor

**Katherine Gallagher**, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights

**Carlos Lopez**, Senior Legal Adviser, Business and Human Rights, International Commission of Jurists (moderator)

Remarks by **Patricia Arias**, Chair of the UN Working Group on Mercenaries.

Following the event, there will be the opening of an art exhibit organized by the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries. Ms. Arias, Mr. Nsaif, and Mr. Abbas will make remarks, and guests are invited to engage with the photographs, multimedia display, and virtual reality film. The exhibit is open to delegates, NGOs, and the public. **"Private Actors in Warfare: Stories from victims of private military and security companies and foreign fighters" will take place at 13:00 - 15:00 in Palais des Nations Room XXIII.**