Public Event in connection with Brandeis Institute for International Judges
Wednesday, 31 July 2013 at 17.30-19.15
Venue: Turning Torso Meetings: Lilla Varvsgatan 14, Malmö

PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
**Freedom of Expression**

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”

Article 19, Universal Declaration on Human Rights

The right to freedom of expression is also further elaborated on in various international and regional international treaties and subsequent case law from international courts and treaty monitoring bodies.

Broadly speaking, countries integrate the protection and promotion of freedom of expression in their constitutional, legal and procedural system as an important factor for democracy to function. The interpretation may vary from one context to another. There are also differences in the political processes and public discourses that have led to the continuing definition/definitions of its bounds. Moreover, differences exist between the word of the law and what is practised in reality. Contradictions and efforts of states to control the exercise of this freedom become visible when it comes to free speech and freedom of information, thereby affecting media freedom. Indeed, the rapid development of communications technology has exponentially enlarged access to and creation of all sorts of information, resulting in a struggle to regulate content by states and corporations.

Possible questions for discussion:

- What is the relation between freedom of expression and democracy?
- Freedom of expression is not an unlimited right: it needs to co-exist with other rights or freedoms. The other side of the coin is a balancing act between this freedom and privacy, public order and public safety, minority rights, respect for human dignity, protection of minors. How does this balancing act play out in practice?
- An important concept in determining the limits of freedom of expression is “hate speech”. Are we really clear about what this expression means? What is the meaning of the word “hate” in “hate speech”? And how should the modern legal concept of “hate speech” be understood in a philosophical context?
- What kinds of restrictions are/should be placed on freedom of expression by legal, technical and financial means?
- What is the role of the media and their accountability in freedom of expression questions?
- What kinds of challenges and possibilities does new information technology, especially cyber space, present for freedom of expression?
**Moderator**

**Hans Corell**, Former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations

**Panelists**

**Thomas Brudholm**, Associate Professor, PhD (Philosophy), Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen

**Maria Green**, Visiting Scholar Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund University

**Tasneem Khalil**, Journalist, Malmö

**BIOS**

**Thomas Brudholm** is Ph.D. in Philosophy and Associate Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Institute for Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies. He has been with several research institutions, including the Danish Institute for International Studies and CERI-Sciences Po-CNRS (visiting scholar). His main fields of expertise are within philosophy, genocide studies, and transitional justice. Currently, he is focusing on the concept of hatred, combining classical philosophical sources with current legal and political discourses on hate crime and hate speech, genocide and reconciliation. Previously, he has focused on resentment and ressentiment, remembrance and commemoration, forgiveness, evil, and the works of Jean Améry. Brudholm has given invited lectures around the world, e.g. at the law schools of Arizona State University, Vanderbilt University and the universities of Minnesota, Edinburgh and Stirling. He is editor of/contributor to several books, including Resentment’s Virtue: Jean Améry and the Refusal to Forgive (Temple University Press, 2008) and The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity (Cambridge University Press 2009, co-ed. with Tom Cushman). Brudholm has contributed articles to, among others, Law & Contemporary Problems, Journal of Human Rights, Philosophical Papers, Current Anthropology, Hypatia, Hedgehog Review, and Journal of Genocide Research.

**Maria Green** works on the intersections between international human rights law and international development policy and practice. Her writing and teaching have focused in particular on the development or interpretation of global standards around access to basic needs (food, water, health, housing, education) and on the effective use of these standards by human rights and development practitioners. With a background both in NGOs and academia, Maria has consulted on human rights and development or anti-poverty issues for UN agencies including the United Nations Development
Programme and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Maria Green is also a former member of the core faculty in sustainable development at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. A Visiting Scholar in the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy at Northeastern University School of Law and at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Maria is a recent past holder of the annual Fulbright-Lund Distinguished Chair in International Human Rights.

Tasneem Khalil is the editor and publisher of Independent World Report, a quarterly magazine of human rights journalism. His past assignments include working as a researcher for the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; global affairs columnist for Nerikes Allehanda; consultant researcher for Human Rights Watch; news representative for CNN; editor and writer for The Daily Star (Bangladesh). He has written and commented for International Herald Tribune, NPR, The Washington Post and the BBC. In 2008, Swedish PEN conferred him with an honorary membership for his work in defence of freedom of expression. He is also a member of Swedish PEN’s Writers in Prison Committee.

Hans Corell was Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations from March 1994 to March 2004. From 1962 to 1972, he served in the Swedish Judiciary. In 1972, he joined the Ministry of Justice where he became Director of the Division for Administrative and Constitutional Law in 1979. In 1981, he was appointed Chief Legal Officer of the Ministry. He was Ambassador and Under-Secretary for Legal and Consular Affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 1984 to 1994. Since his retirement from public service in 2004 he is engaged in many different activities in the legal field, inter alia as legal adviser, lecturer, and member of different boards. Among other engagements, he is involved in the work of the International Bar Association, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University and the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund University, Sweden, from 2006-2012. Website: www.havc.se

To register for this event please send an e-mail to rolf.ring@rwi.lu.se not later than 28 July 2013.