

BUILDING A FUTURE ON PEACE AND JUSTICE

Biographies high level panellists



Martti Ahtisaari

In November 2005 Martti Ahtisaari was appointed the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo. Mr. Ahtisaari joined the United Nations in 1984. He was appointed as Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management in 1987. He retained his functions as Special Representative of the Secretary General for Namibia and led the UN operation (UNTAG) in Namibia. As of July 1991, Mr. Ahtisaari served as Secretary of State in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in Helsinki. Mr. Ahtisaari was elected President of the Republic of Finland in February 1994. He held office until February 2000. Upon leaving office, he founded the Crisis Management Initiative, where he is the Chairman of the Board. Mr Ahtisaari graduated from the University of Oulu, Finland, in 1959 and received an Honorary Doctorate (Pedagogy) from his university 1989.



Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein

Prince Zeid is the Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States. He was previously his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2000-2007). From 1996-2000, he was Jordan's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN. Prince Zeid played a central role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. In September 2002, he was elected the first president of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court. Prince Zeid also served as a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia from 1994 to 1996. Following allegations of widespread abuse being committed by UN peacekeepers in the summer of 2004, he was appointed as Advisor to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. For the last three years, Prince Zeid also chaired the Consultative Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Prince Zeid holds a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from Cambridge.



Sharif Al-Zu'bi

Sharif Ali Zu'bi is currently Minister of Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He previously held office as Jordan's Minister of Industry and Trade since 2005. Prior to his ministerial tenure, he was a member of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Jordan, a member of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian Airlines, a member of the International Bar Association and Chairman of the Council of the Arab Regional Forum of the International Bar Association. After working as a lawyer in the United Kingdom he became Partner of one of Jordan's leading law firms, Ali Sharif Zu'bi & Sharif Ali Zu'bi Advocates & Legal Consultants. Mr. Al-Zu'bi completed both his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom where he obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Honours) in 1984 and his Master of Laws degree in Commercial Law (LL.M Honours) in 1985.



Lord Bonomy

Lord (Iain) Bonomy was appointed as Judge of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in June 2004. Prior to his appointment he held office as Surveillance Commissioner under the Police Act and Regulation of Investigatory Powers legislation (1998 – 2004) and has been Senator of the College of Justice (Judge in the High Court of Justiciary, the highest court in Scotland) since 1997. Lord Bonomy became a solicitor in 1968. As an Advocate and later Advocate Depute he worked for the Queen's Counsel from 1993 on. Born on the 15 January 1946 he went to Dalziel High School, Motherwell, Scotland and graduated in Law from the University of Glasgow in 1968 (LLB, Hons.).

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Lakhdar Brahimi

Lakhdar Brahimi was appointed Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on 1 January 2004. From 2001 to 2004 he was Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Mission in Afghanistan. Mr. Brahimi previously served as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan from 1997 until 1999. In between his Afghanistan assignments, Mr. Brahimi served as Under-Secretary-General for Special Assignments in Support of the Secretary-General's Preventive and Peacemaking efforts. Prior to his first Afghanistan appointment, Mr. Brahimi served as Special Representative for Haiti (1994-1996) and South Africa (1993-1994). Mr. Brahimi was Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria (1991-1993) and Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (1984-1991). He was Diplomatic Adviser to the President of Algeria from 1982 to 1984. Mr. Brahimi was educated in Algeria and France (law and political science).



Álvaro de Soto

Mr. Alvaro de Soto has been Secretary General's Middle East Envoy from May 2005 until May 2007. From 1999 to 2004 Mr. de Soto was Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. In 1997 Secretary-General Kofi Annan chose him as his Special Envoy for Myanmar, a position he held until 1999. Following his appointment as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for the Central American Peace Process, Ambassador de Soto headed the 1990-1991 negotiations that brought an end to the decade-long civil war in El Salvador. He was a Senior Political Adviser to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali from February 1992 to December 1994. He then served as Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, from 1995 to 1999. Born 16 March 1943 in Peru Mr. de Soto studied law and international relations in Lima and Geneva prior to enlisting in his country's diplomatic corps.



Jan Egeland

Jan Egeland is currently Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Crisis Prevention. From June 2003 to December 2006 he has been Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. From 1999 to 2002 he was the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Colombia. Earlier in his career, he served as State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990-1997). Mr. Egeland has been Chair of Amnesty International, Norway, and Vice-Chair of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International. He has been an active participant in a number of peace processes. He co-initiated the Norwegian channel between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1992. He directed the Norwegian facilitation of the peace talks between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG in 1996. Mr. Egeland holds a Magister Artium in Political Science, University of Oslo.



Gareth Evans

Gareth Evans is currently a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention. Since January 2000, he has been President of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group. After entering the Australian Parliament in 1978 he spent 21 years in Australian politics, thirteen of them as a Cabinet Minister. As Foreign Minister (1988-96) he worked on developing the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia, helping conclude the Chemical Weapons Convention. He was Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and a member of the Blix Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction (June 2006), and the Zedillo International Task Force on Global Public Goods (September 2006). Mr Evans went to Melbourne High School, and holds first class honours degrees in Law from Melbourne University (BA, LLB (Hons)) and in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University (MA).



Günter Gloser

Günter Gloser is German Minister of State for Europe since November 2005. He was appointed as Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation in December 2005. Previous to his appointment he was Spokesperson of the SPD Parliamentary Group on European policy from 2000 to 2005. From 1999 to 2005 he also held office as Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the Maghreb States. Mr Gloser was Chairman of the SPD sub-district Nuremberg from 1997 to 2003. Since 1994 he is a Member of the German Bundestag for the constituency of Nuremberg North. Previous to his political career he worked for the Federal Employment Service, ultimately as head of division (1982 to 1994). Mr. Gloser studied law and political sciences in Erlangen. He graduated in 1981.



Frances Johnson Morris

Frances Johnson Morris was appointed as Minister of Justice of the Republic of Liberia in 2006. She simultaneously holds office of the General Attorney of the Republic of Liberia. Previous to her appointment Ms Johnson Morris has been chairman of the National Elections Commission (NEC) from 2004 to 2005. From 2001 to 2004 she was the National Director of the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission in Liberia. Earlier in her career she worked as attorney (1985-1989) and Resident Circuit Judge (1989-1997) and held office as Chief Justice of the Honourable Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia (1997). Ms Johnson Morris holds degrees in Law from the Louis Arthur Grimmes School of Law, Monrovia (LLB) and in English from the University of Liberia, Monrovia (B.A.).



Ian Martin

In February 2007 the Secretary General appointed Ian Martin as his Special Representative and head of the international body's political mission in Nepal. Since April 2005, he had been the head of the new Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nepal. Mr. Martin served as the Secretary General of Amnesty International from 1986 to 1992. He was the human rights director of the United Nations/Organization of American States Mission to Haiti in 1993 and 1995, and served as Chief of the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (1995-1996). He was the Deputy High Representative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1998-1999). More recently, he served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Mission in East Timor in 1999.



Juan Méndez

Juan Méndez was appointed the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in June 2004, a post that he held until recently complementary to his full-time position as the president of the International Centre for Transitional Justice. From 2000 to 2003 he was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and served as its President in 2002. From 1996 to 1999, Mr. Méndez was the executive director of the Institute. Between October 1999 and May 2004 he was professor of Law and director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. Due to his involvement in representing political prisoners, the Argentinean military dictatorship arrested him for more than a year in the 1970s. After his release from detention he worked with Human Rights Watch and became general counsel in 1994.

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Luis Moreno Ocampo

In April 2003, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, unanimously elected Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo as first Prosecutor of the Court. Between 1984 and 1992, as a prosecutor in Argentina, Mr. Moreno Ocampo was involved in precedent-setting prosecutions of top military commanders for mass killings and other large-scale human rights abuses. In 1992, Mr. Moreno Ocampo resigned as Argentinian prosecutor and established a private law firm, Moreno Ocampo & Wortman Jofre. He worked with various local, regional and international NGO's. He was the president of Transparency International for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Moreno Ocampo has been a visiting professor at both Stanford University and Harvard University. He graduated from the Buenos Aires University Law School in 1978.



Sadako Ogata

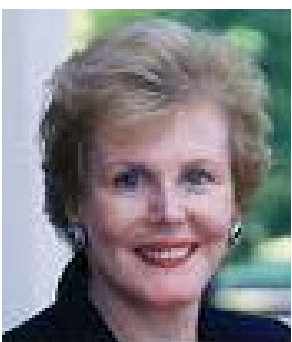
Since 2003 Mrs Sadako Ogata is serving as President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Mrs. Sadako Ogata held office as one of the Co-chairs of the Commission on Human Security in June 2001. She served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 1991 to 2000. Before her career as UNHCR, she was in 1990 the Independent Expert of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Myanmar. From 1982 to 1985, she was also Representative of Japan on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. She received a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1963, an M.A. in International Relations from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 1953 and a B.A. from the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo in 1951.



John Ohiorhenuan

John Ohiorhenuan is currently Senior Deputy Director in the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the UNDP. Before joining the BCPR, he served as the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa from 2000 to 2004. Under his leadership, the Country Office supported the nation's efforts in tackling the double challenge of HIV/AIDS and poverty, and worked to strengthen the institutional capacity of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Mr. Ohiorhenuan was editor-in-chief of the South Africa National Human Development Report 2003, which was a finalist in the 2004 UNDP Awards for Human Development. Prior to UNDP, Mr. Ohiorhenuan had built his career as an academic, having been a professor of Economics in Nigeria (1977-1989). South-South cooperation is one of his particular interests, having served as director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC) at UNDP, as well as serving as Editor-in-Chief for the journal Cooperation South between 1977-2000.



Sonia Picado

Sonia Picado is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. She is a former member of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and former Party President. In 1999, she led the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor to study human rights situations there. She was the Costa Rican Ambassador to the United States from 1994 to 1998 and the Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights from 1984 to 1994. Ms. Picado represented her country on the Experts Committee for the Promotion of Human Rights in Central America and on various other human rights bodies. Ms. Picado was the first woman elected in Latin America as the Dean of the Law School, University of Costa Rica in 1980.

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Märta Elisabeth Rehn

Märta Elisabeth Rehn served as UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1998 to 1999. Previously she was the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human rights in Croatia, FRY, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYR of Macedonia (1995-1998). Ms Rehn has been a member of the Finnish parliament (1979-1995) and a member of the European Parliament (1995-1996). She was the first woman as the Minister of Defence in Finland (1990-1995) and served as Minister of Equality Affairs (1991-1995). Rehn received the degree of Master of Science in Economics in 1957 and has a honorary degree in political science both from Svenska handelshögskolan and Åbo Akademi.



Yasmin Sooka

Yasmin Sooka has been the Director of the Foundation for Human Rights in South Africa since 2004. Between 2002 and 2004 she was appointed by the United Nations as Commissioner of Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone. She served on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission as an acting Chair of Human Rights Violation Committee. Ms Sooka was one of the members of Report Writing Committee for the Final TRC Report in South Africa. Besides her engagement in the TRC, she has been involved in numerous different projects in the field of transitional justice and has delivered a number of papers on the subject.



Rangin Dadfar Spanta

Rangin Dadfar Spanta was appointed as Foreign Minister of Afghanistan on March 21, 2006. Previous to his appointment he held office of the advisor on foreign affairs to the Afghan President Hamed Karzai. He had returned to teach at Kabul University in January 2005. Following the Soviet invasion in 1982 Mr Spanta had settled in Germany. He earned a Master degree in Political Sciences, Sociology and International Relations and a PhD degree from Aachen University in Political Sciences where he also taught as a professor from 1992 to 2005. He was also in charge of the University's Third World Studies Institute and was active in the German Green Party. In the mid-1970s, Dr. Spanta studied Bachelor of Science in International Relations in Turkey



Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Frank-Walter Steinmeier was appointed as German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs in November 2005. Previous to his appointment he held office as Head of the Federal Chancellery (1999-2005). Earlier in his career Dr. Steinmeier has been State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery and Commissioner for the Federal Intelligence Services (1998-1999), State Secretary and Head of the State Chancellery of Land Lower Saxony (1996-1998) and Head of the State Chancellery department responsible for policy guidelines and interministerial coordination and planning (1994-1996). From 1993 to 1994 he served as Head of the Office of the Minister-President of Land Lower Saxony and in 1991 as Desk officer for media law and policy. Mr Steinmeier studied law and political sciences at the Justus-Liebig University Giessen and in Frankfurt am Main. He graduated in 1986.

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Erkki Tuomioja

Erkki Tuomioja was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland from February 2000 to April 2007. From 1999 to 2000 he held office as the Minister of Trade and Industry.

Since 1991 he is a member of the Finnish parliament, as he was from 1970 to 1979. Mr. Tuomioja served as deputy mayor of Helsinki between 1979 and 1991. Besides his political career he worked as a journalist (1967-1969), economics and markets analyst (1975-1977) and editor in chief (1975-77).

Mr. Tuomioja received a Master of Social Sciences in 1971, Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration in 1974 both from the Helsinki School of Economics. He holds a Licentiate in Social Sciences and a Doctor in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki where he teaches political history.