



National Religious Campaign
Against Torture



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

SIDE EVENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS' 71st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN
OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

SEEING INTO SOLITARY REVIEW OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT PRACTICES AROUND THE WORLD: A STUDY OF 35 JURISDICTIONS

Solitary confinement currently affects an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 prisoners in the United States, and many more around the world, each day. The overuse and misuse of solitary confinement around the world has been a principal issue of concern for the Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan E. Méndez (SRT). In his groundbreaking report on solitary confinement from 2011, the SRT categorically recognized that the practice can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and even torture.

This side-event will explore the publication of a groundbreaking study of laws, policies, and practice of solitary confinement in 35 jurisdictions around the world. The study, commissioned by the Special Rapporteur on Torture from the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice and completed on an entirely *pro bono* basis by the international law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, provides a much-needed comparative analysis of different aspects of the practice of solitary confinement, such as its purpose and authorization; challenges and appeals concerning, and limitations on, its use; and accommodation, access to the outside world, and the use of physical restraints.

Distinguished panelists from civil society, Government, and academia will join the Special Rapporteur to discuss recent developments in international legal norms and domestic policies and regulations concerning the use of solitary confinement, as well as the practical challenges posed by efforts to implement and revise laws and regulations on solitary confinement in different jurisdictions around the world. Panelists will provide input and comments on both the substantive and advocacy levels, thereby offering strategies for Member States, practitioners, and advocates on how to proceed with efforts to review and reform the practice of solitary confinement worldwide.

**Representatives of Member States, UN agencies and
civil societies are cordially invited**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVENT PLEASE VISIT THE ANTI-TORTURE INITIATIVE'S WEBSITE AT: www.antitorture.org

**MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2016
3:00 PM – Conference Room 6**

MODERATED BY

Mr. Jamil Dakwar

Director, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Ambassador Olivier Zehnder

Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

PANELISTS

Mr. Juan E. Méndez

Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Rev. Laura Markle Downton

Director, US Prisons Policy and Program, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Mr. Rick Raemisch

Executive Director, Colorado Department of Corrections

Mr. Jules Lobel

Bessie McKee Walthour Endowed Chair, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Mr. Eric Ordway & Mr. Alexander Papachristou

Partner, Weil Gotshal & Manges; Executive Director, Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice

The side-event is collaborative and organized by the Anti-Torture Initiative in cooperation with the Special Procedures Branch of OHCHR, and co-sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and Weil Gotshal & Manges.

The event is open to the public (registration 3 days in advance required for participants without UN badges).

UN identification badges are required for entry. Interested guests without a UN identification badge should send an email to anicoles@wcl.american.edu by Thursday, October 13, 2016.