



Power of People's Tribunal
An International Seminar
On Empowering the Civil Society

Hosted by :

Iran Tribunal Foundation
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund

Date Saturday 25th October 2014 - 09:30 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday 26th October 2014 - 09:30 am - 5:00 pm

Venue Kamran Djan Lecture Theatre
School of Oriental and African Studies
London University
Russell Square
LONDON WC1H 0XG

Open to the Public :

Please register
info@irantribunal.com

Power of People's Tribunal

Notwithstanding the increased interest in, and focus on, international human rights law over the last 50 years, national state and international institutions have been slow at adapting to the new international environment. Human tragedies arising in conflicts and under repressive domestic regimes have continued across the world, from Chile to Guatemala, from Rwanda to Iran and Argentina. They continue to happen without any judicial or *quasi judicial* review of crimes committed in the conflicts/repressions.

Since 1968, with the establishment of the Russell Tribunal on Vietnam, 'civil society' has come to appreciate the moral power and authority of informal *quasi judicial* processes. People's Tribunals have proved responsive to the ineptitude, insufficiency and (it seems) mendacity of formal domestic and international apparatuses that find reasons often enough *not* to deal with atrocities committed around the world, despite having formal power and jurisdiction to do so.

This Seminar focuses on how 'civil society' in its various forms can be empowered by establishing informal but public and 'judicial' processes to deal with atrocities committed by States, drawing on experiences from the People's Tribunals so far established for Vietnam, Iran, Palestine, Japan ('Comfort Women') and the like.

The Seminar aims to enhance the moral authority of People's Tribunals and calls on the international community to give wider recognition to that authority.

Speakers and Subjects:

- Professor Payam Akhavan : Professor of International Law, McGill University, Visiting Fellow Oxford University; Legal Advisor to the Prosecutor ICTY; Prosecutor, Iran Tribunal.
Subject: The power of grassroots justice.
- Professor Andrew Byrnes : Professor of International Law, The University of New South Wales and chair of the Australian Human Rights Centre.
Subject: 'Peoples' tribunals and challenges to the monopoly of the State on the development and interpretation of international law
- Professor John Cooper QC : QC at 25 Bedford Row, Prosecutor at Iran Tribunal; Chairman International Legal Steering Committee, Iran Tribunal; Honorary visiting Professor of Law, Cardiff University.
Subject: Charing discussion panel on People's Tribunal.
- Mother Esmat (Esmat Vatan Parast) : Mother of victims – Lost 11 members of her family in the Jahrom Massacre.
Subject: Panellist on People's Tribunal Discussion and political repression.

- Professor Pierre Galand : Co-Ordinator, International Organising Committee, Russell Tribunal on Palestine.
Subject: The Experience of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.
- Professor Tina Dolgopoul : Associate Professor of Law at Flinders University, Advisory Council of the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, Co-Chief Prosecutor for the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal held in Tokyo.
Subject: The Tokyo Women's Tribunal and the Comfort Women's Ongoing Search for Justice.
- Professor Michael Mansfield QC : Barrister, Mansfield Chambers; Judge: Iran Tribunal; Judge: Russell Tribunal on Palestine.
Subject : Application of People's Tribunals in our society : Russell Tribunal
- Professor Sir Geoffrey Nice QC : Chairman, Board of Trustees, Iran Tribunal Foundation; Senior Trial Attorney, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
Subject : The Future of People's Tribunals :
- Ms Regina Paulose : International Criminal Law Attorney and creator/author at 'A CONTRARIO ICL' (acontrariocl.com)
Subject: Breaking the Mould: Justice and Accountability by the People for the People
- Mr Hamid Sabi : Member of the Executive Committee Iran Tribunal.
Subject: The process of Iran Tribunal; A True People's Tribunal.
- Dr Shokoufeh Sakhi : Former Executive Director, Iran Tribunal Foundation. Political prisoner in the 1980s in Iran.
Subject: The People's Tribunal as Manifestation of Agency: An Iranian Experience.
- Dr. Gianni Tognoni : General Secretary Permanent People's Tribunal
Subject: The role of People's Tribunals in enhancement of Truth and Justice.
- Ms. Susan Kemp : Senior Prosecutions Consultant, clients include ICTJ, UNDP. Formerly lawyer with the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, DPKO New York, specialisation international criminal and human rights law.
Subject: The Rios Montt case and the role of civil society in promoting strategic litigation in Guatemala.
- Ms. Alicia Lira Matus : Her husband Felipe Rivera Gajardo was kidnapped and murdered by **Pinochle's regime**. Her brother was

imprisoned, President of Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners on 1987.

Subject: Panellist on People's Tribunal Discussion and political repression.

Mersedeh Ghaedi

1980s massacre survivor, who lost her two brothers and sister-in-law in Iran in 1980s.

Subject: Panellist on People's Tribunal Discussion and political repression.