



TORTURE:

**CULTURAL,
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
RELATIVISMS:
THE CLASH OF CONVICTIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE WORLD
ORGANISATION AGAINST TORTURE
(OMCT)**

4-5TH OF DECEMBER 2008

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER GENEVA (CICG)

**17 RUE DE VAREMBE
1202 GENEVA**

LIMITED PLACES

RESERVATIONS: + 41 (0) 22 809 49 35

4TH OF DECEMBER
2008

SYMPOSIUM

08h30

Registration of participants

09h00-10h00

Plenary

- Opening by OMCT President, Olivier Mach
- Introduction to the thematic by OMCT Secretary-General, Eric Sottas

10h00-13h00

Cultural relativism

Interventions :

- Salima Ghezali , Journalist, Writer, Algeria
- Stéphane Hessel, Ambassador, France
- Yoko Yokota, Professor of Law, University of Chuo, Japan
- Jean-Paul Ngoupandé, Former Prime Minister of the Central African Republic

Moderation: José Domingo Dougan Beaca, Vice-President of OMCT

14h30-17h30

Political relativism

Interventions :

- Dick Marty, Swiss Senator, Rapporteur on alleged secret detentions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Switzerland
- Alvaro Gil-Robles, Former Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Spain
- Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, Foreign Affairs Minister, Mauritania
- Patricia Williams, Professor of Law, University of Columbia, United States

Moderation: Eric Sottas, Secretary-General of OMCT

18h00-20h00

Opening Ceremony in the presence of:
Kofi Annan, President of the Foundation supporting OMCT;
Laurent Moutinot, President of the Geneva State Council;
Ralf Heckner, Head of Human Rights Policy Section, Political Affairs Division IV,
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs;
Bacre Ndiaye, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division at the United Nations
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
World premiere of «The struggle of women of Juárez» by Dominique Othenin-Girard, in the
presence of the filmmaker and the actress Noémie Kocher

5TH OF DECEMBER
2008

09h00-12h00

Economic relativism

Interventions :

- Florizelle O'Connor, Former member of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Jamaica
- Thomas E. McCarthy, Former Senior Adviser to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland
- Iván Velásquez, Supreme Court of Justice, Colombia
- Laure Zhang, Researcher EHESS Paris and University of Geneva, China

Moderation: Yves Berthelot, Vice-President of OMCT

Conclusion of the Symposium, Eric Sottas, Secretary-General of OMCT

13h30-19h00

Working Groups (not open to the public)

Limited Places. Reservations: + 41 (0) 22 809 49 35



OMCT wishes to thank the donors that enable it to carry out its activities, and particularly those that facilitated the holding of this symposium:

**Spain (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Switzerland (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs)
as well as the Oxfam Novib Foundation and the
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.**