

HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS

Special issue *Human Rights and International Legal Discourse*

Call for Abstracts

Human Rights before International Criminal Tribunals

Human Rights & International Legal Discourse focuses on the interplay between human rights law and other domains of international law. The 2009 Spring issue will be dedicated to the application of human rights law by international criminal tribunals.

International criminal tribunals are called to bring to justice those who have committed the most blatant human rights violations. In view of this purpose, one would expect them to honour human rights in their own proceedings. When guaranteeing human rights, the tribunals could also contribute to meaningful human rights reform in the post-conflict societies they are meant to pacify. Nevertheless, because of the grave nature of the crimes committed by the accused and the overriding aim of meting out justice, one could also argue that the tribunals could do with a bit less human rights protection. A tendency could indeed be discerned in the international and internationalized tribunals' practice which emphasizes the 'gravity of the crime' as a criterion for assessing the degree to which the tribunals should uphold the accused's rights. In this view, the tribunals' accountability and deterrence purpose may at times outweigh the tribunals' function as a rule of law beacon.

The special issue tries to trace this tension. It welcomes more theoretical contributions on the question of strict respect of human rights by international criminal tribunals as well as contributions on specific criminal law principles, due process rights and accused and victims' rights before international criminal tribunals, such as (non-exhaustive list):

- the presumption of innocence
- *nullum crimen sine lege*
- *ne bis in idem*
- pre-trial detention
- the right to a trial within a reasonable time
- *male captus bene detentus* and abuse of process
- the right to self-representation
- victims' participatory rights

These general themes may be illustrated through specific case studies. The editors will also consider other topics of relevance to the theme suggested by the authors.

Both main contributions (10,000 to 15,000 words) and shorter articles (5,000 to 8,000 words) are welcomed. A mandatory style sheet is available under information for authors. Submissions from authors of developing countries are particularly encouraged. Authors are responsible for ensuring that all manuscripts are accurately typed before final submission.

Contributions are normally received with the understanding that they comprise original, unpublished material and are not being submitted for publication elsewhere. Translated material, which has not been published in English, will also be considered.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 2008**. **Please indicate clearly below the abstract whether you propose a main contribution or a shorter paper.**

The editor will communicate with all those who submitted an abstract in the course of June 2008. The deadline for full papers is 1 November 2008. Subsequently, papers will be submitted to peer review. The thematic human rights in international criminal tribunals issue of *Human Rights & International Legal Discourse* will be published in Spring 2009.

Please submit abstracts in electronic form to the editor of this issue:
Dr. Cedric Ryngaert (University of Utrecht) at C.Ryngaert@law.uu.nl