



## **Building Capacity in International Humanitarian and Criminal Law in Foreign Armed Forces: Some Experiences from Indonesia**

A seminar organized by the

Forum for International Criminal and Humanitarian Law

in co-operation with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (University of Oslo)  
and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

on Wednesday 12 January 2011 12:15-14:00, at NCHR, Cort Adelers gate 30, 0254 Oslo.

Building and strengthening the capacity of public institutions and civil society in international humanitarian and criminal law seems to be a growing priority among some states, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The first Review Conference of the International Criminal Court held in Kampala in May and June of 2010 focused on such capacity building activities and adopted a resolution promoting further efforts in this area. But it is one thing to talk about capacity building; it is quite another to implement intelligent and sustainable activities that add distinct value to institutions and organizations that need assistance. There are normally stark limitations to what foreign actors can effectively and legitimately do in this regard, especially if they are states or non-governmental organizations with a human rights or policy agenda. The latter will in many situations not get access to public institutions in states that are affected by core international crimes or at risk of becoming territorial states.

Armed forces constitute one key cluster of national public actors that often need to strengthen capacity in international humanitarian and criminal law. But armed forces are frequently quite autonomous – if not detached – socio-political systems, with internal training and capacity building mechanisms. Adding value for such forces in a relevant way, building trust, and finding openings for co-operation on capacity building may be difficult for outsiders.

The Indonesia Programme of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights of the University of Oslo has been co-operating with the Indonesian Armed Forces on training and capacity building in international humanitarian and criminal law for a number of years. The co-operation has become comprehensive. Can any lessons be learned by other countries and capacity building actors from the way this Programme operates? What are the key factors leading to the relative success of the Programme? How important is the country- and language-knowledge of the capacity builder? How should one communicate with the armed forces in the country in question? How does one ensure that the most relevant topics are raised in the capacity building activities? These questions – and issues linked to curriculum, location of capacity building activities, and exchanges – will be discussed at this mini-seminar.

Seminar participation is free. To register, please send an e-mail message to [info@fichl.org](mailto:info@fichl.org) by 10 January 2011, indicating your wish to register as a seminar participant. For more information about the Forum, please see [www.fichl.org](http://www.fichl.org).

### **Programme:**

- 13:00 ***Introduction***, by Professor Nils A. Butenschøn (Director, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights).
- 13:05 ***Some experiences of the NCHR Indonesia Programme with regard to capacity building in foreign armed forces***, by Knut D. Asplund (Director, Indonesia Programme, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights).
- 13:50 ***How can capacity-building activities in foreign public institutions have sustainable impact?***, by Iliia Utmelidze (Adviser, Case Matrix Network).
- 14:10 ***Comment*** by Christian Ranheim (Director, ICC Legal Tools Programme, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights), followed by discussion.