

Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Occupied Iraq: Current Problems and Future Prospects

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Speakers: Professor Christopher Greenwood QC, Professor Françoise Hampson, Professor Philippe Sands QC, Professor Ruth Wedgwood

Chair: Professor Conor Gearty

Conor Gearty

Good afternoon everybody, you're all very welcome to an unusually well attended third term event at the LSE. As you know, normally at the LSE we are scouting around to fill a row or two at exam time, I like to think this isn't a comment on a lackadaisical attitude to exams, but is instead a reflection of the seriousness of the topic.

The very first to say about this occasion is that it wouldn't be taking place without an organisation that we used to think of as discreet, but which through the force of extraordinary circumstance has become highly visible and that organisation is the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights has a long association with the International Committee and it is our tremendous good fortune to have a working partnership with them which means that, for example, through their commitment an occasion of this significance can take place and whilst none of our four speakers is directly associated with as a member of the International Committee we are very lucky to have, representing the Committee, a legal advisor Emanuela Chiara Gillard who is right here and will be contributing briefly after...

[APPLAUSE]

Our speakers are all it is fair to say experts in this field and the speakers will speak for ten minutes, possibly rising to 15.

Our first speaker is Christopher Greenwood who is Professor of International Law here at the LSE, joint Editor of the International Law Reports and other books and is also a member of the bar and needs, I think, genuinely no further introduction. I'll introduce each other speaker as we go along, but Chris over to you on the topic of Human Rights and Humanitarian in Occupied Iraq.

[APPLAUSE]