

From its headquarter in Berlin, Germany, ECCHR aims to coordinate and thereby strengthen the efforts of human rights advocates across national borders, initiating and supporting key litigation and providing public education and training in international human rights law. It is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and national laws and constitutions.

MISEREOR was founded in 1958 by the Catholic Church in Germany, as an agency "against hunger and disease in the world". As well as fighting causes of hardship and misery, mainly in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the development agency is enabling the people affected to lead a life of human dignity, while promoting justice, freedom, reconciliation and peace in the world.

"Brot für die Welt" is a program initiated in 1959 by Protestant Churches in Germany. "Brot für die Welt" works jointly with local churches and partner organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe; with over 1,000 projects, all of which are aimed at helping people to help themselves. The motto of their program is "Justice for the Poor".

Among the speakers, we are pleased to welcome Prof. Dr. Olivier de Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food), Prof. Dr. Saskia Sassen (Columbia University, USA), Peter Weiss and Michael Ratner (Center for Constitutional Rights, USA), and Colin Gonzalves (Human Rights Law Network, India)

The conference is limited to 120 participants. There is no conference fee, but due to limited capacities we appreciate your registration at: info@ecchr.eu

International Conference on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights October 9th (Thursday) - 10th (Friday), 2008

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Location

Representation of Saarland to the Federation in Berlin
In den Ministergärten 4
10117 Berlin

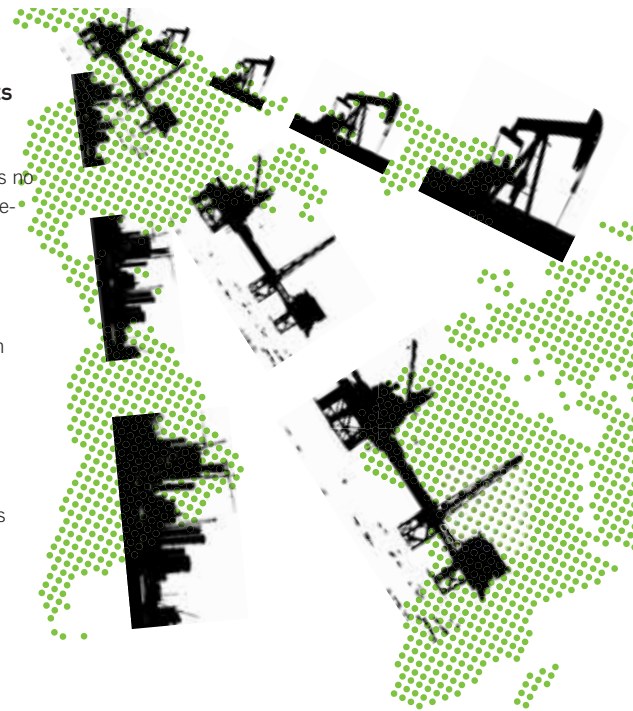
Organizer

European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) in cooperation with 'Brot für die Welt' and MISEREOR

Conference Languages

English and German

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International Conference on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights October 9 - 10, 2008

**Brot
für die Welt**

**MISEREOR
THE NETWORK**

ECCHR!

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, OCTOBER 9 - 10, 2008

As a result of globalization, transnational corporations have not only extended their economic activities, but also their sphere of influence in social, political, cultural and ecological terms. The annual revenue of some corporations exceeds that of the gross national product of many countries. These corporations play an important role in international affairs as well as the generation of international law. For this reason transnational corporations are gaining a more and more powerful position in respect to national governments. Transnational corporations are often criticized for their involvement in gross human rights violations; nevertheless, holding transnational corporations legally accountable is problematic: there is a lack of applicable norms, as well as consequent implementation of existing legislation; the extent to which, if at all, transnational corporations are directly bound to international law and Human Rights standards remains in question.

Against this background, the ECCHR is organizing an international conference in cooperation with "Brot für die Welt" and MISEREOR on "Transnational Corporations and Human Rights". The conference brings together social scientists and legal scholars with practitioners from the human rights movement and development cooperation. This approach intends to juxtapose binding legal instruments and codes of conduct while taking into consideration aspects of extraterritorial state responsibility and the role of the civil society.

The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) is an independent, non-profit civil society organization founded by a small group of well-known human rights lawyers. ECCHR was established as a litigation, training, educational and coordination group.

PROGRAM

October 9, 2008

03:00 p.m. - 05:00 p.m. **Effects of Globalization on Human Rights and the Transnational Struggle for Human Rights**

03:00 p.m. - 03:15 p.m. **Opening Speech**
Wolfgang Kaleck (ECCHR) and
Michael Ratner (Center for Constitutional Rights and ECCHR)

03:15 p.m. - 04:15 p.m. **Transnational Corporations and Human Rights in a Globalized World**
Prof. Dr. Saskia Sassen (Columbia University, USA)

04:15 p.m. - 05:00 p.m. **State Responsibility and extraterritorial State Obligations regarding Transnational Corporations and Human Rights**
Prof. Dr. Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food)

05:00 p.m. - 05:30 p.m. **Coffee Break**

05:30 p.m. - 07:00 p.m. **New approaches of the Human Rights Movement**

05:30 p.m. - 05:45 p.m. **Litigating Human Rights**
Colin Gonsalves (Human Rights Law Network, India)

05:45 p.m. - 07:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion**
Alfred Brownell (Lawyer, Liberia)
Audrey Gaughran (Amnesty International – International Secretariat, UK)
Sif Thorgeirsson (Business & Human Rights, UK)
Michael Windfuhr (Diakonisches Werk / Brot für die Welt, Germany)

Colin Gonsalves (Human Rights Law Network, India)

Chairman: **Wolfgang Kaleck** (ECCHR)

Reception

07:00 p.m.

October 10, 2008

09:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m. **Working-Groups on Selected Problems**

09:00 a.m. - 09:15 a.m. **Introduction**
Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß (ECCHR)

09:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Agrobusiness and the Right to Food**
Prof. Dr. Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food)

10:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m. **Working-Groups**
Working-Group: Extractive Industries and Resource Conflicts

Seema Joshi (Global Witness, UK)
Jean-Claude Katende (ASADHO Katanga, DRC)
Jacqueline Moudeina (Lawyer, Chad)
Boniface Dumpe (Center for Social and Corporate Responsibility, Nigeria)

Chairman: **Vincent Neussli** (Unit: West Africa, Misereor)

Working-Group: Inhumane Working Conditions and other Labor Rights Violations

Dr. Rolf Geffken (Institute for Comparison of Labor & Industrial Relations, Germany)
Ingeborg Wick (Südwind – Institute for Economics and Ecumenism, Germany)

Katherine Gallagher (Center for Constitutional Rights, USA)

Alfred Brownell (Lawyer, Liberia)

Chairwoman: **Elisabeth Strohscheidt** (Misereor)

Working-Group: The Right to Water, to Food and to a Healthy Environment

Patrick Sindane (Coalition against Water Privatization, South Africa)

Ana María Suárez Franco (FIAN International)

Andreas Blüthner (BASF Micronutrient Initiatives)

Dora Lucy Arias Giraldo (Corporación Colectivo de Abogados "José Alvear Restrepo", Colombia)

Chairman: **N.N.**

Lunch

01:00 p.m. - 02:00 p.m.

Presentation of Working Group Results

02:00 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.

Scope of Accountability of Transnational Companies for Human Rights Violations
Prof. Dr. Menno T. Kamminga (University of Maastricht, Netherlands)

02:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Coffee Break

03:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Chances and Disadvantages of Litigations, Soft Law Mechanisms and Codes of Conduct

04:00 p.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Dr. Karsten Nowrot LL.M. (University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

Peter Weiss (Center for Constitutional Rights, USA)

Tillmann Rudolf Braun, M.P.A. (Harv.) (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, National Contact Point for 'OECD-Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises', Germany)

Dr. Andreas Blüthner (BASF Micronutrient Initiatives, Germany)

Jacqueline Moudeina (Lawyer, Chad)

Chairman: **Michael Windfuhr** (Brot für die Welt, Germany)

06:00 p.m. – 06:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks