



American Society
of International Law

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ASIL 105th ANNUAL MEETING SESSIONS MAKE NEWS ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, DRONES, AND LIBYA

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) held its 105th Annual Meeting with the theme “Harmony and Dissonance in International Law,” March 23–26, 2011, in Washington, DC. The four-day event, with nearly 1,400 registrants, had high attendance from judges, academics, and leading practitioners from both the private and public sectors. The conference was co-chaired by ASIL members **Catherine Amirfar** (Debevoise and Plimpton, LLP), **Tai-Heng Cheng** (New York Law School), and **Chimene Keitner** (University of California, Hastings College of the Law). The following are among the highlights of the Annual Meeting.

“The Four Freedoms Turn 70: Embracing an Integrated Approach to Human Rights,” an Opening Plenary address by **Michael Posner**, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, on a major U.S. policy shift entailing an expanded definition of human rights. A transcript of Posner’s remarks is available online [here](#).

“Targeting with Drone Technology: Humanitarian Law Implications,” featuring LTC **Chris Jenks**, U.S. Army; **Nils Melzer**, International Committee of the Red Cross; and **Naz Modirzadeh**, Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Resolution

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(moderator), in a discussion of the standards governing the rapidly expanding use of drone technology in targeting operations. This session was aired on C-SPAN and is available for viewing online [here](#).

“Revolution and Intervention in the Middle East,” a late-breaking developments panel that addressed the current situation in Libya and featured recently resigned Libyan Ambassador to the U.S. **Ali Aujali**, U.S. State Department Legal Advisor **Harold Koh**, and **Hussein Hassouna**, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the U.S., among others. A transcript of Koh’s remarks on the legal justification for the current military operation in Libya can be found [here](#).

The meeting also featured a luncheon dialogue with International Criminal Court Deputy Prosecutor **Fatou Bensouda**, who discussed how the ICC Prosecutor selects cases, and “Decision Making in International Courts and Tribunals: A Conversation with Judges and Arbitrators,” a roundtable discussion of prominent international judges including **Rosalyn Higgins**, former President of the International Court of Justice; **Charles N. Brower**, Judge of the Iran-US Claims Tribunal and member of many investment treaty tribunals; and **Theodor Meron**, Member of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

The closing plenary, “International Law in the U.S. Government: The Views Outside ‘L,’” featured Rear Admiral **James W. Crawford, III**, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; **Robert J. EATINGER, Jr.**, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency; **Avril Haines**, U.S. National Security Council, and **Robert S. Taylor**, Department of Defense, who discussed how international law affects the operations of their agencies.

All six of these sessions, along with video of nine others, can be viewed at www.FORA.tv. Information on how to purchase an audio version of these or any other sessions can be found at www.asil.org/am11.

At the Annual General Meeting, the following officers were elected to leadership positions in the Society.

- President-Elect **Donald Francis Donovan**, Debevoise and Plimpton, LLP
- Honorary President **Theodor Meron**, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- Vice Presidents **Elizabeth Andersen**, American Society of International Law; **Mahnoush Arsanjani**, formerly of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations; **John Crook**, George Washington University Law School; **Makau Mutau**, Buffalo Law School; and **Mary Ellen O’Connell**, Notre Dame University School of Law
- Executive Council members **Daniel D. Bradlow**, American University Washington College of Law; **Marinn Carlson**, Sidley Austin, LLP; **Michael Newton**, Vanderbilt University Law School; **Hari Osofsky**, University of Minnesota Law School; **Nathalie Reid**, Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP; **Edward T. Swaine**, George Washington University Law School; **Bart Szewczyk**, Wilmer Hale, LLP; and **Allen Weiner**, Stanford Law School
- Counsellors **Anthony Anghie**, Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law; **Daniel Bethlehem**, Legal Adviser to the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office; **Joan Donoghue**, International Court of Justice; **Frederic Kirgis** Washington and Lee University School of Law; **Carolyn**

Lamm, White & Case, LLP; **Chantal Thomas**, Cornell Law School; and **D. Stephen Mathias**, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs at the United Nations.

For more information about the 2011 Annual Meeting, please contact Sheila Ward, ASIL Director of Communications and Member Relations, at sward@asil.org or +1.202.939.6018.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's nearly 4,000 members (from more than 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. For more information, visit www.asil.org.