



January 13, 2008

Dear Member,

Re: **Reflections on 2007**

1. 2007 has been another challenging and exciting year for the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (“**the IAJLJ**”). Before embarking into 2008, I wish to highlight certain activities and events in which the IAJLJ was involved over this past year:

1.1. In March, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and the IAJLJ, in conjunction with the American University Washington College of Law and Touro College Law Center, hosted a Conference in Washington D.C., the topic of which focused on “*Protecting Human Rights and Democratic Values in an Age of Terrorism*”. Honoured guests attending this Conference included Mr. Irwin Cotler, a former Canadian Minister of Justice and former President of the Supreme Court, Justice (Retired) Aharon Barak.

1.2. In June, the IAJLJ held its annual gathering in memory of Justice Haim H. Cohn at the College of Management (in Rishon Lezion, Israel). Mr. Irwin Cotler, a guest speaker at this gathering, gave a talk on the subject of “*Pursuing Justice and Confronting Injustice: A Critical Perspective on the Rights Agenda*”. Prof. Daniel Friedman, the Israeli Minister of Justice and Justice (Retired) Prof. Yitzhak Zamir, were also present at this gathering.

1.3. In November:

1.3.1. the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the IAJLJ was held in both Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, under the headline “*Coping with Changing Realities*”. Honoured guests present at the Congress included Prof. Daniel Friedman and the President of the Supreme Court, Justice Dorit Beinisch.

In addition to the various discussions and lectures, the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress was also the venue for the annual General Meeting of the IAJLJ. Items on the agenda at such meeting included:

- the holding of elections for the appointment of new members to the IAJLJ’s administrative bodies;
- the adoption by the IAJLJ of new Articles of Association; and

- the adoption by the IAJLJ of the following three resolutions and their subsequent dispatch to the relevant organizational bodies: (a) a resolution denouncing the academic boycott on Israel; (b) a resolution reserving those activities and decisions made by the Human Rights Council in connection with the “Durban 2” Conference (which is scheduled to occur in 2009); and (c) a resolution calling for the release of the three captured Israeli soldiers;

and

- 1.3.2. the Latin American Jewish Lawyers Association in Buenos Aires hosted its first Conference, where the main topic for discussion centred on referred “*The Jewish People’s Agenda in the Subcontinent*”. Honourable Justice Grabivker, the newly-appointed Vice-President of the IAJLJ, attended this Conference, together with Argentinean Supreme Court Justice, Enrique Petracchi, Dr. Alberto Nisman, Argentina’s State Public Prosecutor and Mrs. Patricia Vaca Narvaja, Vice-President of the House of Representatives in Argentina.
2. In addition to the above events and activities, 2007 also bore witness to the launching by the IAJLJ of the following two websites:
    - 2.1. the new and revised lawyers’ directory website—<http://www.jlawyers.org>—where each member may insert his/her contact information and areas of practice. In this way, each member may easily be able to track other members for professional or other purposes. It should be noted that this website is intended to serve as a source of general information and is not only limited to IAJLJ members; and
    - 2.2. [www.mis-justice.com](http://www.mis-justice.com)—a website launched as a consequence of the successful conference held in Budapest in 2006, where all research works undertaken on the subject “*Miscarriage of Justice*” (during World War II) may be located and accessed.
  3. Since in May 2008 Israel will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood, future plans outlined for the IAJLJ in anticipation of such celebrations and during the course of 2008 include, *inter alia*:
    - 3.1. convening and hosting two Conferences in two diverse locations: one in Argentina (towards the end of May) and the other in Berlin (at the beginning of November<sup>1</sup>). I hope that you will be able to attend these conferences. No doubt these conferences (and other proposed activities) scheduled for 2008 will have enormous impact and equally important ramifications for both the IAJLJ and its members; and

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<sup>1</sup> Details of the exact dates of these will be sent to you at the appropriate time.

- 3.2. in April a celebratory edition of "*Justice Magazine*" (issue no. 45), will be published which will contain, *inter alia*, a review of many important legal and social issues surrounding the history of the Jewish people as well as a future outlook, in the light of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood.
4. On January 27, 2007 a protest letter regarding a conference on Holocaust denial that took place in Egypt—"The Holocaust Lie"—was sent to President Mubarak and to 14 Egyptian ambassadors throughout the world. A copy of such letter was also sent to the various bodies at the UN, including the Human Rights Council.
5. Last but not least, I call upon you to renew your membership for 2008. Enclosed is the appropriate membership form for completion and return.
6. As described above, the IAJLJ has continued to broaden its activities and expects that 2008, being a special year in itself, will continue to be extremely fruitful, enriching and challenging, in all spheres. I invite you to join us in the celebrations so that we may experience together these and all other events planned for 2008.
7. Wishing you and your families a healthy, happy and peaceful 2008!

Sincerely,



Alex Hertman, Adv.  
President