



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

December 30, 2008

Dear Member,

Re: **Reflections on 2008**

2008 has been another challenging and exciting year for the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ). I wish to highlight a number of activities and events in which the IAJLJ was involved over this past year and to provide you with a brief overview of certain projects planned by the IAJLJ for 2009:

1. In *May*, the Argentinian Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (AAJLJ) together with the IAJLJ, hosted a conference in Buenos Aires themed “*Responsible Leadership, Global Challenges and Local Solutions.*” Honourable guests attending the conference included Dr. Ricardo Lorenzetti, the President of the Supreme Court of Argentina, and Mr. Julio Cobos, the Vice President of Argentina. One issue of primary importance discussed at length at the conference concerned the legal measures that should be pursued by the IAJLJ against countries that assist, sponsor, support and grant haven to terrorists, with an emphasis on the bombings in Buenos Aires of the AMIA building in 1994 and the building housing the Israeli Embassy in 1992.
2. In *October*, members of the AAJLJ filed a revolutionary civil law suit on behalf of six individuals who lost their loved ones in the bombing of the AMIA building against the Government of Iran and high-ranking Iranian government officials. The IAJLJ intends to involve itself to a greater extent in initiating and/or promoting such legal activities in an endeavor to seek justice not only against Iran, but also against other countries that encourage and contribute to world terror.
3. In *September*, the IAJLJ sent two letters of protest, as follows:
 - (a) The first, addressed to the Greek Minister of Justice, with regard to wrongful accusations of treason of IAJLJ member Mr. Panayote Dimitras, spokesman of the Greek Helsinki Monitor (a member organization of the OMCT SOS-Torture Network). Mr. Dimitras acts consistently and devotedly in pursuit of human rights (with an emphasis on the violation of rights of minorities in Greece) and in combating racism in Greece; and
 - (b) The second, addressed to the Lithuanian Ambassador in Israel, concerning a convicted Lithuanian war criminal, Mr. Algimantas Dailide. Mr. Dailide was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment for crimes against humanity and war crimes but is not serving his sentence behind bars since the legal system in Lithuania has, for some reason, not enforced the judgment. As a result, Mr. Dailide is currently free and leading a normal life.

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4. During the course of 2008, the IAJLJ's representatives in Geneva argued relentlessly against the Durban II conference scheduled to take place on April 2009. To this end, and at their initiative, public announcements frequently appear in the media reflecting the IAJLJ's vehement objections to the holding of the conference – a conference that is being organized for the mere purpose of demeaning Israel and incorrectly portraying it as a racist country that engages in human rights' violations.
5. In *May*, the IAJLJ successfully re-inaugurated its UK member branch, and with the approval of the IAJLJ's Board of Governors, became the third member organization of the IAJLJ. It is hoped that, in the future, the IAJLJ will launch additional branches or member organizations in other countries of the world.
6. Unfortunately the Berlin conference that had been scheduled for November 2008 was cancelled due to insufficient financing from sponsors and other sources. However, it is hoped that a conference will take place in Europe in the spring of 2009 (with Spain being the possible venue) and plans for the holding of the conference and other related initial preparations are currently underway. The main topic of discussion at this conference will focus on "*Laws of War*". In any event, we hope to provide you with more detailed information of the anticipated conference in the coming months.
7. Also on our 2009 agenda:
 - (a) In *February* the IAJLJ plans to hold a festive fund-raising event in Tel Aviv themed "*The Media—Reflecting or Dictating Reality*". The purpose for holding the event is twofold: (a) to raise funds for the IAJLJ (in view of the severe financial difficulties encountered by the IAJLJ over the past year); and (b) to raise awareness of the role being played by the media on issues that constitute the forefront of the IAJLJ's objects and activities – combating anti-Semitism, fighting terror and incitement, and pursuing human rights.
 - (b) In *April*, the IAJLJ will publish its annual edition of "*Justice Magazine*" (issue no. 46), which will contain, *inter alia*, a review of significant legal and social issues, including financing terror, the role of international law in negotiations, and precedents in Brazil that deal with war crimes.
8. Last but not least, due to the financial difficulties that the IAJLJ is presently experiencing as well as the current global economic crisis, both of which have prevented the IAJLJ from procuring donations, I call upon you to make a donation to the IAJLJ; all contributions, large or small, will be gladly accepted. Please note that donations received by the IAJLJ will assist not only in allowing the IAJLJ to continue its day-to-day operations as a non-profit organisation in particular, but will equally allow the IAJLJ to continue to pursue its objectives and goals.



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In addition, I call upon all members to renew their membership for 2009¹.

Finally, at the threshold of 2009, a year that no doubt will embrace new beginnings and be filled with challenges both on the international and regional political map, I would like to wish you and your families a healthy, happy and peaceful new year!

Sincerely,

Alex Hertman, Adv.
President

¹ Enclosed is the appropriate membership form for completion and return.