



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Meeting of States Parties

Fourteenth meeting

New York, 18 December 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as amended (see General Assembly resolution 50/155)

Election of nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2013

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In conformity with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention will be convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 18 December 2012, for the purpose of electing nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from a list of persons nominated by States parties, to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2013 (see annex I). The names of the other nine members who will continue to serve on the Committee until 28 February 2015 appear in annex II.
2. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 43, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 6 July 2012, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of nine members of the Committee within two months. All the curricula vitae received by 6 September 2012 are included in the present document.
3. In compliance with the provisions of article 43, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to list below, in alphabetical order, the names of the persons nominated for election to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, indicating the States parties which have nominated them. Biographical data of the persons nominated, as furnished by the States parties concerned, are contained in annex III to the present document.

| <i>Name of candidate</i> | <i>Nominated by</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ms Suzanne Aho Assouma | Togo |
| Ms. Amal Aldoseri | Bahrain |
| Ms Fareeda Abdulla Al Obaidly | Qatar |
| Ms Sara de Jesús Oviedo Fierro | Ecuador |
| Mr. Peter Guran | Slovakia |
| Ms. Olga A. Khazova | Russian Federation |
| Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur | Ethiopia |
| Ms. Yasmeen Muhamad Shariff | Malaysia |
| Mr. Wanderlino Nogueira Neto | Brazil |
| Ms. Maria Rita Parsi | Italy |
| Mr. Awich Pollar | Uganda |
| Mr. Edward Bandawe Twea | Malawi |
| Ms. Kamla Devi Varmah | Mauritius |
| Ms. Renate Winter | Austria |
| Ms. Hariguetta Congo/Zongo | Burkina Faso |

Annexes

Annex I

Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child whose terms expire on 28 February 2013

| <i>Name of member</i> | <i>Country of nationality</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ms. Hadeel Al-Asmar | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Mr. Peter Guran | Slovakia |
| Mr. Sanphasit Koompraphant | Thailand |
| Ms. Yanghee Lee | Republic of Korea |
| Ms. Marta Maurás Pérez | Chile |
| Ms. Pilar Nores | Peru |
| Mr. Awich Pollar | Uganda |
| Ms. Kamla Devi Varmah | Mauritius |
| Mr. Jean Zermatten | Switzerland |

Annex II**Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
whose terms expire on 28 February 2015**

| <i>Name of member</i> | <i>Country of nationality</i> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ms. Agnes Akosua Aidoo | Ghana |
| Ms. Aseil Al-Shehail | Saudi Arabia |
| Mr. Jorge Cardona Llorens | Spain |
| Mr. Bernard Gastaud | Monaco |
| Ms. Maria Herczog | Hungary |
| Mr. Hatem Kotrane | Tunisia |
| Mr. Gehad Madi | Egypt |
| Ms. Kirsten Sandberg | Norway |
| Ms. Hiranthi Wijemanne | Sri Lanka |

Annex III

Biographical data of nominees

Suzanne Aho Assouma (Togo)

Date et lieu de naissance : 12 Août 1952 à Saïgon (Viet Nam)

Langues de travail : Français / Anglais

Situation/fonction actuelle : Maire Adjointe de la Ville de Lomé

Principales activités professionnelles:

En charge des questions femmes et enfants ; établissement actes de naissance et autres actes d'état civil ; coopération-jumelage ; contentieux ; mariages, campagnes de sensibilisation relatives aux droits de l'enfant (enfants perdus, abandonnés, en conflit avec la loi, orphelins du VIH/SIDA, maltraités et exploités. Actuellement tous les cas concernant les enfants sont dirigés vers moi. J'ai également en charge les activités socio-culturelles de la brigade pour mineurs.

Causeries débats sur les droits de l'enfant dans les établissements scolaires. J'apporte également l'assistance aux mères dont les enfants ont été abandonnés par leur père par des actions en justice auprès du juge pour enfants. Nous menons aussi des activités associatives. C'est ainsi que nous avons créé le Comité pour la scolarisation de la jeune fille qui prend en charge également les filles internées dans les couvents vaudou.

Etudes:

Obtention du diplôme des Assistants sociaux à Abidjan en Côte d'Ivoire, après des études primaires au Bénin et Paris, Secondaires au Bénin, au Togo et en Corrèze en France et donc nantie du BAC A4.

Autres activités principales dans le domaine intéressant le mandat de l'organe conventionnel auquel postule le candidat:

Engagée, depuis plus de 30 ans, dans la lutte pour la promotion et la protection des droits des enfants abandonnés. 1979 : Fonctionnaire à la Division de Protection et de Promotion de la Jeunesse à la Direction Générale des Affaires Sociales du Togo. Je crée le Service Social près le Tribunal de Lomé et en assure la responsabilité durant 15 ans.

1993 : Directrice de la Protection et de la Promotion de la Famille et de l'Enfance au Ministère des Affaires Sociales. Face à l'absence d'un code des mineurs, à la dissémination des textes existants et à leur méconnaissance par les acteurs, j'entreprends un travail de recherche et de regroupement de ces textes dans un volume « De la protection des enfants mineurs dans la législation togolaise ». Mon approche inclusive de la protection des enfants prend en compte les familles en détresse, sans oublier le cas particulier des familles de réfugiés et la prise en compte des personnes du 3^e âge. Membre du Comité des experts des droits de l'enfant de l'Union Africaine.

1997 : J'ai présenté le rapport initial du Togo sur les droits de l'enfant devant le comité des experts des Nations Unis à Genève.

Liste des publications les plus récentes du candidat dans ce domaine:

Auteur de plusieurs pamphlets, recueils et documentaires:

Notamment:

- De la protection des enfants mineurs dans la législation togolaise
- Le calvaire des petites bonnes au Togo
- La Convention Relative aux droits de l'Enfant racontée aux enfants par les enfants
- « Aguegue » ou « l'Aventure » (trafic des enfants)
- Film documentaire sur le système trokossi (servitude de la jeune fille dans les couvents fétichistes)

Amal Salman Aldoseri (Bahrain)

Date and place of birth: 22nd Dec, 1959, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Working languages: Fluent Arabic and English, good command of French and first certificate in German

Current position/function:

Advisor to the President, General Organisation for Youth and Sport. In charge of strategic planning for young people living in Bahrain in all fields, including human rights and civic participation.

Active member of the National Committee for Childhood, heading the team to draft the first National Child Strategy and plan of action.

Main professional activities:

- Headed a professional team to draft the “Child Law” in accordance with the CRC, which has been enforced as of August 2012.
- Manager of the first National Youth Strategy 2005-2009 and the update 2011-2015, including young people’s participation and rights.
- Manager of National Child Strategy in Bahrain and Action Plan 2012-2016.
- Manager of Situation Analysis Report (Sit-An) 2003 and 2011, focusing on the challenges facing children in all fields, most importantly the legal gaps in the Bahraini law.
- Project Manager of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey- MICS, in coordination with UNICEF.
- Engaged in developing Bahrain’s initial, second and third country report on CRC and delegation member to the discussion of the reports in Geneva.
- Participated and lectured in various workshops on CRC, Women and youth

Educational background:

- B.A, double major English Literature and translation, Kuwait University, 79
- Post-graduate Diploma in Education, Bahrain University 87
- Master in Education, Sheffield University UK, 95
- Course in “Innovation in Governance”, School of Government, Harvard University, 2005.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concern:

- Initiated dialogue and lobbied to incorporate the CRC in the school curricula with Ministry of Education.
- Founder and manager of Bahrain Youth Parliament (age group 14-19 years).
- Founder of Y-PEER Education- Bahrain, the first and only in the region, in coordinating with UNFPA to educate and train young trainers on sexual and reproductive health.
- Recognized trainer on capacity building and development of youth, children and women (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, League of Arab States (LAS))

- Lead organizer of the Arab Child Festival.
- Founder and president of Short Story for Children Competition to encourage writers and new young writers to produce story books for children.
- Lead organizer of the first Child Theatre Festival.
- Vice-president of International Council on National Youth Policy (ICNYP), Vienna.
- Board member of World Leisure Organization (WLO), USA.
- Member of non-profit Bahrain Society for Child Development, and member of Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Centre for speech and hearing, helping children with hearing disabilities.

List of most recent publications:

- “Child and Law in Bahrain”, 2003.
- “Children’s Books in Public Libraries”, survey, 2003.
- “Children’s Programmes in G.C.C. Television Channels”, survey, 2002.

Fareeda Abdulla Al Obaidly (Qatar)

Date and place of birth: Doha – 1956

Working Languages: Arabic-English

Current position/function: General Director, Qatar Foundation for child & Woman Protection

Main Professional activities:

- Supervise and follow-up of all cases handled by the organization with regards to child & woman and ensure each case is dealt with appropriately.
- Direct the preparation of the necessary studies and researches related to the functions of the child and woman protection.
- Represent the organization in conferences, symposiums and meetings related to the functions of the child and woman protection, in order to raise the awareness about the child and woman rights within the society.
- Propose and initiate the formation of committees and specialized work teams related to study of cases aimed to protect the child and woman.
- Review existing legislation to ensure their compliance with constitutional mandates, national policies and international standards, and monitoring the full, adequate and effective implementation of laws criminalizing violence against women and children and protecting victims of violence, exploitation and abuse.
- Raising public awareness and outreach about the dangers of domestic and social violence through different types of media for sharing society.
- Training and Capacities Building for government officials and non-government, especially police officers, health care providers, social workers on how to interview, interact, and engage with target groups.
- Publishing guidelines and booklets on various issues related to rights of women and children especially their rights in accordance with international law, violence against women and children causes and responses, the vulnerable populations, best practices and comparative models.
- Establishment of an anonymous helping service for victims of violence of different services including legal services, psychological services, counseling, treatment, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.
- Coordination with local authorities, government agencies, and international organizations Rights for the purpose of training programs, mutual projects and exchange of information for the common goal of creating a more secure society for women and children.

Educational background:

- Master's degree in Educational Leadership – Georges Mayson University – USA Year 1996.
- Bachelors of Art in History – Literature Faculty – Beirut Arab University 1976.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Member of the State of Qatar Committee to prepare the report on the execution of the child rights convention 2012.
- Member in the National Committee of the State of Qatar to prepare and present its national report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, February 2010.
- Member of the Qatari national committee to prepare a report on the execution of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Woman, Supreme Council for Family Affairs – 2009.
- Member in a committee to discuss Qatar first report submitted under Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva – 2009.
- Member in the Committee against Violence – Supreme Council of Family Affairs – 2007.
- Member in a committee on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, Ministry of foreign Affairs 2007 – Qatar.
- Member of Qatar delegation to discuss the optional protocol on child rights – Geneva 2006.
- Member of committee to prepare the Qatari response on the Committee on the Rights of the Child observations, to be discussed during the forty-second session of the Committee on the Rights of Child, Geneva 2006.
- Member in a Committee on the (Law violating parents who prevent their children from education and the means to prevent the society from its negative impact).
- Member in a team on establishing the social protection strategy–Ministry of Social Affairs.

List of most recent publication in the field:

Regularly writing articles that are related to the child and women rights in the local newspapers.

Sara de Jesús Oviedo Fierro (Ecuador)

Lugar y fecha de nacimiento: Chambo-Chimborazo-Ecuador, 28 de julio de 1952

Idiomas de trabajo: inglés

Cargo o función actual:

- Secretaria Ejecutiva del Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y Adolescencia.
- Representante Titular del Ecuador ante el Instituto Interamericano del Niño, Niña y Adolescente.

Principales actividades profesionales:

- Aporte al Movimiento Nacional Indígena
- Aporte al Movimiento Nacional de Mujeres
- Organización y fortalecimiento de los servicios de desarrollo infantil en el Ecuador.
- Construcción del Sistema Nacional Descentralizado de Protección Integral a la Niñez y Adolescencia
- Aporte en el Fortalecimiento del Instituto Interamericano del Niño, la Niña y Adolescentes
- Participación en reuniones nacionales e internacionales para el fortalecimiento del sistema nacional de protección infantil.

Títulos académicos:

Estudios universitarios: Universidad Central del Ecuador.

Licenciatura en Sociología y Ciencias Políticas

Doctorado en Sociología y Ciencias Políticas

Estudios Postuniversitarios: 1990 Curso de diseño, evaluación y gerencia de proyectos sociales, organizado por CONADE-UNICEF-PNUD-UNESCO-ILPES.

1994 Curso de postgrado en Políticas Económicas y Políticas Sociales, organizado por ILDIS-UNICEF- Universidad Católica.

2002 Curso de marco lógico y su sistema de evaluación.

2012 Curso superior de formación continua en juventud y sociedad en América Latina - Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales.

Otras actividades principales en el campo relacionado con el órgano correspondiente:

- Programas Comunitarios para la Infancia (MBS-UNICEF), Coordinadora General Julio 1984 - Abril 1986.
- Programa de Desarrollo Infantil del INNFA, Coordinadora Técnica Nacional, Enero de 1989 - Abril 1991.
- Programa de Desarrollo Infantil del INNFA (cobertura de 120 mil niños y niñas), Coordinadora Técnica Nacional, 1989 – 1991.
- Programa Nacional de Educación Alternativa de Preescolar, Asesora.
- Programa Nuestros Niños, Consultora, Enero-Dic. 2002.
- Operación Rescate Infantil, Consultora, Abril-Dic. 2003.

- Consolidación institucional del Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y Adolescencia, con presupuesto y estatuto aprobado y en su carácter de organismo rector de las políticas públicas.
- Consolidación de Autoridad Central del Ecuador en para la aplicación de instrumentos internacionales.
- Construcción de vínculos con otros organismos del Sistema Nacional de Protección Integral a la Niñez y Adolescencia: Consejo Nacional de la Judicatura, Dirección Nacional de Policía Especializada en Niñez, Defensoría del Pueblo, Ministerio Público del Ecuador.

Publicaciones más recientes en ese campo:

- Artículo publicado “Los grandes aprendizajes y retos del movimiento de defensa de los derechos humanos de la niñez y adolescencia en el Ecuador 1990-2008” en el libro “Derechos y garantías de la niñez y adolescencia: Hacia la consolidación de la doctrina de protección integral”.
- Derechos Humanos de Niñez y Adolescencia para Docentes. Experiencia en Pichincha.
- Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia.
- Manual operativo de las unidades móviles, de capacitación, procedimientos, asistencia técnica, administración de fondos, cuaderno de trabajo de salud y nutrición, cuaderno de trabajo aprendamos jugando, proyectos estudiantiles, programa nacional de educación preescolar.

Peter Guran (Slovakia)

Date of birth: 11 May 1957

Nationality: Slovak

Language skills: English, Italian, German, Russian

Education:

1976 -1980 Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia – Master degree in Sociology

1981 –1983 Comenius University, Department of Sociology, Bratislava, Slovakia –
PhDr (Philosophiae Doctor)

2002 – 2009 Comenius University, Department of Politology, Bratislava, Slovakia –
PhD

Professional experience record:

1983 – 1989 Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
Bratislava, Slovakia

Member of a research team for Family policy (family policy issues: family life, family problems, divorces, social and regional differences, modern and traditional families in relation with social structure, regions)

1990 – 1994 Institute of Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia

Deputy Director (research on family structure, children, inter-generational problems in a family)

1994 –1999: Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies, Bratislava, Slovakia

Deputy Director (co-ordination of research: UN Project “Possibilities and barriers of family in contemporary Europe” – supported by Family Unit, New York, family policy in countries in transition, women in politics)

1999 – 2005 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
Bratislava, Slovakia

Director General of the Family Policy Division (coordination of issues: state family policy, child protection, gender equality, antidiscrimination)

2005 – 2011 Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
Bratislava, Slovakia

Head of Monitoring and Research Department (2005 – 2008)

Head of International Relations and Children Rights Department (since April 2008) Coordination: monitoring activities on human rights, especially children rights, empirical research on human rights, child advocacy, international projects coordination

Since 2008: Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
United Nations Organisation, Geneva

Family mediator, Mediation Centre Respekt
Bratislava, Slovakia

Membership of Professional Bodies:

1998 – 2004 Member of the European Population Committee, Council of Europe Strasbourg

2001 – 2006 Member of the Programme Committee of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination and President of the Antidiscrimination data collection Working Group (2004-2006), Brussels

since 2004 Associated member of ChildONEurope, Florence (European Network of National Observatories on Childhood) – cooperation in preparing the European comparative studies “Unaccompanied children”, “Violence against children”, Member of the team preparing the study “Post-adoption services”, Member of the team preparing a comparative study for the EU on inter-country adoptions

Since 2005 Observer in the European Network of Ombudspeople for Children (ENOC)

Since 2007 Member of the Forum for Children Rights of the European Commission, DG Justice and Home Affairs

Member of “l’ Europe de l’ Enfance” – Permanent Intergovernmental Group established in the framework of the European Union

Member of the European Older people's Platform (AGE), Vice-president of the Antidiscrimination Expert Group

Specific Country Experience:

2009 - 2011 Lithuania (EU project) – leaving care and after care for children in institutions

2008 - 2009 Italy – child participation

2007 - 2010 Italy – inter-country adoptions

2005 - 2006 Luxembourg – gender equality

2004 - 2005 Luxembourg – gender equality

1993 - 1998 Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic – SOCO project on family life

Other relevant professional experience:

Vice-chairperson of the Committee for Youth and Children (subsidiary body of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality)

Member of expert groups and committees of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and Slovak Parliament specialised in the field of human rights and children rights

Long-term cooperation with UNICEF Slovakia (co-author of reports, expert statements, active participation at UNICEF meetings and seminars)

Member of administrative boards of Slovak NGOs working in the field of human rights and rights of the child

Active cooperation with Agenzia regionale per le adozioni internazionali (A.R.A.I.), Torino, Italy – preparing and coordination of bilateral projects (e. g. the project of A.R.A.I. and Bratislava University of Social work of St. Elisabeth “Best interest of the child in judicial precedures” in 2012)

Key Qualifications:

Rights of the child, human rights, equal opportunities policy, antidiscrimination policy, family research, family policy, family mediation

Publications**Books:**

- Guráň, P. – Filadelfiová, J.: People, Life and the Family. YFSF. Bratislava, 1995 (Slovak/English)
- Guráň, P. – Filadelfiová, J., - Ritomský, A.: Atlas of Communities in Slovakia according the Family and Demographic Characteristics. Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies, Bratislava, 1997 (Slovak/English)
- Filadelfiová, J. – Guráň, P.: Demographic Trends and Family in European Postcommunitic countries. Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies. Bratislava, 1997 (Slovak/English)
- Filadelfiová, J. – Guráň, P.: (ed): Rodina a dedina. Esprima. Bratislava, 1998 (Slovak)
- Guráň, P. – Šebová, N.: Intercountry Adoptions. Experiences and knowledge gained from intercountry adoptions of children from Slovakia to other countries. Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. 2007 (Slovak/English)
- Guráň, P. – Rusňáková, E.: Children of foreigners living in Slovakia. Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. 2007 (Slovak)
- Guráň, P. (ed): Report on the current state of observance of children's rights in the Slovak Republic. Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. Bratislava 2009 (Slovak/English)
- International adoption in the European Union, European Parliament, Policy Department C, Brussels, 2009

Chapters in Books:

1. Divorces as a Social Problem. In: Aktuálne problémy sociológie rodiny. Veda. Bratislava, 1988 (Slovak).
2. Territorial Differentiation of Divorce Rates in Slovakia. In: Sňatečnosť a rodina (Z. Pavlík) Akademie. Praha, 1992 (Czech).
3. Contemporary Family – Problems and Paradoxes, Elderly People (2 Chapters). In: The UN and the Family. Bratislava International Centre for family studies. Bratislava, 1995 (Slovak /English).
4. Familie und Lebensverhältnisse in der Slowakei. In.: Lebensverhältnisse in Osteuropa (W. Glatzer (Hg)) Campus Verlag. Frankfurt/New York, 1996 (German).
5. Demografický vývoj (Demographic Developmnet). In.: Slovensko 1996. M. Bútora (ed.) IVO, Bratislava 1997 (Slovak/English).
6. Obyvateľstvo a rodina (Population and Family), In: Slovensko 1997. M. Bútora – T. Skladony (ed.) IVO. Bratislava, 1998 (Slovak).
7. Vidiecka rodina 90. rokov: Hodnoty a stratégie. (Country Family in the 90's), In: Vieme čo odmietame, vieme čo chceme? I. Radičová (ed.) S.P.A.C.E. Bratislava, 1997 (Slovak).

8. Guráň, P. – Poláková, A.: Ľudské práva (Human Rights). In.: Slovensko 2006. Súhrnná správa o spoločnosti. Bútorá, M. - Kollár, M. – Mesežnikov, G. (ed.) IVO. Bratislava, 2007 (Slovak).
9. Guidelines on Post-adoption services. ChildONEurope. Firenze, 2007 (English, Italian, Spain, French).

Olga A. Khazova (Russia)

Associate Professor

Languages: English (fluent), Russian (native)

Education:

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, N.Y., USA

LL.M. degree, May 30, 2004

Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Doctor of Law Degree (Ph.D. in Law), 1982

Moscow State Academy of Law (All-Union Law Institute), Moscow, Russia

Law Degree (J.D. equivalent), 1975

Professional Experience:

Russian leading specialist in Russian and comparative family law.

Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences (Znamenka Str. 10, 119991 Moscow, Russia), 1983-present.

Associate Professor, Senior Research Fellow: conducted scholar research projects on comparative family law, matrimonial property matters, children's rights, and legal issues in human reproduction; writing scholarly works, analytical reports, legal opinions; providing commentaries on and assessments of draft laws and current legislation; developed and taught course on Family Law; assisted in drafting of the new Russian Family Code (member of the Parliamentary Working Group of the State Duma of RF Federal Assembly, 1994-1995); member of the Working Group of RF Ministry of Health and Social Development on Legal Acts on Assisted Reproduction (2004-2005).

The EU and RF joint cooperation (TACIS) Project "Application of the Hague Conventions on the Protection of Rights of Child in the Russian Federation" – Key Senior Expert, 2011 – present;

Committee on Women, Family and Youth Matters of the State Duma of RF Federal Assembly – member of Expert Commission, May 2008 – present

Methodological Council at the RF Ministry of Justice – member of the Council, February 2010 – present

Vienna University, Juridical (Law) Faculty – taught a course on Introduction to Russian Law, March 2009

Law Reform Department (Directorate General on Human Rights and Legal Affairs), Council of Europe (CJ-S-CH) – member of the Group of Specialists on Child-Friendly Justice, 2009 – present (work in progress)

Preparation of a Draft of the European Guidelines for Child-Friendly Justice

Committee of Experts on Family Law, CJ-FA-GT1 (Directorate General on Human Rights and Legal Affairs), Council of Europe – member of the Working Group on Missing Persons, 2007 – 2009

Preparation of Draft-Recommendations on Principles concerning Missing Persons and the Presumption of Death and Its Explanatory Memorandum.

American Bar Association Central-East European Law Initiative (ABA CEELI), Moscow office, September 2004-June 2005

Staff attorney: conducted legal research; planned and designed workshops; developed and edited training materials and manuals; monitored legal developments in specified areas; participated in conferences as an expert and as a moderator.

Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, Faculty of Law, Moscow, Russia (the programs are validated by the University of Manchester, Great Britain), 1999-2002

Reader in Law (equivalent): developed and taught a one-semester course on **Comparative Family Law** to LL.M. students.

New Humanitarian University, Faculty of Law, Moscow; National Institute of Business, Faculty of Law, Moscow, Russia, 1995-1996

Reader in Law (equivalent): developed and taught a course on Private International Law.

Independent Legal Consultant/Advisor, 1996-present

Provided consultations and legal opinions on matrimonial and family matters and on legal issues in human reproduction for governmental and non-governmental bodies, Russian and foreign courts, law firms and private clients. In particular, during the last year I provided legal/expert opinions with regard to the case pending at the London High Court (divorce proceedings in Russia) and with regards to adoption issues and surrogacy arrangements for two Embassies (Western countries) in Moscow. I also spoke at the European Embassies Consular meeting in Moscow (Check Embassy, April 2009) on Cross-Border Child Abduction/Custody Disputes.

Selected Professional Activities

Served as consultant and co-author for Lawyers for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms (JURIX) Foundation, participating in a funded project on protection of an individual against discrimination: developed part of a course on gender equality and sexual equality issues; developed and edited training materials and a text-book/reader for a “discrimination” course; wrote an introductory chapter to a respective part of the text-book/reader.

Served as a consultant/advisor for the Russian-American Rule of Law Consortium (RAROLC); participated in the RAROLC Conferences on juvenile justice, child protection and domestic violence in Boston, USA (April, 2005) and Pskov, Russia (May 2005).

Participated as an expert in the meetings of a Group of Scientific Experts on Medical Liability of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CJ-S-MED), Council of Europe (June 2006) and of the Steering Committee on Bioethics CDBI-CO-GT3, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2000.

Served as a consultant/advisor for the CEDPA/Policy project (USAID), providing consultations on reproductive health/rights matters and training in policy and legislative analysis for regional Russian networks, Moscow, Russia, 2002-2004.

Served as consultant and co-author for the Institute of Law and Public Policy, participating in a funded project on analysis of the standards of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights as applied to RF Constitution: analysis of decisions of European Court of Human Rights and European conventions and other legal documents with regard to marriage and family life issues; writing the parts of the book on family life and children issues, Moscow, 2001-2002.

Served as a consultant/advisor for the Committee on Women, Family and Youth Matters of the State Duma of RF Federal Assembly, providing expert opinions on family law matters,

gender equality problems, reproductive rights issues, and on legal issues in human reproduction, Moscow, Russia, 1996-2006.

Received a Fulbright Scholar Award, worked on a funded project on legal framework of surrogate motherhood at the Quinnipiac University School of Law, Hamden, CT, USA, 1998-1999. Invited as the British Academy Visiting Scholar in 1993 and 1999, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, London, Great Britain. Received two research grants from the Soros Foundation Open Society Institute (on alternative dispute resolution in family matters and legal issues in human reproduction). Invited as a visiting scholar to the University College of London, Faculty of Laws, Great Britain, 1990 (research project on family mediation).

Served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal of Children's Rights, Kluwer Law International, 1998 – present.

Presented papers at numerous international meetings, conferences, symposia, and workshops.

Author of Marriage and Divorce in Western Family Law and of numerous articles on family law and human reproduction matters published in Russia and abroad.

Membership of Professional Bodies

International Society of Family Law (Executive Council Member)

Association of Lawyers of Russia

Commission on Legal Status of Family at the Russian Union of Lawyers

Selected lectures and panel presentations

Presentation at the Seminar of the Project “Legal Regulation of Family Relations in RF with regard to the Hague Convention on Abduction 1980 and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children’s Rights 1996” (Moscow, 12 April 2011);

Legal issues of cross-border disputes between parents concerning the upbringing of their children at the Conference on International Family Law and Child’s Rights (Helsinki, Finland, 22-23 March 2011);

Russian Family Law and European Court on Human Rights at the International Conference of the Information Office of the Council of Europe together with the Law Faculty of Moscow Humanitarian University and Department on human rights of the Institute of State and Law RAS “European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms: Results and Perspectives” (Moscow, 20-21 October 2010);

Russian Matrimonial Law – The British-Russian Law Association & Withers LLP Seminar on Matrimonial Law in England and Wales and Russia (17 June 2010, London, UK);

Making National Adoption Easier – the View from Russia – Joint Council of Europe and European Commission Conference “Challenges in Adoption Procedures in Europe: Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child” (30 November – 1 December 2009, Strasbourg, France);

Cross-Border Child Abduction/Custody Disputes – European Embassies Consular meeting (Moscow, Check Embassy, 21 April 2009);

Prospects of International Family Mediation in Russia – 7th European Conference on Family Law “International Family Mediation” (Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 16 March 2009);

Property, Maintenance, and Post-Soviet European Family Law – 13th World Conference of the International Society of Family Law “Family and Finances” (Vienna, 16-20 September 2008);

Russia and the Baltics: Overview of Recent Changes in Family Law – A Conference on the Baltics, Russia and Sweden “Family, Marriage and Parenthood” (Stockholm, Sweden, 11-12 September);

Post-Soviet European Family Law: Some Trends – interdisciplinary Conference “Gender, Family Responsibility and Legal Change” (Sussex Law School, University of Sussex, UK, 10–12 July 2008);

Non-marital relations in the European Post-Soviet Countries: Overview of Legal Regulation – Colloquium “La séparation des couples non mariés” (Lyon University, France, 28 March 2008);

Legal Framework for Adoption: Putting Children’s Interests First, International Workshop “Legal Framework of international adoption in the counties – members of the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation” organized by the Legal Department of the Administration of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (RF Parliament) and Council of Europe, Moscow, Russia, October 2006;

Family Law in the Former Soviet Union: More Differences or More in Common, International Conference “Convergence and Divergence of Family Law in Europe”, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, September 2006;

Russian Family Code and Legal Issues in Assisted Reproduction, RF State Duma Parliamentary Hearings - Conference “10 Years of RF Family Code”, Moscow, 5-6 December 2005;

Child Protection by Means of Mandatory Interventions in Russian Family Law, 100 Years of Child Protection: a National and International Perspective, Amsterdam, November 2005;

Protection of Children’s Rights and European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms, Seminar of “Memorial” and the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), Moscow-Golitsyno, September 2005;

Allocation of Parental Rights and Responsibilities after Separation and Divorce under Russian Law, 12th World ISFL Conference “Family Law – Balancing Interests and Pursuing Priorities”, Utah, USA, July 2005;

Russian Child Welfare Law, Fourth Annual Russian Law Educational Seminar of Russian American Rule of Law Consortium (RAROLC), Boston, USA, March 2005;

Russian Family Code and Legal Issues in Assisted Reproduction, RF State Duma Parliamentary Hearings - Conference “10 Years of RF Family Code”, Moscow, December 2005.

Publications

Book:

Marriage and Divorce in Western Family Law. Comparative and Legal Analysis (in Russian). Moscow. Nauka. 1988. – 171 P;

The Art of Legal Writing. M.:YURAIT, 2011.

Articles and chapters in books:

1. Post-Soviet European Family Law: the Main Novels of Marriage and Divorce Legislation // State and Law. 2011. No. 4. P. 31-41;

2. Russian Family Law and European Court on Human Rights // European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms: Results and Perspectives: Proceedings of the International Conference, 20-21 October 2010. M.: Publishing House of Moscow Humanitarian University, 2010. P. 198-203;
3. International Child Abduction: Legal Issues // 'Zakon', 2010, № 1; (in Russian);
4. Parental Custody in Family Law of Western Countries // 'Zakon', 2010, № 2; (in Russian);
5. Family Law on Post-Soviet European Territory: A Comparative Overview of Some Recent Trends // Electronic Journal of Comparative Law. Vol. 14.1, May 2010 <<http://www.ejcl.org/141/art141-3.pdf>> (1,3 п.л.);
6. Property, Maintenance, and Post-Soviet European Family Law // International Family Law (E. Walsh ed.) 2009. No. 3. P. 160-164;
7. Spousal Property Relations and Post-Soviet Family Law // International Law and Protection of Women's Rights. 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Past, Present and Future (Proceedings of the Round Table of the Institute of State and Law, RAS, 5 June 2009) / ed. S.V. Polenina. M.; IGP RAS, 2009;
8. Rodinné právo v bývalém Sovětském svazu: více odlišností nebo více společného? // Právník. Teoretický časopis pro otázky státu a práva. 2009. No. 8. P. 846-865 (translation into Czech of 'Family Law in the Former Soviet Union: More differences or more in common?' // Convergence and Divergence of Family Law in Europe. / ed. by M. Antokolskaia. Publisher Intersentia, Antwerp-Oxford, 2007. P. 97-117 (an updated version);
9. Prospects of International Family Mediation in Russia / 7th European Conference on Family Law "International Family Mediation", Council of Europe, Strasbourg 16 March <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/family/7th%20Conference_en_files/CONF-FL-SP_2009_%205%20-%20Ms%20Olga%20Khazova's%20speech.pdf>;
10. Making National Adoption Easier – the View from Russia / Joint Council of Europe and the European Commission Conference on "Challenges in Adoption Procedures in Europe: Ensuring the best Interests of the Child". Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 30 November – 1 December 2009 <<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/family/Adoption%20conference/Presentation%20Olga%20KHAZOVA.pdf>>;
11. Some Issues of Spousal Alimony / Collection of Works of the Institute of State and Law. Issue No. 2 "Family and Children" (ed. A.M. Nechaeva. M.: Institute of State and Law. 2008. P. 149-168;
12. Problems of Child Maintenance. Moscow Project // M.: OOO "Nort Media", 2008. – 160 p. (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
13. Comments to the Civil Code of Russian Federation, Part One, Two and Three / Ed. by T.E. Abova, M.M. Boguslavsky and A.G. Lisitsyn-Svetlanov. M.: Yuright-Izdat. 2008 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
14. Проблема алиментов на детей. Московский проект. // M.: OOO «Норт Медиа», 2008 – 160 с. (в соавторстве);
15. Protection of an Individual against Discrimination: program curriculum // [authors-compilers: N.V. Varlamova et al.] M.: New Justice, 2008 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);

16. Family Law in the Former Soviet Union: More differences or more in common? // *Convergence and Divergence of Family Law in Europe.* / ed. by M. Antokolskaia. Publischer Intersentia, Antwerp-Oxford, 2007. P. 97-117 (1,2 п.л.);
17. Parental Rights and Responsibilities after Separation or Divorce in Russian Family Law // *Balancing Interests and Pursuing Priorities»* / ed. by L.D. Wardle and C.S. Williams. Buffalo, N.Y, 2007. P. 672-679;
18. Gender Discrimination // *Protection of an Individual against Discrimination (in three volumes): a reader.* Vol. 3. M.: New Justice, 2006. P. 207-218 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
19. Sexual Discrimination // *Protection of an Individual against Discrimination (in three volumes): a reader.* Vol. 3. M.: New Justice, 2006. P. 293-299 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
20. The Legal Profession in Russia - in: 'Crossroads. White & Case in Russia: 1991-2005' / Ed. by M. Mahan. Moscow, 2006. Pp. 139-144;
21. A Man and His Time: Life and Work of Avgust Rubanov /Ed. by O. Khazova. Moscow: Wolters Kluwer, 2006. – 457 P. (in Russian);
22. At the Institute of State and Law of the RAS – in: 'A Man and His Time: Life and Work of Avgust Rubanov' / ed. O. Khazova. Moscow: Wolters Kluwer, 2006, Pp. 209-225 (in Russian);
23. Spousal Support after Divorce under American Family Law: An Attempt to Contribute to the Alimony Debate / *Liber Memorialis Petar Šarčević: Universalism, Tradition and the Individual* / ed. J. Erauw, V. Tomljenović, P. Volken. München: Sellier. European Law Publishers, 2006. Pp. 289-304;
24. Comments to the Civil Code of Russian Federation, Parts One, Two, and Three. /Ed. by T.E. Abova, M.M. Boguslavskiy et al). M.: Yuright, 2005 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
25. Intercountry Adoption in Russia: Though A Large Amount Of Law, Still A Lot Of Uncertainty // *The International Survey of Family Law. 2005 Edition* / ed. A.Bainham. Bristol: Jordan Publishing Ltd., 2005. P. 433-461;
26. To the Question of the Institute of Spousal Alimony in Russian Law / *Forging a Common Legal Destiny: Liber Amicorum in honour of William E. Butler* / ed. N. Iu. Erpyleva, M. E. Gashi-Butler, J.T. Henderson (Willey, Simmonds & Hill Publishers) 2005. C. 264-277;
27. Allocation of Parental Rights and Responsibilities after Separation and Divorce under Russian Law // *39 The Family Law Quarterly.* 2005, Summer issue, No. 2. P. 374-391;
28. Intercountry Adoption in Russia: Though A Large Amount Of Law, Still A Lot Of Uncertainty // *The International Survey of Family Law. 2005 Edition* / ed. A.Bainham. Bristol: Jordan Publishing Ltd., 2005. P. 433-461;
29. Equality within the Family: A View from Russia // *Family Life and Human Rights. Papers presented at the 11th World Conference of the ISFL* / ed. P. Lødrup and E. Modvar. Oslo (Gyldendal Akademisk Forlag) 2004, pp.337-346;
30. Comments to the Civil Code of Russian Federation, Parts One. / ed. T.E. Abova and A.Y. Kabalkin). M.: Yuright-izdat, 2004 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
31. L'Adoption Internationale en Russie // *4 La Revue Internationale de Droit Compare* (in French) 2003. Pp. 861-880;

32. Legal Issues in ART and Embryo Transfer / ‘Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Infertility Treatment’ (2nd ed.) /Ed. by V.I. Kulakov and B.V. Leonov. M. 2004 (in Russian);
33. Legal Aspects of Application of Assisted Reproduction Methods in Russia – in: ‘Problems of Medical Law’ / ed. O. Dubovik. M. 2003 (in Russian);
34. Standards of the European Council in the Field of Human Rights as Applied to RF Constitution /Ed. by N.V. Varlamova and T.A. Vasiljeva. M. Institute of Law and Public Policy. 2002 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
35. Genetics and Artificial Procreation in Russia – in: ‘Biomedicine, the Family and Human Rights’ / ed. M.-T. Meulders-Klein, R. Deech, and P. Vlaadingebroek. Kluwer Law International, The Hague, 2002. Pp. 377-391;
36. Problems of Gender Equality and Reproductive Rights of the Spouses at <www.owl.ru/syostri/gender3.htm> (in Russian);
37. Comments to the Civil Code of Russian Federation, Part One. /Ed. by T.E. Abova and A.Y. Kabalkin. M.: Yuright: Pravo i Zakon. 2002 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
38. Five Years of the Russian Family Code: The First Results. – ‘The International Survey of Family Law. 2002 Edition’ / ed. A.Bainham. Jordan Publishing Limited. 2002. P. 347-355;
39. Artificial Conception and Access to Assisted Reproductive Technology: Formulation of a Problem // ‘The Law. Freedom. Individual’ Collection of Articles / ed. G.B.Romanovskiy. Arkhangelsk. Pomorskiy State Univ-ty, 2001. Pp. 127-135 (in Russian);
40. Maternity, Paternity, Filiation, Legal Succession - in: ‘Law Encyclopedia’ /Ed. by Academician B.N. Topornin. M. Jurist. 2001 (in Russian);
41. Gender Examination of Family Legislation - in: ‘Gender Examination of Russian Legislation’ /Ed. by L.N. Zavadskaya. Moscow: BEK, 2001. P. 89-134, (in Russian);
42. Reproductive Rights in Russia: the Limits of Legal Regulation - 4(33)/1(34) ‘The East European Constitutional Review’ 2000/01. P. 15-24 (in Russian);
43. Three Years after the Adoption of the New Russian Family Code – ‘The International Survey of Family Law. 2000 Edition’. Bristol: Jordan Publishing Ltd., 2000, Pp. 323-328;
44. Commentaries to the Family Code of Russian Federation (2nd revised ed.) /Ed. by I.M. Kuznetsova. Moscow. Jurist. 2000 (co-authorship) (in Russian);
45. The New Codification of Russian Family Law // The Changing Family. Family Forms and Family Law / ed. J. Eekelaar and T. Nhlapo. Hart Publishing, Oxford (UK), 1998. Pp. 73-83;
46. Russia: The New Family Code // The International Survey of Family Law. 1996. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. The Hague, 1998. P. 371-381;
47. Filiation Law: Paternity (in Russian) // ‘Zakon’. Moscow. 1997. No. 11 (in Russian);
48. Russian Filiation Law // ‘Genetic Fingerprints: Scientific Truth and Filiation Law. International Comparison: studies on the socio-economic impact of biotechnology’. European Commission. Brussels. 1996;
49. Russia: Before Radical Reform of Family Law – ‘The International Survey of Family Law. 1994.’ Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. The Hague, 1996;

50. The UN Convention on The Rights of the Child and Russian Family Law // 'Children's Rights: A Comparative Perspective' / ed. M.D.A. Freeman. Aldershot: Dartmouth. 1996;
51. Family Code of Russia. Commentaries. / ed. I.M. Kuznetsova. Moscow. BEK. 1996 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
52. Civil Code of Russia. Part I. Commentaries. Moscow: BEK, 1996 (in co-authorship) (in Russian);
53. Family Court and Family Mediation in "Common Law" Countries // 'Family Law of Russia: Problems of Development' / ed. O.B. Oskolkova. Moscow: INION, 1996 (in Russian);
54. Marriage Contract – 'Social Protection' No.5, (in Russian), Moscow. 1996;
55. Marriage Contract: West Countries Experience // 11 'Business and the Law' 1995 (in Russian);
56. Commonwealth of Independent States: Family Law in the Former Soviet Republics: A Year without the Union – 16 Annual Survey of Family Law 1992 // 32 University Louisville Journal of Family Law No. 2. P. 445-454 (1993-94);
57. Russia: The Existing Law and Some Prospects // 'The Journal of Family Law. Annual Survey'. 1991. Vol. 15;
58. USSR: Recent Developments in Divorce and Its Consequences // 'The Journal of Family Law. Annual Survey'. 1990. Vol. 14;
59. USSR: Some Problems of Soviet Family Law // 'The Journal of Family Law. Annual Survey' 1989. Vol. 13;
60. Legal Relationships Between the Spouses. Trends in the Development of Bourgeois Family Law // 'The Soviet State and Law' No. 10, Moscow. 1983 (in Russian);
61. Marriage and Divorce in English Law, synopsis of Ph.D. dissertation. Moscow, 1982 (in Russian);
62. Discussion of the Problems of Bourgeois Civil and Trade Law // 12 'The Soviet State and Law' 1982 (in Russian);
63. Discussion of the Problems of Comparative Law // 7 'The Soviet State and Law' 1981 (in Russian);
64. Evolution of English Divorce Legislation // 'Social Development and the Law' Moscow: IGPAN USSR, 1980 (in Russian);
65. Divorce Legislation in the Capitalist Countries // 12 'The Soviet State and Law' 1979 (in Russian);
66. Referendum on Divorce in Italy (Political and Legal Issues) // in: 'Electoral Systems and Parties in the Bourgeois State'. Moscow: IGPAN USSR, 1978 (in Russian);
67. Comparative Law // 4 'Social Sciences and Contemporary World.' 1978 (in Russian).

Book Reviews:

68. Book Review: *Family Finances* / B. Verschraegen (ed.). Vienna: 2009, Jan Sramek Verlag KG.) – 816 p. // State and Law. 2010. № 11. С. 126-128 (0,8 п.л.) (in Russian);

Translations:

69. *Civil Code of Quebec* (translation into Russian). Moscow. Statut. 1999 (co-authorship);

70. *Uniform Commercial Code* (translation into Russian). Moscow. International Center for Financial and Economic Development. 1996 (co-authorship).

In print:

The Child's Right to Contact with Both Parents in the Light of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms // Proceedings of the International Conference "Family Law at the Turn of XX-XXI Centuries", organized by the Law Faculty of Kazan University (Kazan, 18 December 2011) – to be published in 2011;

Marriage and Divorce in Russia and the Baltics: Overview of Recent Changes – for the Conference Book Stockholm / (eds. Helene Carlbäck, Yulia Gradska and Zhanna Kravchenko, 'Family, Marriage and Parenthood in Russia and Eastern Europe' (working title) – to be published in 2011.

Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia)

Date and place of birth: 22 May 1980, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Working languages: English, Amharic

Current position/function:

Research Fellow, Community Law Centre, Children's Rights Project, and Lecturer on a part-time basis at the post-graduate level at the Faculty of Law, University of Western Cape;

Assistant Professor (part-time), Addis Ababa University, (lecturing child rights, among other courses)

Vice-Chairperson (2nd) of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (also responsible for the theme "violence against children"); and consult/advise on an ad hoc basis

Main professional activities:

Mr Mezmur lectures and supervises post-graduate students in modules such as children's rights, human rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities; serves as a guest lecturer in a number of universities such as University of Pretoria, University of Antwerp/Ghent, Tilburg University on child rights related issues; and undertakes many academic activities such as conducting research projects, and serving in fellowships (served at Utrecht University, University of Groningen, and Abo Akademi)

As a Vice-Chairperson (2nd) of the African Committee, Mezmur undertakes work on State Party Reports, Communications/Individual complaints, general comments, investigative missions; take part in providing training, and advocacy efforts for children's rights in collaboration with CSOs; etc.

Mr Mezmur has been involved/contributed to law/policy reform efforts in some countries; done work to research, advise, and/or train on children's rights issues for governments, and organizations such as UNICEF, the SRSG VAC, Hague Conference on Private International Law, African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Plan International, Save the Children, Sexual Rights Initiative, and World Vision.

Educational background:

Doctorate in Law (LLD), University of Western Cape, (thesis on child rights in intercountry adoption)

Masters in Law (LLM) in Human Rights and Democratization (CHR), University of Pretoria, South Africa; Postgraduate Diploma in international protection of human rights, Abo Akademi, Finland.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; and Certificates in mental disability law (CEU, Budapest); development law; international criminal and humanitarian law; ESC rights; etc.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

While Mr Mezmur's main professional activities mentioned above are directly relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned, he has also taken part in the negotiations to draft and adopt the 3rd Optional Protocol of the CRC; participated (since 2007) in the contribution of submissions to the CRC Committee in its Days of General Discussion; and

made submissions to the Human Rights Council, and participated in its Day of the Rights of the Child; served as a panelist in a side event during the UNHCR Executive Committee Session (2011), etc. Formerly Mezmur was a Legal Officer (2003-2005) at the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), and continues to be a research associate with the organization. Mr Mezmur also serves/served in Expert Groups/Meetings/ Advisory Councils/ Task Forces such as on juvenile justice (UNODC); financial aspects of intercountry adoption (HCCH); harmful practices (SRSG VAC); Way Forward Project (CCAD); on violence against children (ACPF); and on education. Mr Mezmur serves in child rights organizations' boards, (for instance, in "Beyond the Orphanage"); is a member of ANPPCAN, the Africa Wide Movement for Children, etc. Mr Mezmur has also been invited as a speaker in many international and regional conferences/workshops.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Mr Mezmur has more than 50 published academic and lay publications/reports/ etc on child rights in the last 7 years including:

- (1) **"Madonna, Mercy, Malawi, and international children's rights law in adoption"** (2012) 20 *International Journal of Children's Rights*;
- (2) **"Corporal punishment and the African Children's Charter"** (2012) (Save the Children);
- (3) **"Listen to us': Arguing for child participation in NEPAD"** (2009) 17 *AJICL**;
- (4) **"The right to education in Africa: Taking stock"** (Chapter in book) (2009)*;
- (5) **"Children at both ends of the gun: Child soldiers in Africa"** (Chapter in book) (2008);
- (6) **"From Angelina (to Madonna) to Zoe's Ark: What are the 'A-Z' lessons for intercountry adoptions in Africa"** (2009) 23 *International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family*;
- (7) **"2 + 2 = 5? Exploring the domestication of the CRC in the South African courts (2002-2006)"** (2008) 16 *IJCR**

* With J Sloth-Nielsen

Yasmeen Muhamad Shariff (Malaysia)

Date and place of birth: 13th August 1957 / Selangor

Working languages: English, Bahasa Malaysia, Fair Command of Punjabi and Urdu

Current position/function:

Advocate & Solicitor, Principal & managing partner of law offices of Yasmeen Hajar & Hairudin; Council member of Malaysian Bar; Council Member of National Advisory & Consultative Council on Children; Council member of National Coordinating Council for the Protection of Children; National Women's Advisory Council member, Member of the Bar Council's Human Rights Committee; Executive Council member of the Malaysian Council for Child Welfare.

Main professional activities:

Managing law office; interviewing clients; drafting cause papers; attending court and litigating cases in the area of Family law (maintenance, custody, guardianship, access) as well as other areas; attending to NGO work in the area of women and children; conducting training on the UNCRC for NGOs, students, teachers, schools and government personnel; working on improving the Juvenile Justice system by introducing alternatives to custody; conducting Legal Aid clinics for children in conflict with the law at prisons and remand centers; reviewing the Child Act 2001, Domestic Violence Act 1996, Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 and other legislation which is discriminatory to women and children; lobbying for amendments and better laws; conducting general advocacy work on women and children's issues; empowering women & children and defending the rights of children.

Educational background:

LLB (Hons), University of Buckingham, UK 1985; Masters In Comparative Law, International Islamic University, Malaysia, 1992; Mediation Course, University of Florida, USA in 2000 & 2007; Post Degree Executive Diploma in Islamic Law (Islamic Banking & Finance) 2009; 2 Post Degree Diploma's in Islamic law; Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights 2009-2010, completed 8 modules (pending finalization of thesis).

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Working with Malaysian Women Lawyer's Collective: Reviewing of the Child Act 200; providing legal aid for children in conflict with the law and lobbying for change to the Juvenile Justice system by introducing alternatives such as diversion and restorative justice to the current Juvenile Justice System; presenting papers on children's issues; rescued kidnapped children and secured their safe return. **Working with Association of Women Lawyers:** Reviewing laws that were discriminatory towards women and children; initiated the child friendly court process for the Children's Court; actively involved in the Collaborative Action Towards the Preparation of Children for Court Proceedings; trained volunteers for the Vulnerable Witness Program; lobbied the government to remove and relocate juveniles from prisons to government run homes; presented papers on Children & Child Rights to various different groups; drafted and lobbied for the Domestic Violence Act with the government; introduced the UNCRC to children; trained and still training children on the UNCRC. **Working with the National Council of Child Welfare:** Making cities child friendly and safe and creating awareness on Trafficking of Children; promoting the UNCRC; working with children with disabilities. **Working with Malaysian Children's Aid Society:** Providing monthly financial and medical assistance to children.

Working with the Malaysian Government: Advising the government on children's policies and assisting in the plan of action for children.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Article on Child and Family: A Children's Rights Approach; Manual on Establishing a Child Friendly Court Process; Comments on article 'A global Journal of Child Research - Special Issue: Childhood Rights in International Development'; Book review entitled 'Child's competence: Special reference to Education and Welfare'; Training Booklet on Women and the law, know your rights; Manual for Court Advisors for Children's Court; numerous articles on Domestic Violence, the Role of the Shariah Family Support Unit, role of the Shariah Lawyers, Children's Rights in Islam and custody of children in both civil and shariah law.

Wanderlino Nogueira Neto (Brazil)

Lugar y fecha de nacimiento: 21/03/1945, Ciudad de Salvador, Estado de Bahia. Brasil.

Idiomas de trabajo: Español

Cargo o función actual:

- Miembro del Grupo Temático para Monitoreo de la Implementación de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño-Sección Brasil de la red “Defensa de los Niños Internacional” — DNI/DCI (Asociación Nacional de los Centros de Defensa de los Niños y Adolescentes — ANCED) — São Paulo. Brasil (ONG)
- Consultor ad hoc para varias entidades y órganos públicos

Principales actividades profesionales:

- Procurador de Justicia (retirado) del Ministerio Público del Estado de Bahia.
- Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Bahia.
- Director General del Tribunal de Justicia del Estado de Bahia.
- Secretario General del Ministerio Público del Estado de Bahia.
- Secretario de la Corregidoria General de Justicia del Estado de Bahia.
- Consultor Jurídico de la Presidencia del Tribunal de Justicia del Estado de Bahia.
- Profesor de Derecho Internacional Público de la Universidad Federal de Bahia.
- Procurador de Justicia de la Cámara Civil del Tribunal de Justicia de Bahia.
- Promotor de Justicia del 1er Tribunal Popular de la Comarca de Salvador. Bahia.
- Promotor de Justicia en la Corte de Hacienda Pública de la Comarca de Salvador. Bahia.
- Promotor de Justicia en las Cortes Únicas de las Comarcas de Rio de Contas, Caravelas, Serrinha e Cachoeira. Bahia.

Titulos académicos:

- Bachillerato en Derecho — Universidad Federal de Bahia
- Maestría en Derecho Económico - Universidad Federal de Bahia
- Postgrado en Derecho del Menor — Universidad de Maccerrata - Marche (Italia)
- Pasantía en el Centro de Estudios y Formación para la Protección Judicial de la Juventud (Ministerio de Justicia) — Vaucresson I Paris. Francia.

Otras actividades principales en el campo:

- Secretario Nacional del Forum de Defensa de Niños y Adolescentes (FORUM DCA) -Brasilia - 1993
- Consultor Especial para las Oficinas del Representante del UNICEF, en Brasil, Cabo Verde, Angola e Paraguay — Brasilia, Cidade de Praia, Luanda e Asunción — 1996/1999.
- Consultor de la UNESCO (Brasil) en el área de Derechos Humanos - Brasilia.

- Miembro de la Delegación de la Coalición de la Sociedad Civil de Brasil junto al Comité de los Derechos del Niño (Alto Comisariato para los Derechos Humanos — ONU), que elaboró el Informe Alternativo 2004 y lo presentó al referido Comité en Ginebra en junio de 2004.
- Coordinador de los 19 Seminarios Justicia Juvenil promovidos por la Asociación Brasileña de Magistrados, Promotores de Justicia e Defensores Públicos de Infancia e Juventud – ABMP, en todo Brasil, para discutir el tema del Atendimento Socioeducativo al Adolescente en Conflicto con la Ley, en el marco de los Derechos Humanos y del Sistema Nacional de Atendimento Socioeducativo – SINASE – 2008/2009.

Publicaciones más recientes en ese campo:

1. Direitos Humanos Geracionais. 2004. SEDH-CEDA/CEARÁ. Fortaleza.
2. Guia Metodológico para Implementação de Conselhos Tutelares. 2003. SEDH-CEDA/CEARÁ. Fortaleza.
3. Ciranda dos Direitos. 2002. SEDH-CEDA/CEARÁ. Fortaleza.
4. Guia Estratégico para elaboração de Planos de Erradicação de Trabalho Infantil. 2007. OIT e Fórum PETI. Brasília.
5. Sistema de Garantia de Direitos. Revista Serviço Social e Sociedade. Vol. 83. 2006. São Paulo. Cortes.
6. Sistema de Garantia de Direitos. 1999. Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento-BIRD & CENDHEC/PE. Recife.
7. O novo Ministério Público na Constituição de 1988. Empresa Gráfica da Bahia e UNBA. 1987. Salvador.
8. Conselho paritários deliberativos numa visão gramsciana do Estado. 1989. PUC- RS. Porto Alegre.

Maria Rita Parsi (Italy)

Date and place of birth: Aug 05th 1947

Working languages: English, Spanish

Current position/function:

- Educational Psychologist
- Psychotherapist
- University Teacher and Director
- Court appointed expert
- Author of books for adults and children

Main professional activities:

- Inventor, teacher and therapist of the psychological methodology defined “Psycho-animation”
- Head of the Psychology Faculty at the on-line University e-Campus (since 2011)
- Chairperson of the Region of Lazio’s Permanent Observatory on the family (since 2011)
- On the register as expert witnesses at the civil court of Rome
- Registered journalist
- Registered professional psychologist and psychotherapist (since 1990)

Professional Background:

- Jungian-oriented analytical supervision under Prof. Francesca Morino Abbele (1992-2009)
- Analytical supervision and neo-Freudian analysis with Prof. Fabrizio Di Giulio (1989-1992)
- Course of Endocrine Sexology Taught by Prof. Jole Baldaro Verde (1988-1989)
- Riza Institute of psychosomatic medicine: training in Psychosomatic-oriented psychotherapist (1980-1984)
- Hospital Training Course (“Scuola Medica Ospedaliera”) run in Rome by the Region of Lazio, 1980-1982
- Specialization courses in Dynamic Psychotherapy and Bio-energetic Analysis

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Documentaries Author (field: child and families psycho-pathology background)
- Paedophilia expert therapist and therapy teacher
- Professor - Lecturer in Developmental and Educational Psychology
- Professor - Lecture in “Adolescent psychology-paediatric Department Florence University (Fi-Italy)

- Teacher at the course in Investigative Psychology and Psychopathology in criminal behaviour- Crotone University (Kr-Italy)
- Professor - Lecture on “Interpersonal communications” at “Roma3” University of Rome
- Children Literature Author
- Professor - Lecturer for the course on General and specialist paediatrics in Neonatology and Neonatal intensive care (Paediatrics Department University of Florence (FI-Italy)
- Professor - Lecturer on Literature for childhood, Calabria University (Italy)

List of most recent publications in the field:

- “Little girl’s exercise books” (Mondadori, 1990)
- “Hands off the children” (Mondadori, 1998)
- “Monster’s heart” (Mondadori, 2002)
- “The creative mind: Animating the anima-humanistic models of Psychotherapy - with Francesca Morino Abbele (Franco Angeli, 2006)
- “The Ungrateful- The resentment syndrome in people who are helped” (Mondadori, February 2011)

Awich Pollar (Uganda)

Date/Place of birth: 08/10/1970 – Uganda

Working language: English

Current position:

- An incumbent member of the United Nations committee of experts (Geneva).
- Focal point coordinator / expert, writing a general comment on the child rights to play (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child).
- A member on the expert team writing the rules of procedure for complaints procedures under the third optional protocol (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child).
- A member of the global science for peace.
- A member of the East African Professionals for the rights of the child.
- A member of the focal group which liaises the UN CRC experts and the African committee of experts on the rights and welfare of the child.
- Legal adviser to government on matters of child rights.

Main professional activities:

- Practising law, defending children and family rights.
- Offering legal advice to government.
- Taking up litigation in areas of juvenile justice.
- Running child rights civil society organization (ANPPACN).
- Lecturing at Universities in child rights.

Education background:

- Bachelor of laws - Makerere University – 1999
- Certificate in parliamentary legal procedures and draftsmanship
- Diploma in HIV/ AIDS counseling
- Was out of school, became a child soldier and was later rehabilitated through formal education from primary, secondary, high school up to joining / graduating from university with Bachelors in law.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- Director of African network for the prevention and protection against child abuse and neglect (ANPPCAN).
- Researching with other NGOs on Child rights.
- Helping in the resettlement of the rescued children who were abducted by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).
- As a former child soldier carrying out advocacy against the involvement of children in the armed conflict.
- Offering of lecturers/tutorials to higher institutions on child rights.

- Training of counselors for traumatized children.
- Advocacy for the compliance to the UN optional protocol on armed conflict.
- Key speaker to children rights organisation in Netherlands, Germany and Austria.
- Actively involved in the UN study on violence against children Johannesburg, Eastern and Southern African Conclusion.

List of publication in the field

- A critique on the juvenile justice system in Uganda.
- Defilement as a form of abuse against children in Africa. Conflict of norms and culture with municipal and international laws.
- A simplified guide to the convention to the rights of a child.
- The human rights of prisoners - special look at children in conflict with the law.

Edward Bandawe Twea (Malawi)

Date and Place of Birth: 9th April, 1956, Nkhata Bay, Malawi

Working Languages: English

Current Position Function:

Justice Appeal, Malawi Supreme Court of Appeal

Chairman: Board of Visitors

Chairman: National Child Justice Forum

Main Professional Activities

I sit on civil, criminal and constitutional appeal cases as a member of the final appellate Court. I confirm all courts decisions in respect of children. I am actively involved in child Justice Training within the public and private sectors including NGOs. I also chaired the Special Task Force on the review of the constitution in respect of Child rights.

Educational background

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) University of Malawi

Master of Laws (LLM) University of Hull (UK)

Certificates: Judicial Administration: (RIPA) (UK)

Advance Judicial Trainer: (CJEI) Halifax, Canada and Comparative Law: (IDLI) Rome

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Been a regular presenter at the Annual Family Law Conference, Cape Town, South Africa. I have been involved in Child Justice orientation in Rwanda under the auspices of ABA (Africa Division), and Nepal under the auspices of DANIDA. Under the National Child Justice Forum, we continue to improve the child justice and protection systems in Malawi by introducing child friendly services. I am also involved in the NGOs review of “concluding observations” of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Papers Presented:

- The Role of Courts in Promoting good Practice in International Adoptions, February, 2012
- Emerging Family law issues (in Malawi) and how they will impact on children: March, 2009, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Child Rights and Their Importance: June, 2012

Kamla Devi Varmah (Mauritius)

Date and place of birth: 14 March 1960 - Mauritius

Working languages: English and French

Current position/function:

Attorney at law (Bachelor in law).

Part-time legal adviser for the Municipal Council of Curepipe; The State Trading Corporation (A Para-Statal Body working on Trade and Commerce); Mauritius Telecoms Ltd (The National Telecommunication Company Ltd).

Member of the Environment Appeal Tribunal.

Member of the Human Rights Committee at the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS).

Member of the United Nations on the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of the Child since 2009.

Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child since May 2011.

Main professional activities:

- As Attorney attending to cases at the level of the Supreme Court and other lower courts in Mauritius.
- Sitting as Member of The Environment Appeal Tribunal during sessions.

Educational background:

Bachelor in law (LLB) – University of Mauritius.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- In September 2006, attended an International Conference on Preventing, Combatting and Trafficking in Women and Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation in New Delhi, India.
- In November 2008, attended the Third World Congress of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) in Brazil.
- Member of the Human Rights Committee at the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS), an NGO dedicated to social services and sustainable social development.

List of most recent publications in the field:

A Child Friendly Version of the various articles on the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the National Children's Council (in French).

Renate Winter (Austria)

Date and place of birth: 8 March 1944, Vienna

Working languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch

Current position/function:

Member of the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court of Sierra Leone (appointed by the UN Secretary General in June 2002). Elected President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2008 to 2010.

Main professional activities:

Since June 2002 Judge to the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

2000-2002: International Judge with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) at the Mitrovica Regional District Court and Justice at the Supreme Court of Kosovo

1996-2000: UN Centre for International Crime Prevention, Vienna, expert consultant on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on four continents

1981-1996 Judge at the Vienna Youth Court

Educational background:

The candidate holds a Law Degree as well as a Master Degree in Interpretation from the University of Vienna.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Throughout her career, Justice Winter has worked for child-friendly juvenile justice and the protection of children. She has worked with State parties from diverse legal cultures on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As an international judge in post-conflict situations, Justice Winter acquired first-hand experience in tackling challenges in the protection of women and children, including the rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by armed conflict.

Renate Winter has contributed to a number of United Nations draft model laws and manuals in the area of juvenile justice. She has long-standing expertise in the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children against organized crime, including trafficking.

- Founding member of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (Institut International des Droits de l'Enfant – IDE)
- Contributor to the Draft Model Law on Juvenile Justice, the UN Manual on Juvenile Justice, and the Draft Model Law on Child Victims & Witness Protection
- Rapporteur of the Council of Europe on Family Mediation
- Chair of the Scientific Committee for European Master Studies in Mediation
- Cross-regional field experience in juvenile justice projects

List of most recent publications in the field:

- Children as victims and witnesses – a question of law and of rights, 2009
- Les Droits de l'Enfant: Douze récits pour ne pas s'endormir, 2004

- Bringing medical evidence of torture to international tribunals, in: Shedding light on a dark practice, 2009
- Der Special Court for Sierra Leone. Ein Erfahrungsbericht, in: Vom Recht der Macht zur Macht des Rechts, 2006

Hariguietta Congo/Zongo (Burkina Faso)

Date et lieu de naissance: 17 septembre 1961 à Tanghin- Dassouri (Burkina Faso)

Langue(s) de travail: Français

Situation/fonction actuelle:

Administrateur des affaires sociales ;

Secrétaire permanente du conseil national pour la survie, la protection et le développement de l'enfant.

Formateur sur les droits de l'enfant et la lutte contre la traite des enfants ;

Consultant indépendant en droit de l'enfant.

Principales activités professionnelles:

- organisation des sessions du Conseil national pour la survie, la protection et le développement de l'enfant ;
- centralisation et de diffusion de l'information sur la situation des enfants ;
- Elaboration de programmes et de rapports annuels d'activités et de suivi de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action national pour l'enfance 2010-2012 ;
- organisation de rencontres de concertation avec les acteurs œuvrant en faveur de la promotion et la protection des enfants ;
- Elaboration des rapports de suivi de la mise en œuvre des conventions sur les droits de l'enfant, ratifiées par le Burkina Faso ;
- Organisation et réalisation de formations et conférences sur les droits de l'enfant.

Etudes:

1999 – 2002: Collège Coopératif Alpes Méditerranée – France ; Diplôme obtenu : Diplôme Supérieur en Travail Social International

1981 – 1984: Université d'Abidjan : Institut de Formation Sociale ; Diplôme obtenu : Diplôme d'Etat des Assistants Sociaux (D.E.A.S)

1981: Baccalauréat série D

Autres activités principales dans le domaine intéressant le mandat de l'organe conventionnel auquel postule le candidat:

- Elaboration des rapports du plan d'action « un monde digne des enfants » et de la position commune africaine « une Afrique digne des enfants » ;
- Organisation d'ateliers de restitution des rapports sur la mise en œuvre de la CDE ainsi que des recommandations du Comité ;
- Préparation et participation aux présentations des rapports périodiques auprès du Comité des droits de l'enfant ;
- Elaboration des réponses complémentaires demandées par le Comité ;
- Coordination de l'élaboration des rapports de suivi des protocoles facultatifs ; Elaboration et diffusion de supports sur les droits de l'enfant en français et langues nationales ;

- Participation à l'élaboration de la politique de la CEDEAO sur le développement de l'enfant.

Liste des publications les plus récentes du candidat dans ce domaine:

- Curriculum de formation sur la lutte contre la traite et les autres pires formes de travail des enfants (avec deux autres formateurs) en 2006 ;
 - Elaboration d'un guide méthodologique pour l'introduction des droits de l'enfant dans les programmes de la coopération allemande en 2010 ;
 - Réalisation d'une étude sur les enjeux de la planification et de la budgétisation pour le bien-être de l'enfant au Burkina Faso : analyse des progrès, principaux résultats obtenus et des contraintes dans la mise en œuvre des droits de l'enfant, en juin 2010.
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