

Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Introduction

We are delighted to present this new publication of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The book includes essays and articles discussing contemporary issues of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It is the goal of this publication to provide an academic venue for scholarly writings of human rights experts, activists, and students. By publishing their work we seek to contribute quality legal writings on particular topics of relevance to the development of this dynamic area of the law. In addition, the publication reflects the diversity of cultures and languages that characterizes our interconnected world. By publishing articles in English and Spanish we enhance and broaden the voices that shape international human rights and humanitarian law in the future. Articles for the book are received based on invitation or commission.

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law was established to address the need for a specialized scholarly legal approach to human rights law in Washington, D.C. Our institution, with a long and recognized tradition and commitment in this field, was in the best position to make such contribution. Our programs help practitioners to understand the scope and practical implications of the human rights rules and mechanisms, whose applications impact people worldwide. The defense of human rights requires a professional community that is capable of undertaking a wide variety of actions to protect individual victims in international settings, advocate changes in the domestic jurisdiction of States, support the protection of the most vulnerable of society, and seek truth and accountability after periods of gross and massive violations of human rights. The Academy addresses those needs by providing human rights training in its annual summer program, curriculum development through its international partnerships, technical assistance to human rights institutions and practitioners, and scholarly research with its multiple publications and other practical resources.

This year the articles published include the three best submissions in English and the three best submissions in Spanish for the 2004 Human Rights Award of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The topic of the award was “*Criminal Responsibility of Individuals in International Law.*” We want to recognize the winners of the Award, David S. Koller and Rosario Domínguez Matés, as well as our fellow Honor Jury Members who reviewed the submissions and selected the winners, namely: Claudio Grossman, Sandra Coliver, Robert Goldman, Brian Tittmore, and Leo Zwaak (for English submissions); and Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, Baltasar Garzón Real, Pablo Saavedra, and Carlos Villán Duran (for Spanish submissions).

We want to thank Kevin M. Murphy, Editor in Chief and Adam Falkowitz, Human Rights Academy Book Editor of the American University International Law Review for their dedication and hard work in putting together this publication. We know that publishing in two languages was a challenge for the International Law Review and we appreciate the vision of its editors to foresee that the future of the international community rests on our ability to enrich our views with other people’s ideas and cultures.

Finally, we want to thank Francisco Concepción, Dagmar Fernández, Mariano Heller, José Merino, and Leonel Vázquez who edited the Spanish articles for the book. We also want to thank the staff and editors of the International Law Review who worked on the English language articles.

Claudia Martin and Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón
Co-Directors
Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law