



**The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the  
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)**

cordially invite you to a parallel event to the 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights  
Council on

**TORTURE, NATIONAL SECURITY and  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 3pm – 5pm  
Room XXVII  
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Mr. Juan E. Méndez**

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading  
Treatment or Punishment

**Mr. Gerald Staberock**

Deputy Secretary General, World Organisation Against Torture

**Mr. Tad Stahnke**

Director of Policy and Programs, Human Rights First

**Mr. Alex Conte**

Representative to the UN, International Commission of Jurists (Moderator)

The lack of legal accountability for serious human rights violations committed in the name of national security, such as torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, remain today an important unaddressed challenge in the global response to terrorism. If not addressed, it risks undermining the foundations of the UN human rights framework as well as the legitimacy of counter-terrorism and national security laws and policies.

The parallel event will take stock of practical and legal impediments to accountability, such as national security doctrines, state secrecy invocations or the protection of intelligence information. It will seek to identify ways forward for the UN Human Rights Council and its independent mandates in upholding the right to remedy and reparation under international law and fostering fully accountable national security responses.

*Cakes and refreshments will be served*

For further information, please contact Alexandra Kossin ([ak@omct.org](mailto:ak@omct.org)) or Alex Conte ([alex.conte@icj.org](mailto:alex.conte@icj.org))