



**BROOKLYN
FOR
PEACE**

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Summary of International Law Series

Series: Does The U.S. Violate International Law?

Session Two: October 19, 2010

Evidence that U.S. Elected officials, employees, & contractors have broken and continue to break International Law

Speakers Shahid Buttar (Bill of Rights Defense Committee and People's Campaign for the Constitution) and Tina Foster (International Justice Network) -- focused on problems in prosecuting cases on torture (Buttar) and, and securing release of prisoners under detention and rendition (Foster). They noted that many of those problems stem from the open-ended "War on Terror," and that the Presidents change but the policies continue.

Special attention was given to these issues:

- denial of access to evidence:
- inconsistency in the application of rules;
- shielding of policy-makers and commanders.
- "material support" as a crime

On shielding of policy-makers and commanders, Buttar noted acts of Congress and the conduct of investigations by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR).

Foster noted that most of the "terrorists" currently incarcerated are accused only of "lying to federal officials" and "material support" for terrorists (a category that may be stretched to include legal counsel).

In the Q & A , these issues were discussed:

- creation of special rules for terror suspects.
- inherent corruption in systems of Criminal Justice;
- complicity of the media; and
- reasons for possible long-term optimism.

On new rules for terror suspects, participants noted the evolution of English practice in Ireland as a hopeful model and initiatives early in the Obama Administration that were never followed up.



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Highlights of these sessions are available online

<http://www.brooklynpeace.org/brooklynforpeace/committees/international-law/index.php>

Part One: Shahid Buttar: (coming soon)

Part Two: Tina Foster: (coming soon)

Part Three: Q & A: (coming soon)

DVD's are available. Contact us at bfp@brooklynpeace.org to purchase a copy.

Brooklyn For Peace: International Law Committee

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