You are cordially invited to attend the

2nd Conference in The Hague on Islam, politics and law

Perspectives on: International Humanitarian Law between Universalism and Cultural legitimacy

which will be held on

Friday, 27 November 2009, 9.00-18.30, Peace Palace, The Hague

This conference is organized in cooperation with:
The tension between Universalism and Cultural legitimacy is a particularly timely topic, which the above-mentioned institute seeks to address through the organization of a high-level conference, bringing together the most prominent experts from Islamic and Western countries.

There are many new challenges that International Humanitarian Law faces nowadays which bring about a new narrative on the role of culture and religion. Some authors have suggested that, given the continued violation of the laws of war there is a need to open the door to cultural diversity in order to generate greater compliance. The growing influence of religion on politics, conflicts and everyday life compels those engaged in armed conflicts (States, humanitarian agencies, ICRC, etc) to reassess the hurdles standing against the application of IHL.

We believe that this Conference will contribute actively to clarify the legal debate on these issues which is often flawed by political and ideological considerations.

I look forward to meeting you in The Hague!

Prof. Dr. F.A. Nelissen
T.M.C. Asser Instituut
The Hague
Program

09:00 – 09:30 Participants registration
09:30 – 10:00 Opening of the colloquium Frans Nelissen: Director T.M.C. Asser Instituut (confirmed)

10:00 - 11:00 Panel 1 Human Rights and IHL: the Universality versus Cultural Relativity Debate

**Introductory remarks by the session moderator:** Dr. Kathleen Cavanaugh, Irish Centre for Human Rights (confirmed)

**Jean d'Aspremont:** Associate Professor, University of Amsterdam (confirmed)

*Global Values versus Common Interests: the Foundations of International Humanitarian Law*

**Rene Provost:** Professor of International Law, McGill University, Canada (confirmed)

*Islam and the Cultural Pluralisation of IHL*

**Dr. Anver M. Emon:** Assistant Professor, University of Toronto (confirmed)

*Islamic law and international law: complementarity or clash?*

**Hilmi M. Zawati:** Chair of the International Legal Advocacy Forum (confirmed)

*Jus ad Bellum and the Rules of Engagement in the Islamic Law of Nations—the Shaybānī’s Siyar*

11:00 – 11:45 Debate
11:45 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 14.00 Panel 2 Islamic law and International Humanitarian Law: Harmony or clash?

**Introductory remarks by the session moderator:** Jann Kleffner, Swedish National Defence College (confirmed)

**Muhammad Munir:** International Islamic University, Islamabad (confirmed)

*Jihad in orthodox Sunni doctrines*

**Adel Maged:** judge at the Supreme Court of Egypt and Honorary Professor of Law at Durham University (confirmed) + **Amna Guellali:** Associate analyst International Criminal Court (confirmed)

*Gender violence prohibition in IHL and in Sharia law*

**Anicee Van Engeland:** Boulton fellow, Law Faculty, McGill University (confirmed)

*Islamic humanitarian approach and international humanitarian law: conflict or complementarity*

**Maha Azzam:** Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme Chatham House (confirmed)

*The political theology of Al Qaida*

14.00 – 14:45 Debate
14:45 – 15:15 Coffee/tea break

15:15 – 16:15 Panel 3 International Humanitarian Law: application in armed conflicts

**Introductory remarks of the session moderator:** Mashood A. Baderin: University of London (confirmed)

**Niaz Shah:** University of Hull (confirmed)

*Islamic Law and the Law of Armed Conflict: A Complementary Approach*

**Mohamed Abdel Aziz Ibrahim:** Rule of Law, Judicial System and Prisons Advisory Section, Khartoum, UNMIS (confirmed)

*Islamic law and humanitarian intervention*

**Said Mahmoudi:** Stockholm University (confirmed)

*Non-State Islamic Actors in the Middle East and International Humanitarian Law*

16:15 – 17:30 Debate
17:00 – 18:00 Reception
Participation in this conference is free of charge but on invitation only, entrance can only be granted after registration. This invitation is strictly personal.

Registration website: http://www.eventure-online.com/eventure/welcome.do?type=participant&congress=81_HC09

The latest version of the program can be found on our website: www.asser.nl/hc


**Public Transportation from The Hague Central Station:**

*Bus*
- Line 24 (to Kijkduin) from the bus platform (direct service, runs all day)

*Tram*
- peak hours: line 10, direction Statenkwartier, from ground floor outside train station (direct service, only)
- off-peak hours: take line 16 (to Moerwijk) or 17 (to Statenkwartier) and change at Kneuterdijk (two stops) to line 1 (to Scheveningen Noorderstrand).

**Public Transportation from The Hague Hollands Spoor:**

*Tram*
- Line 1 to Scheveningen Noorderstrand (direct service, runs all day)
- Line 10 to Statenkwartier (direct service, peak hours only)

Get off at stop "Vredespaleis"

For questions please contact the T.M.C. Asser Instituut conference department:

Email: conferencemanager@asser.nl
Tel: +31 (0)70 – 342 0310
Fax: +31 (0)70 – 342 0316