



## WSBA World Peace through Law Section

November 2010

"[F]reedom, equality, and human rights are universal common values shared by all humankind... democracy, a republic, and constitutionalism constitute the basic structural framework of modern governance.

A "modernization" bereft of these universal values and this basic political framework is a disastrous process"

-- Charter 08

### *From Needs to Rights: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in South Asia* Thursday, November 18, 2010

The Section's meeting on Thursday, November 18, noon – 1 p.m., features Professor Upendra Acharya, of Gonzaga University School of Law, speaking on *From Needs to Rights: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in South Asia*. Professor Acharya will analyze the post-ratification experiences of South Asian states with implementation of the CRC. This program is the first in a series of educational activities to promote the Section's CRC resolution approved by the WSBA Board of Governors in July. The Executive Committee is working with law professors and other organizations to publicize the WSBA position and educate a wider audience about the treaty.

**CLE Credit:** Approved for 1 general CLE credit.

**Cost:** Free for Section members and law students; \$25 for others.

Register now! *We hope to see you there.*

**Please Note the Date (Thursday) and Location: Rainier Square Conference Center, 3rd floor Conference Suite, 1333 Fifth Avenue, Seattle.** This is not the WSBA Conference Center. If you enter on 5th Avenue, go up the stairs, and look to the corner conference room to your left.

### Upcoming Section Events

- **Tuesday, December 14, noon- 2 p.m.** Part II of facilitated dialogue on the international law issues involved in the *Mavi Marmara/Gaza Flotilla Incident* of May 31, focusing on the recent UN report, followed by informal discussion among members about work we've done in 2010 for peace through law, at **WSBA offices, 1325 Fourth Avenue, 6th Floor** (No CLE credit).
- **Section Elections:** Members are encouraged to run for Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Executive Committee. This is a great opportunity to make a contribution and meet interesting people! Volunteers are also needed for a Nominating Committee. If you're interested in either, please contact Newsletter Editor Randy Winn at [rewinn2003@yahoo.com](mailto:rewinn2003@yahoo.com) or 206-446-4667. We must vote on candidates before the end of the year and need nominations and bios by the end of November.

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### US Human Rights Network

Section members may be interested in the **US Human Rights Network**, formed to promote US accountability to universal human rights standards by building linkages between organizations and individuals. The Network strives to build a human rights culture in the United States that puts those directly affected by human rights violations, with a special emphasis on grassroots organizations and social movements, in a central leadership role. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.ushrnetwork.org>

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*Chair-Elect*  
**Jana Heyd**

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# The Nobel Peace Prize for 2010

## Liu Xiaobo



The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2010 to Liu Xiaobo for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has long believed that there is a close connection between human rights and peace. Such rights are a prerequisite for the "fraternity between nations" of which Alfred Nobel wrote in his will.

Over the past decades, China has achieved economic advances to which history can hardly show any equal. The country now has the world's second largest economy; hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. Scope for political participation has also broadened.

China's new status must entail increased responsibility. China is in breach of several international agreements to which it is a signatory, as well as of its own provisions concerning political rights. Article 35 of China's constitution lays down that "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration". In practice, these freedoms have proved to be distinctly curtailed for China's citizens.

For over two decades, Liu Xiaobo has been a strong spokesman for the application of fundamental human rights also in China. He took part in the Tiananmen protests in 1989; he was a leading author behind Charter 08, the manifesto of such rights in China which was published on the 60th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 10th of December 2008. The following year, Liu was sentenced to eleven years in prison and two years' deprivation of political rights for "inciting subversion of state power". Liu has consistently maintained that the sentence violates both China's own constitution and fundamental human rights.

The campaign to establish universal human rights also in China is being waged by many Chinese, both in China itself and abroad. Through the severe punishment meted out to him, Liu has become the foremost symbol of this wide-ranging struggle for human rights in China.

Oslo, October 8, 2010

— "The Nobel Peace Prize 2010 - Press Release." Nobelprize.org. 3 Nov 2010  
[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/2010/press.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2010/press.html)

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