

Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights  
Boston University School of Public Health

## GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

JANUARY 27, 2007

**Robert F. Drinan, S.J.**

In Memoriam

Just as this Annual Report was about to be posted, on January 27, 2007, we learned of the death of GLP's most dedicated and involved supporter, Father Robert Drinan. Father Drinan is, of course, internationally recognized and revered for his life-long work and leadership in promoting human rights and human dignity. His legacy as a Jesuit priest, a prolific author, a law school dean and professor, a Congressman, and a human rights activist, have all been rightly cataloged recently. For these one can view the statements and obituaries on the Georgetown Law School website ([www.law.georgetown.edu/news/drinan.html](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/drinan.html)), "In Memory of Robert F. Drinan" and the Congressional Records of February 5, 2007, which sets forth the statements of his Congressional colleagues, especially the tribute of the man who was elected to fill his seat after the Pope required Fr. Drinan to leave Congress, Barney Frank ([www.glphr.org/drinansen](http://www.glphr.org/drinansen))

What almost no one will know is how selflessly and enthusiastically he supported GLP and its mission. To give just a couple of examples. At a 1989 conference on the Nuremberg Code at Boston University, Fr. Drinan began my own education in international human rights law by explaining to me (and, of course, those assembled) the differences in international standing between the Nuremberg Principles and the Nuremberg Code. After that, whenever I was unsure of a principle of international human rights law, I checked it with my new tutor. In 1996, when we held our conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Doctors' Trial at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., Fr. Drinan again played a central role—this time not only as international law expert, but more importantly as priest and moral leader, bringing the participants of all faiths together in the Hall of Remembrance and leading them in prayer. GLP was founded at that conference and Fr. Drinan immediately accepted our invitation to be a member of our Board of Advisers. Although this must certainly have ranked near the bottom of his long, long list of organizations and much more distinguished groups he supported, we never felt that way. He not only inspired us by his example, he wrote and called often, responded to every fund raising request, and gave incredibly generously of his time to GLP. Indeed, only once did he turn down an invitation to participate in our work—in the summer of 2005 I invited him to take part in a small, inaugural meeting between human rights activists and current and retired

members of the U.S. military who served as physicians to discuss the mission of GLP, i.e., how doctors and lawyers could work together to promote basic human rights in the context of our on-going war. He supported the initiative, but because we had scheduled the meeting for July 5 said he would not likely be able to attend. He had family in Massachusetts, and made it a point to spend all important holidays—including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July—with them. He kept his priorities straight. We will all miss him, but will proudly carry on his work.



*Robert F. Drinan, S.J.*

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## GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2007

### OUR HISTORY

Global Lawyers and Physicians (GLP), a non-profit, non-governmental organization focusing on health and human rights issues, celebrates a decade of service to the global community. GLP was founded in 1996 at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum symposium commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nuremberg Doctors Trial.

The Nuremberg Code was one of the earliest and most important human rights and health documents. This Code came from the collaborative efforts of lawyers and physicians. GLP was formed to reinvigorate this collaboration of the legal and medical/public health professionals to protect the human rights and dignity of all persons.

GLP was founded on the premise that these professions, working together transnationally, can be a much more effective force for human rights than either profession can working separately.

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work at the local, national, and international levels through collaborations and partnerships with individuals, NGOs, IGOs, and governments to encourage the global implementation of the health-related provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and The Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economics, Social and Cultural Rights.

### OUR GOALS

- Provide information and resources about health and human rights.
  - Serve as a network and referral source for professionals working on health-related and human issues.
  - Provide support and assistance in developing, implementing, and advocating public policies and legal remedies which protect and enhance human rights in health.
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## **BOSTON CENTER FOR REFUGEE HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS**

The **Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights** (BCRHHR) at Boston Medical Center, formed at the initiative of GLP, fills a serious gap in the healthcare safety net in New England by reaching out to survivors of torture, those seeking asylum, and traumatized refugees.

The **BCRHHR** was formed to serve as a focus for GLP advocacy on issues of refugee torture and humanitarian law. These high-risk populations often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or depression and typically need, but rarely receive, a complex set of medical and psychosocial services in order to successfully integrate into society. The **BCRHHR** currently provides a broad range of medical, legal, psychological and social services to survivors of torture and related trauma arrived in Boston and throughout the region.

The **BCRHHR** brings together the expertise of several clinical departments at Boston Medical Center including Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and Primary Care. The **BCRHHR** also represents a collaboration of the Boston University Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Law, and Dentistry. In 2006, the Center served more than 450 clients from over 50 different countries this year including: Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet and Uganda. Ninety percent were survivors of torture. BCRHHR reported a ninety-eight percent success rate of clients applying for asylum.

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## **GUANTANAMO**

GLP continues to work with law firms representing detainees in Guantanamo Bay Cuba and is involved with medical record review, consultation of cases with military doctors, and preparation of affidavits for legal proceedings.

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## **COURSES**

The **Intensive Course in Health and Human Rights**, co-sponsored by Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) was held from June 26<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The course was taught by professors George Annas, J.D. and Michael Grodin, M.D. from the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights (BUSPH) and Stephen Marks, Doctor of Laws and Sofia Gruskin, Associate Professor from the Department of Population and International Health (HSPH). This expanded 4 ½ day course was attended by 89 professionals from 32 countries. Fifty-nine percent of the attendees were from foreign countries.

This year, the course will be taught at Boston University from June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

Topics will include:

- Aid, ethics, and human rights in conflict zones;
- Impact of globalization on health and human rights;
- From protecting civilians to cooperating with the military: great humanitarian assistance;
- Human rights and bioethical aspects of global pandemic preparedness;
- Mental health and human rights;
- Using human rights sensitive indicators for determining the effectiveness of health programming: what can this mean in practice?



*2006 Graduating Class*

Read more at [www.sph.bu.edu/ichhr](http://www.sph.bu.edu/ichhr).

For the past nine years George Annas and Michael Grodin have taught a **Human Rights and Health** course at the Boston University School of Public Health. Every other year they offer the course at Boston University School of Law. GLP continues to advocate for others to incorporate health and human rights into their curricula.

The syllabus of this course is on our website at [www.glphr.org/HHRsyllabus.htm](http://www.glphr.org/HHRsyllabus.htm)

## CONFERENCES

### **Tortured Logic: Symposium on the War on Terror and the Future of Medical Ethics and Human Rights**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1946, an American military tribunal opened criminal proceedings against 23 leading German physicians and administrators for their willing participation in war crimes and crimes against humanity.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 a one-day symposium took place at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. This conference, partially supported by GLP commemorated the 60 years that have passed since Nazi Doctors were tried in Nuremberg, Germany.

At the symposium, presenters assessed the Nuremberg legacy as it related to the current "war on terror," the use of torture at US military detention centers, including Guantanamo Bay prison and secret CIA prisons, the practice of rendition of detainees,

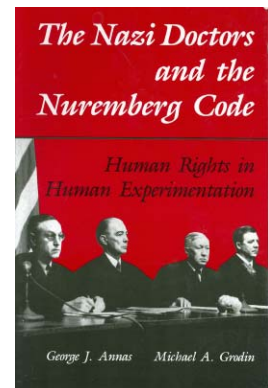
rape and murder. Together with participants, they explored the logic of hatred and the role of health professionals in this “new Kind” of war.

More information on the conference can be found at [www.glphr.org/tortureprogram.pdf](http://www.glphr.org/tortureprogram.pdf).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Law Conference The Nuremberg Doctors’ Trial: 60 years Later

An all day conference will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to examine the impact of the “Nuremberg Code” on international and U.S. law regarding human experimentation and the role of physicians in euthanasia of people with disabilities and the new eugenics. The role of military physicians in the “global war on terror” particularly in prison settings, will be examined.

See [www.bu.edu/law/communications/nuremberg\\_sched.html](http://www.bu.edu/law/communications/nuremberg_sched.html).



### American Public Health Association 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The theme at the 2006 Annual Meeting held in Boston from November 4<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup> was human rights. GLP participated in sessions on topics including: **Guantanamo: Military Medicine and the Geneva Convention; The Right to Health ; Public Health Emergencies and Human Rights and War, Conflict, Refugees, and Detainees: Ethical and Human Rights Issues.**

During the conference, GLP co-sponsored a “Human Rights and Health” reception with the organization Physicians for Human Rights at Boston University.



*Fellow Britnye Segraves & Prof. Mariner*

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

**International Human Rights Day** this year commemorated the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed this document. A copy of document can be seen on [www.glphr.org/univldec.htm](http://www.glphr.org/univldec.htm). BCRHR and the Health and Human Rights Student Caucus commemorated this date with a reading of the declaration by BCRHHR staff.

The Health and Human Rights Caucus on March 2, 2006 hosted **Dr. Reidar Lei** of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Lei discussed

international clinical trials and obligations (legal and ethical) before, during and after the completion of the trials.

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## OTHER VOICES

**Alejandro Moreno, M.D., J.D.** received his medical degree from the Instituto de Ciencias de la Salud in Spain. While working on his MPH degree at Boston University in 1998, Dr. Moreno co-founded the Boston Refugee Center for Health and Human Rights. For the past five years Dr. Moreno has worked on the coordination of the Istanbul Protocol, standards for the investigation and documentation of torture in Mexico. This has led to his training of forensic physicians who work with the Mexican legal system, National State Human Rights Commissions, the national prison system and non-governmental organizations in Mexico. He returned this year to Boston in October, 2006 to receive an award from Physicians for Human Rights for his work. While here he returned to the Boston Refugee Center for Health and Human rights and gave a talk entitled, **Personal Reflections on Law and Medicine**.

**Dr. Sima Samar**, Chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission was in-residence at Boston University School of Public Health as a Distinguished Scholar. She was here from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. On October 24<sup>th</sup> she gave the Distinguished Scholar Lecture, **The Fragile Future of Afghanistan: Human Justice and Security** to which both George Annas and Wendy Mariner provided commentary.



*Dr. Grodin, Dr. Samar and Prof. Annas*

Dr. Samar is also the recipient of the Jonathon Mann award in Global Health and Human Rights (2004) and U.N. Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Sudan, More information can be found a [www.glphr.org/ssamar.htm](http://www.glphr.org/ssamar.htm) on Dr. Samar's visit and lecture. A videotape of the conference can be seen at <http://www.glphr.org/archival.htm>.

**Drikung Kagyu Acharaya Lama Gursam**, educated in India in Buddhist philosophy and the Tibetan language, visited Dr. Michael Grodin in October, 2006. Lama Gursam for five years taught Buddhist philosophy in the United States. He is presently conducting a Dharma teaching tour in the United States, Lama Gursam spoke to faculty and students on **Meditation and Public Health**. For further information on Lama Gursam visit [www.lamagursam.org](http://www.lamagursam.org).



*Dr. Grodin with Lama Gursam*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Biotechnology

Isasi R. and Annas GJ. **To Clone Alone: The United Nations Human Cloning Declaration.** 24 Law and The Human Genome Review 13-26. (2006).

### Torture

Annas GJ. **Hunger Strikes at Guantanamo – Medical Ethics and Human Rights in a “Legal Black Hole”.** New England Journal of Medicine. 355(September 28):1377-1382, 2006.

Grodin M. **The Worth of Human Life: The Nazi Doctors and the Nuremberg Code.** PRIM&R Through the Years: 1974-2004, 30 Years of Human Research Protection. 189-192, 2006.

Moreno, A, Piwowarzyk L, LaMorte W, Grodin M. **Characteristics and Utilization of Primary Care Services in a Torture Rehabilitation Center.** Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. 8(2): 163-171, 2006.

Rourke E, Crosby S, Levison J, Grodin M. **Caring for Refugee Patients: A Proposed Four-Week Resident Rotation.** Society for General Internal Medicine. 2006.

### Bioethics and Human Rights

Annas, G.J. Anthropology, IRBs, and human rights. American Ethnologist, 33(4 November):541-544, 2006.

Lobato de Faria, P. The Role of Health Law, Bioethics and Human Rights to Promote a Safer and Healthier World. In: 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Seminar in Health Law and Bioethics, Lisbon 2005

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## SUPPORT

Your support of GLP will help our effort to provide information and resources about human rights and health; to serve as a network and referral source for professions working on health-related human rights/issues; to assist in developing, implementing and advocating public policies to protect and enhance human rights, and health. GLP supporters receive communications about our current projects and global concerns. Additionally, as a supporter of GLP there are numerous opportunities to contribute your time and talents to **GLP** projects. GLP's accomplishments are almost exclusively the

product of our volunteers. Please visit our website at [www.glphr.org/support.htm](http://www.glphr.org/support.htm) or email us at [glp@bu.edu](mailto:glp@bu.edu) for further information.