ABA SIL International Human Rights Committee  

Minutes of April 11, 2018 Meeting

The meeting convened by telephone at 12:00 pm eastern time. Dan chaired the meeting.

**Resolution and Report: Persecution of the Legal Profession**

Dan forwarded the draft R&R that would commit the ABA to work with other organizations, including the UN, and to intensify its focus on the increasing persecution of the legal profession and threats to the rule of law in many countries by State and non-State actors. Discussion followed. The committee is unanimous in recommending that Section Council approve the R&R and place it on the agenda of the ABA’s House of Delegates to become ABA policy.

The Committee recommended to the working group that the resolution on protecting the legal profession include reference to human rights defenders or human rights advocates.

Dan will communicate the Committee’s recommendations to the R&R working group and will put the R&R on the Council’s agenda for a vote on April 20.

**Nomination of Gina Haspel as Director of CIA**

Several members of the Committee expressed concern about President Trump’s nomination of Gina Haspel to be the new CIA Director replacing Mike Pompeo and wondered if we could urge the ABA to oppose that nomination. According to reports, Ms. Haspel was intimately involved in the CIA’s “enhanced interrogation” (read “torture”) program under the Bush administration.

Dan reported that the ABA doesn’t take positions opposing Presidential nominations except nominations for the judiciary. But the ABA does issue statements from the President regarding topics of relevance to the legal profession.

A former ABA President suggested that the current ABA President might be supportive of a letter to the Senate Intelligence Committee timed for the hearings on Ms. Haspel’s nomination reminding it of US obligations under the United Nations Convention against Torture. Hearings are scheduled for later this month. We would need one or more Committee members to draft the letter quickly so that it could be sent through the appropriate channels to the ABA President for timely transmittal (if approved). Dan asked for volunteers.

**Committee Events at ABA Section of International Law Annual Conference**

The ABA Section of International Law will hold its annual conference in New York City from April 17 to April 21. Our Committee will sponsor and co-sponsor several events, including the following:

Wednesday 18th 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM “Business and Human Rights: Putting Human Rights in Practice at a Global Company.”

Thursday April 19 7:30 AM IHRC breakfast meeting Ballroom II,

**Next Meeting:** May 9th at noon eastern time by teleconference.

Co-Chair Contact Information
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