



A Partnership of the American Bar Foundation
and the University of Illinois College of Law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lucinda Underwood
E-mail: lunderwood@abfn.org
Phone: 312.988.6573
Fax: 312.988.6579
Online: www.lexglobal.org
www.americanbarfoundation.org

BEST RESEARCH ON GENOCIDE NOW AVAILABLE

**Newly Released Web-based “Smart” Library on Genocide
Puts Facts and Research in Hands of Global Policy-Makers**

CHICAGO, IL -June 18, 2009 – The [Center on Law and Globalization](http://www.lexglobal.org) has released its new Smart Library on Genocide in connection with the international conference, **Sexual Violence as International Crime: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Evidence**, June 16-18, The Hague, the Netherlands.

Created by the Center on Law and Globalization of the [American Bar Foundation](#) and the [University of Illinois College of Law](#), the Smart Library's distinguished panel of experts selects the best research on genocide. The Center translates the key findings and arguments on genocide into readable executive summaries with links to full texts, where possible. It also links users to the top experts in the field via email and other connections.

"The Smart Library covers issues that are critical in reporting regional crises and world news on genocide, civil war and systematic sexual violence," said Terence Halliday, co-director of the Center on Law and Globalization. He added, "It shows how definitions of genocide have evolved and what evidence is needed by international courts to prove that genocide has taken place."

Proving genocide and sexual violence can be very difficult. The Smart Library reviews a variety of techniques—surveys, interviews, forensic evidence—and shows the pros and cons of each technique for establishing these international crimes have been committed and for proving guilt in international courts.

Civil wars and genocidal politics frequently target women, who are victimized brutally and systematically in large numbers over long periods. The Smart Library reviews research on several cases in recent years, such as Bosnia, Darfur, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Iraq. The research estimates the extent and severity of the violence and it shows why and how violence against women often is part of ethnic cleansing and genocidal campaigns.

Systematic sexual violence in civil wars has severe and long-lasting effects, demonstrates the Smart Library, not only on individual women, but their families and social groups. Sometimes the violence is harnessed for a larger genocidal purpose. Often it reflects gender struggles as men find coercive ways to fight back against the emancipation of women. Always it involves de-humanization and degradation of victims.

In the last fifteen years, sexual violence has been increasingly taken on by international courts as instances of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The Smart Library describes the current legal status of mass rape, for instance, in international courts, such as those of the Former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and the International Criminal Court.

The Smart Library will inform participants in the conference on **Sexual Violence as International Crime: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Evidence**. The conference, concluding on June 18, is co-hosted by Center co-director [John Hagan, PhD](#), recipient of the 2009 Stockholm Prize in Criminology, co-director [Charlotte Ku, PhD](#), University of Illinois College of Law, in cooperation with the Grotius Center for International Legal Studies, Leiden University Campus/The Hague and The International Victimology Institute, Tilburg (INTERVICT), Tilburg University. The conference has brought together world experts on international law, global health, and social science and human rights to focus on innovations and challenges of empirical and other evidence for the prosecution of cases of sexual violence.

Conference topics covered the development of evidence for sexual slavery to crimes against humanity and genocide, as well as procedural differences involved in prosecuting sexual victimization in domestic versus international courts, and the development of new social scientific, archival and medical data collection techniques to assist in the prosecution of these crimes.

WHAT: Smart Library on Genocide

Main topics:

What Counts as Genocide

Identifying Causes and Conditions

Approaches to Studying Genocide

Rape and Genocide:

- The Frequency and Nature of Sexual Atrocity in Civil Conflict;
- Results of Rape in Genocide;
- The Legal Status of Rape and Sexual Atrocity in International Law

WHO: The Smart Library's Expert Panel includes:

John Hagan, PhD, Co-Director, Center on Law and Globalization,
American Bar Foundation, and Northwestern University

Cherif Bassiouni, J.D., Distinguished Research Professor of Law, DePaul
University; President, International Human Rights Law Institute

Alex De Waal, D.Phil, Director, Justice Africa, London

Helen Fein, PhD, Director, Institute for the Study of Genocide

Jens Meierhenrich, D.Phil., Assistant Professor of Government and of
Social Studies at Harvard University

WHERE: At the website for the Center on Law and Globalization:

<http://clg.portalxm.com/library/>

About the Center on Law and Globalization

The Center on Law and Globalization is a Partnership of the American Bar Foundation and the University of Illinois College of Law. The Center brings together the top legal officials of international organizations, key journalists, and academic experts to understand behavioral and legal dimensions of critical global issues, to stimulate well-informed global policy choices, to advance empirical research on globalization and law and to advance the effective use of the law. To access the Center's Smart Libraries – clustering the leading scholarship on globalization- visit www.lexglobal.org

###