

Asger Sylvester Hartlev Kjaerum

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CV

SUMMARY

I am a highly skilled and results driven human rights lawyer with a track record of creating meaningful change in the lives of individual rights holders, their families and communities. I am good at engaging effectively and respectfully with people at all levels from key decision makers at the UN and government ministers to local CSO staff to address difficult and sensitive human rights issues.

I thoroughly enjoy and take inspiration from working in multidisciplinary and multicultural/religious teams and I always strive to be a colleague that contributes to a positive professional and social atmosphere in the workplace.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- **Human Rights law:** 15 years of experience with a **wide range of thematic human rights and humanitarian law issues** with an extensive focus on torture and ill-treatment.
- **Torture practices and tools:** Extensive technical knowledge on global patterns of torture practices and the tools used.
- **Multilateral processes:** More than 10 years of experience in participating in multilateral processes at the UN and regional mechanisms in Africa, Europe and Latin America.
- **Facilitating consensus:** 10 years of experience facilitating global policy making processes in an association of civil society organisations as well with academia and government officials.
- **Team player:** who takes great pleasure and inspiration from working with people from and located in different countries and cultures.

WORK EXPERIENCE

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

May 2007 - Present

Director of Advocacy

September 2015 – Present

Responsibilities:

- As a member of the senior management team, participate in the development of our 2018-21 Global Strategy and the management of the organisation. Specific focus on developing and implementing the IRCT's global advocacy strategy and our innovative use of health data for human rights advocacy.
- Create and lead a multidisciplinary team of professionals to deliver concrete improvements to national, regional and global laws, policies and jurisprudence relating to torture victims' rights, prevention of torture, human rights defenders and civil society space.
- Represent the IRCT in high-level meetings at the United Nations, regional intergovernmental mechanisms and in dialogues with government officials.
- Design and lead IRCT's internal policy development processes to enable more than 170

organisations in 75 countries to take decisions in a participatory and democratic way using a combination of online tools and physical meetings.

- Develop and implement online and in-person capacity building for civil society organisations on a wide variety of issues including advocacy methodologies, engagement with United Nations institutions, forensic documentation of torture, and promotion of torture victims' rights.

Senior Legal Advisor

March 2014 – September 2015

Responsibilities:

- Provide high level advice to IRCT management and member organisations in relation to all aspects of IRCT's legal and advocacy strategy.
- Implement IRCT's advocacy activities in relation to UN human rights mechanisms and national governments in IRCT member countries.
- Conduct regular visits to IRCT rehabilitation centres and the torture victims they support in all regions of the world. This included visits to detention facilities in several countries.
- Coordinate and provide advice to IRCT's internal policy making processes and the development of the 2015-18 Global strategy.
- Deliver trainings to IRCT members and a variety of different external stakeholders on effective human rights advocacy, creating civil society space to advocate for human rights, UN human rights mechanisms and forensic documentation of torture.

Head of Geneva Office/Geneva Representative

October 2008 – March 2014

Responsibilities:

- Analyse IRCT members capacity and needs and develop and Implement the first ever IRCT's strategy towards UN human rights mechanism, with a specific focus on development of strategic alliances, country and thematic advocacy and UN institutional reform.
- Assess capacity, provide advice and support IRCT members to effectively engage with UN and regional human rights mechanisms.
- Full project cycle management of IRCT advocacy projects targeting the UN and national level.
- Visit IRCT rehabilitation centres and support their national advocacy activities through trainings and direct engagement with national decision makers.
- Co-responsible for implementing the IRCT's torture documentation work, which includes capacity development; analysis of national criminal justice systems; international and national policy influencing and development; and documentation of strategically selected torture cases.

Student assistant,

May 2007 – October 2008

Responsibilities included monitoring of the work of UN human rights mechanisms, project management support, and editing of a publication.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

March – December 2006

Intern, New York and Geneva offices,

Responsibilities included monitoring and reporting on the work of UN human rights mechanisms in New York and Geneva through the drafting of analytical reports covering wide range of human rights issues and mechanisms, research assistance on a publication on UN institutional reform and global dissemination of the information.

EDUCATION

Master of Law, University of Copenhagen

February 2009

Courses included International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and EU in the developing world. Masters thesis on prisoner exchange in Afghanistan and human rights obligations of ISAF/NATO forces.

BA Law, University of Copenhagen

January 2006

Basic courses in a broad scope of domestic (Danish) legal disciplines and international law. Bachelor thesis on Member State liability for violations of European Community Law.

PUBLICATIONS

TORTURE – Journal on rehabilitation of Torture Victims and Prevention of Torture, volume 20, Number 3, 2010

"Combatting torture with medical evidence – the use of medical evidence and expert opinions in international and regional human rights tribunals"

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) publication, 2009

"Shedding Light on a Dark Practice – Using the Istanbul Protocol to document torture", Editor, May 2009.

EU – ret og menneskeret, 6. Edition 2006

"Mod en ny menneskerettighedsdagsorden – Baggrund og perspektiver for FN's Menneskerettighedsråd" ("Towards a new human rights agenda – Background and perspectives for the United Nations Human Rights Council"), December 2006.

LANGUAGES

Danish – Native speaker

English - Fluent (speaking, understanding, reading and writing)

Spanish - Intermediate level (speaking, understanding, reading and writing)

French – Beginner level (speaking, understanding and reading) – I lived in Geneva for 6 years but it needs to be refreshed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND IT SKILLS

- Highly experienced and effective public speaker and trainer
- Very proficient user of the full Microsoft office package.
- Anthusiastic amateur photo- and videographer user of Indesign and Photoshop.

REFERENCES (CONTACT DETAILS CAN BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST)

Victor Madrigal-Borloz – IRCT Secretary General (2013-2019) and current UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Suzanne Jabbour, Director of the Restart Rehabilitation Centre in Lebanon.

Dr. Alice Edwards, Head of the Secretariat at the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI).