

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB TELSTRA ADDRESS

IS INTERNATIONAL LAW RELEVANT TO THE WAR IN IRAQ & ITS AFTERMATH?

Professor Hilary Charlesworth
Director, Centre for International & Public Law, ANU



Wednesday 29 October 2003, 12–2pm (Lunch 12–1pm, Address 1–2pm)
National Press Club, Barton, Canberra
Tickets: Members \$44 and Guests \$55 (including GST)

Bookings: 6273 3644 Enquiries: 6125 2906

Some commentators and scholars regard the failure of the UN Security Council to approve the invasion of Iraq by the Coalition of the Willing in March this year as proof of the uselessness of the international legal system. They have contended that international law will only be a relevant consideration in the international community if its norms catch up with the realities of power politics.

This address will consider the value of the international legal rules relating to the use of force in light of the war in Iraq and the current attempts to reconstruct Iraq's political system. It will argue that, despite breaches of international law, the international rule of law remains an important principle of international society. The address will also discuss recent proposals to reform the UN.

Hilary Charlesworth is Professor of International Law and Director of the Centre for International and Public Law in the Faculty of Law, ANU. She has written extensively in the area of international law and human rights law and is a frequent contributor to public debate on international law issues.

Professor Charlesworth has been a Commissioner on the Australian Law Reform Commission, a Hearing Commissioner of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and a member of the Minister for Foreign Affairs' Foreign Affairs Council. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School and the Global Law Faculty at New York University, and has recently been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & LAW