Somali pirates as agents of change in international law and organisation

**Thursday 28 February 2013**  5.30–6.30pm

**Dr Douglas Guilfoyle** Reader in Law, University College London

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Somali pirate attacks on world shipping are finally declining: but what explains this, and what does it tell us about international law and organisation? Both Somali piracy and counter-piracy efforts have proven highly adaptive. Somali pirates have been agents of international change, but largely at the level of generating new models of cooperation and soft-law. But to what extent are the forms of international cooperation that have emerged particularly new or effective? This talk will consider a series of shifts: the move from a military approach to law enforcement operations; from unilateral enforcement to transnational coordination; from reliance on formal organizations to informal coordinating bodies; and from maritime law-enforcement to land-based operations, including criminal justice reform. However, it may be industry and market based measures may have proven the most effective in suppressing piracy—and pirates themselves may now be looking for new markets to enter.

Douglas Guilfoyle is a Reader in Law at the Faculty of Laws, University College London. Douglas’ research focuses on high seas law enforcement and, in particular, Somali piracy. Since 2009 he has worked with the legal issues working group of the UN-sponsored Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (a grouping of over 100 government and industry lawyers). He also acted as Specialist Advisor to the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry into Somali piracy in 2011–12.

He is a graduate of the ANU College of Law, and did his graduate and doctoral study at the University of Cambridge as a Chevening and Gates scholar. Douglas had previously worked as a litigation solicitor, judge’s associate in the Federal Court and as associate to the President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

He is the author of *Shipping Interdiction and the Law of the Sea* (Cambridge 2009) and numerous articles on Somali piracy.

*The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.*

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E rsvp@law.anu.edu.au
Enquiries T 6125 1096
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