

Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights
Boston University School of Public Health

GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

2011 - 2012



Annual Report

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT HEALTH PROGRAM (BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER)

The most significant ongoing clinical service project of GLP is the Refugee and Immigrant Health Program (RIHP) at Boston Medical Center. The RIHP is devoted to serving victims of torture and refugee trauma. About 80% of our clients are seeking political asylum, and the RIHP collaborates with the legal community in preparing asylum affidavits and testifying in court hearings.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY FORENSIC MEDICAL EVALUATION GROUP

The Boston University Forensic Medical Evaluation Group (FMEG) is a service for asylum seekers and others requiring documentation of prior ill treatment. This innovative program, part of the Boston University Department of Medicine and School of Public Health, was co-founded and is co-directed by Drs. Sondra Crosby and Elizabeth Rourke. FMEG offers evaluation and documentation of physical and psychological evidence of torture and abuse in a supportive and collaborative environment while working closely with attorneys. In addition to performing medical evaluations, FMEG is actively involved in academic work, including scholarly publications and advancing the field of torture documentation. FMEG teaches students (medical, law, and public health), medical residents, physicians, lawyers, and judges. Dr. Crosby has taught medical forensics and has implemented the Istanbul Protocol for physicians in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan in the last year. She has also

performed forensic evaluations for the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.

CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

GLP continues to work with law firms representing prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in addition to consultation on cases involving military doctors. GLP prepares affidavits for legal proceedings, primarily related to the physical and psychological impact of force feeding on hunger strikers.

GLP's senior medical adviser, Dr. Sondra Crosby, was a medical consultant to the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI) to review evidence of torture. In addition to her work for the Commission, she was asked back to Bahrain to examine dozens of hunger strikers protesting government actions. Her recommendations regarding treatment of the hunger strikers are posted on the web at: www.bici.org.bh/indexc002.html?news=another-international-expert-to-join-the-bici-team



Dr. Sondra Crosby (right) with representatives from The Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry

Dr. Crosby treated a survivor who was tortured by the U.S. in Africa, and she continues to seek funds for his care and rehabilitation. Her initial experiences are told in an article in the *Annals & Internal Medicine* (cited below):

Crosby S. A Doctor's Response to Torture. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2012; 156:471-472.

Dr. Crosby's work is also the subject of an article in *The Nation* (cited below): How the U.S. Rendered, Tortured and Discarded One Innocent Man. *The Nation*. June 26, 2012.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

The new textbook, *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World*, is inspired by the previous works, *Health and Human Rights: A Reader* (1999), and *Perspectives on Health and Human Rights* (2005). *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World* is a collaboration by co-editors Michael Grodin, Daniel Tarantola, George Annas, and Sophia Gruskin. This text should be available for use in by March 2013. The textbook will contain seminal articles along with background and commentary to help contextualize the field of Health and Human Rights, particularly with respect to new directions in the field.



Co-Editors of *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World*:
Daniel Tarantola, Sofia Gruskin, George Annas and Michael Grodin

BRAZIL CONFERENCE

GLP cosponsored a conference with the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights of Boston University School of Public Health, and the Health Law, Ethics and Biolaw Program of the National School of Public Health, New University of Lisbon. The international conference on “The Right to Health Care Access and the Courts: Rethinking Health Law ” was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 2011. This was the Third Seminar initiated by the Department and the New University of Lisbon as part of their Joint Program in Health Law and Bioethics. Speakers from the Department, Portugal, England,

and Brazil compared their national approaches to determining covered health care benefits and controlling the cost of care. All four countries are implementing health reform legislation. Held at the Law School of Fluminense Federal University, the conference attracted a number of Brazilian judges who are confronting difficult cases interpreting Brazil's new health law.



Faculty of the Brazilian Conference

PIKE CONFERENCE

On October 23, 2011, the Department and BU School of Law co-hosted the 8th Annual Pike Conference on Health Law. The theme of this year's conference was "The Holocaust and Its Legacy: Resiliency, Fragility and Restitution of Survivors." The conference was held at the Florence & Chafetz Hillel House at Boston University and focused on care of aging Holocaust survivors and subsequent generations.

A child survivor, Canadian psychiatrist and author, Robert Krell, M.D., delivered the keynote address on "The Resiliency of the Survivor."

VISITORS

Joshua Phillips

Joshua E.S. Phillips, a journalist and author of the book, *None of Us Were Like this Before: American Soldiers and Torture*, visited GLP in February and gave talks at both the BU medical campus and BU Law School. He spoke about the experiences of the U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who were involved in torture.



Joshua Phillips with Dr. Sondra Crosby, George Annas, Dr. Michael Grodin and Lynn Squillace

Rabbi Riccardo Shmuel Di Segni

In March 2012, Rabbi Riccardo Shmuel Di Segni, M.D., Chief Rabbi of Rome since 2001, came to Boston University to talk about "Medicine and Public Health during the Holocaust." Dr. Di Segni serves as the Chairman of the Radiology Department at the San Giovanni Hospital in Rome. He is Vice President of the Orthodox Conference of European Rabbis and the Italian government's National Council for Bioethics. Rabbi Di Segni also lectured about the long and complicated relationship between the Church and the Jews during the Holocaust.



Dr. Michael Grodin with Chief Rabbi of Rome, Riccardo Di Segni

Cellou Dalein Diallo

Cellou Dalein Diallo, a Guinean economist and politician who was Prime Minister of Guinea from 2004 to 2006, spoke at GLP about the conditions of

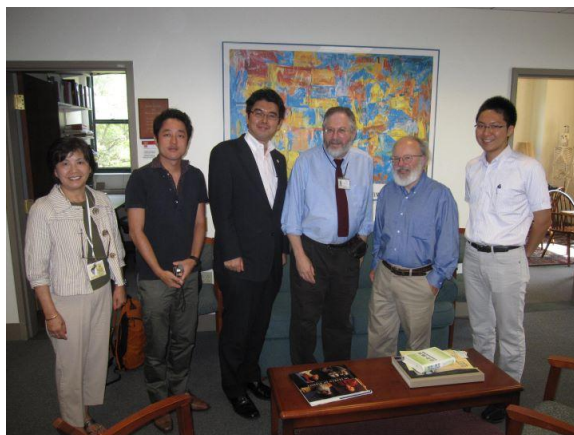
Guinea, human rights violation, documentation of torture and complicity of the medical profession.



Cellou Dalein Diallo (2nd from left), President of the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) with Dr. Sondra Crosby and Dr. Michael Grodin.

Visitors from Japan

Three visitors from Japan came to the Department to learn about our American healthcare system.



Visitors from Japan with Dr. Michael Grodin and George Annas

AMICUS BRIEFS

GLP website provides copies of its amicus briefs. Read them on the website at:

www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/amicus-briefs

COURSES

For the past thirteen years George Annas and Michael Grodin have taught a Health and Human Rights course at the Boston University School of Public Health. This course is taught in the Fall and Spring semesters and offered to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The current course syllabus is posted at:

<http://www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/educational-resources>

Comments are welcome.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

George Annas

"The Affordable Care Act in the U.S. Supreme Court: Ideology, Politics, and the Right to Health," UCL Current Legal Issues Colloquium - Law and Global Health, University City London, London, UK, July 2, 2012

"Ethics and Human Rights," European Master Course in Disaster Medicine, Navarro, Italy, May 24, 2012

"Civil Liberties and Public Health Preparedness," American Public Health Association, Washington D.C., October 31, 2011



George Annas teaching a European Master Course in Disaster Medicine in Navarro, Italy
with Doctors Kristi Koenig and Charles Schultz

Michael Grodin

University Holocaust Lecturer on "Medicine and the Holocaust," University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, April 2012

"The Fate of the Deaf during the Holocaust," Deaf Studies Program, Boston University, Boston, MA, April 2012

"The Treatment of Chronic Pain in Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma: An Integrative Approach," available online at www.cvt.org. The Center for Victims of Torture, February 22, 2012

"Deadly Medicine, the Nazi Doctors, Racial Hygiene, Murder and Genocide," University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, MA, November 2011

"The Holocaust and Its Legacy: Resiliency, Fragility, and Restitution of Survivors," Pike Conference, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 23, 2011

"The Use of Acupuncture in the Care of Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma," New England Society of Medical Acupuncture, Waltham, MA, September 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Annas GJ. Doctors, Patients, and Lawyers — Two Centuries of Health Law. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367:445-50.

Mariner WK, Glantz LH, Annas GJ. Reframing Federalism — The Affordable Care Act (and Broccoli) in the Supreme Court. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367:1154-58.

Annas GJ, Schultz CH. Altering the Standard of Care in Disasters—Unnecessary and Dangerous. *Ann Emerg Med* 2012; Mar 59(3):191-5.

Geiger J, Annas GJ. Protecting Civil Liberties and Human Rights. In: Levy BS, Victor SW, editors. *Terrorism and the Public Health*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press 2011; 253-265.

Annas GJ. Assisted Reproduction — Canada's Supreme Court and the “Global Baby.” *N Engl J Med* 2011; 365:459-463.

Highfield E, Kaptchuk T, Lama P, Grodin M, Crosby S. Acupuncture and Traditional Asian Medicine for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma: A Descriptive Report. *J Immigr Minor Health* 2012; 14(3):433-40.

Grodin M. Caring for Aging Holocaust Survivors and Subsequent Generations. *American Imago* 2011; 68(3):543-60.

Grodin M, Kor E, Benedict S. The Trial that Never Happened: Josef Mengele and the Twins of Auschwitz. *War Crimes, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity* 2011; 5:3-89.

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