

## Arjun Sengupta Heads Impressive Line-Up for Conference

The line-up of speakers has been finalised for the Castan Centre's annual conference, Human Rights 2005: The Year in Review. The conference, which will hold a spotlight to many of the year's most important human rights issues, will again be held at the Malthouse, at Southbank, on 2 December 2005.

World-renowned economic and policy expert, Professor Arjun Sengupta, is the headline speaker. Professor Sengupta is the UN's Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty. He is also Chairman of the Centre for Development and Human Rights, New Delhi, and Adjunct Professor of Development and Human Rights at the FXB Center of Harvard's School of Public Health. He is also a Member of Parliament in India. Dr Sengupta will examine international cooperation for eliminating extreme poverty in the context of the global push for a "new deal" for the world's poorest nations. As the Independent Expert, Professor Sengupta has been instrumental in developing and popularising this concept. Professor Sengupta has previously been an Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund and has written and edited a number of books, including *Reflections on the Right to Development and Reforms, equity and the IMF: An economist's world*.

During his time in Australia, he will join the Castan Centre as a Holding Redlich Distinguished Visiting Fellow.

Other international issues on the agenda are human rights in the context of tsunami relief; the likely implications of the UN reform process; and the lessons to be learned from Canada for the proposed Victorian Bill of Rights. In particular, David Wiseman, of the University of Windsor, Canada, will consider what effect the exclusion of economic, social and cultural rights



Arjun Sengupta

might have on the Bill of Rights.

The ongoing inquiry into a Bill of Rights has been perhaps the biggest human rights topic of 2005 in Victoria and Dr Helen Watchirs, the ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner, will take up the issue from a local perspective. In particular, she will present the lessons learned from the enactment of the ACT Bill of Rights in 2004.

Bernadette McSherry of Monash University will consider human rights and mental health in light of the immigration detention and Cornelia Rau controversies. Martin Flynn, of UWA, will consider whether low government spending on Aboriginal health, housing and education constitutes discrimination and Colin Fenwick, of the Centre for Employment & Labour Relations Law at the University of Melbourne, will consider the human rights effects of the Government's proposed industrial relations laws.

Now in its fourth year, the conference is a vital occasion for the wider human rights community.

*For further details about the conference, including prices and registration details, please see our website at*

[www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre](http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre)

## New World Human Rights News Page

The Castan Centre has recently relaunched its website and it now includes a new feature to help you keep abreast of human rights developments. The World Human Rights News page features articles on important human rights issues from around the world. The page is updated three times each week with reports from human rights organisations, features from magazines and newspapers and important news stories.

In the last few months, the page has focused on many hot issues, including

the situation in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, the deterioration of Zimbabwe; and the many developments in human rights law coming from Canada.

Reports have focussed also on the uplifting – companies in South Africa providing free AIDS treatment to all HIV+ employees; the depressing – the execution of two gay teenagers in Iran; and the offbeat – the leader of Liberia warned all political candidates not to perform human sacrifices to improve their chances of winning. From racism in Melbourne's junior football leagues

to a company in Alabama allegedly posting a "whites only" sign on the bathroom in 2005, the World Human Rights News Page will keep you up to date.

Every other section of the website has been improved and is constantly updated. Papers or transcripts from each Castan Centre event are posted on the site and many of the papers from the centre's research projects are also available.

Go to <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/news/world-news.html>