

Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights
Annual Symposium, March 30-31, 2001
Yale Law School

Politics and Human Rights
A Bipartisan Agenda for U.S. Foreign Policy?

At the beginning of the 21st century, responsibility for U.S. foreign policy has moved from the Democratic Clinton Administration to the Republican Bush Administration. The Clinton Administration faced a number of human rights crises in the context of a new post-Cold War set of opportunities and challenges. The end of apartheid, the establishment of two war crimes tribunals, and the adoption of a treaty to establish a permanent international criminal court have been seen as signs of hope, but the genocide in Rwanda, ethnic warfare in Kosovo, massive destruction of civilian life in Chechnya, and the persistence of abuses against ethnic, racial and religious minorities and women throughout the world have served as reminders of the difficulty of building an effective international human rights regime. As the Bush Administration begins to articulate its foreign policy, will it build on the international human rights legacy of the Clinton Administration or chart a very different course? What have we learned about the determination and the ability of the U.S. to use its power and influence to bring about greater respect for human rights internationally? To what extent have human rights considerations been institutionalized in U.S. foreign policy? The Bernstein Symposium will examine the legacy and the lessons of the Clinton Administration, discuss the extent to which a clear bipartisan human rights agenda has emerged, explore its contents and limitations, and debate what should constitute an appropriate and effective U.S. human rights policy for the beginning of the 21st century.

Friday, March 30

12:30 p.m. Human Rights Workshop, Room 128
Current Bernstein Fellows will discuss their work

Fiona Doherty, YLS '99, Committee on the Administration of Justice,
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Robert Sloane, YLS '00, International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet,
New York

3:00 p.m. Workshop, Room 127
Effective Advocacy: Advancing International Human Rights with the
U.S. Government

What works and doesn't work in efforts to influence Congress, the State Department and the White House? A panel of human rights advocates will look at strategies for bringing international human rights issues to the attention of Washington policymakers. How should activists package human rights issues for Congressional, State Department and White House staff? What other points of pressure do activists need to understand and use? How can public constituencies be mobilized to increase pressure on Congress and

the Administration? How will the change from the Clinton Administration to the Bush Administration affect human rights advocacy strategies?

Elisa Massimino, Washington Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
Stephen Rickard, Director, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights

6:30 p.m. Dinner for Fellows and Panelists

Saturday, March 31

10:00 a.m. Building on the Human Rights Lessons of the Clinton Years

John Shattuck, Chief Executive Officer, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (1993-1999)

Lessons from the Human Rights Crises of the 90s

Harold Koh, Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law, Yale Law School, and former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy Human Rights and Labor (1999-2001)

The Human Rights Legacy of the Clinton Administration

Response and Discussion

Tom Farer, Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver
Susan Waltz, Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, former chairperson, International Executive Committee, Amnesty International

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Room 122

1:00 p.m. *Does the United States Have a Bipartisan Human Rights Agenda?*

David Unger, Editorial Board, The New York Times (moderator)
David Abramowitz, Democratic Chief Counsel, House Committee on International Relations
Charlotte Oldham-Moore, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Paul Wellstone
Grover Joseph Rees, Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, House Committee on International Relations
Andy Semmel, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Richard Lugar

3:00 p.m. *Critical Perspectives on U.S. Human Rights Policy*

Tom Farer, Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver(moderator)

Radhika Coomaraswamy, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women; Director, International Center for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka; Global Law Faculty, New York University School of Law

Michael Posner, Executive Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

Sergio Sarmiento, journalist, chair, editorial board, TV Azteca, Mexico City, Mexico

5:00 p.m. Reception