

UI's Martin Institute Holds Two Forums Jan. 30

Jan. 5, 2006

MOSCOW, Idaho –The University of Idaho's Martin Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution will hold two forums on Jan. 30. Free and open to the public, both forums will be presented by Mohamed Mattar, executive director of the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

His first talk, "Thoughts on Islamic Law," will be held at 12:30 p.m. in UI's College of Law Courtroom. His talk will be a hybrid of presentations made to audiences in the Washington, D.C. area last fall that focused on human rights in Islam, Islamic law in U.S. courts and tradition versus contemporary practice in Islamic law. It is cosponsored by the International Law Students Association.

The day's second talk, "Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery: Assessment and Response," will take place at 7 p.m. in UI's Student Union Building Ballroom. Although not an official part of UI's Core Discovery program, the talk is intended to complement the program's sections on Sex and Culture: Women and Men in the 21st Century.

"Trafficking in women and children for sexual purposes is one of the great tragedies of our time. Dr. Mattar's efforts around the globe in combating human trafficking are remarkable, and we are very pleased to welcome him to UI," said Bill Smith, interim director of the Martin Institute. Mattar also will visit with students in Smith's international studies senior seminar about his experiences in international policy formulation.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Protection Project, Mattar is an adjunct professor of law at Johns Hopkins University and a specialist on a variety of topics, including: the Middle East; the Persian Gulf; human rights; human trafficking; international law; Islamic religion; and culture and law. He is recognized internationally as an expert of anti-trafficking and has testified on the subject before congressional committees.

Mattar previously served as an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center and at the American University Washington College of Law. He also served as assistant professor at Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt, and Arab University of Beirut. He was legal adviser to the Abu Dhabi Free Zone Authority of the United Arab Emirates, the Arab National Bank in Saudi Arabia and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, D.C. He received S. juris-doctorate degree from Tulane University.

The Protection Project focuses on the protection of human security, and researches and documents the global scope of human trafficking. Through the dissemination of relevant and timely information, it works to influence policy and practice in the war campaign against trafficking.

Martin Forums on international topics are part of the educational and outreach missions of the Martin Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. For additional information, phone

(208) 885-6527 or visit the Web site at www.martin.uidaho.edu.

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-30-

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