



On 28 May 2014 the HRLA Student Committee held part two of its Student Seminar Series on Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The speakers at this seminar were Sapna Malik of Leigh Day, Kat Craig of Reprieve, and Adam Wagner of 1 Crown Office Row Chambers.

The three distinguished human rights practitioners addressed a full-house at this event hosted by Leigh Day in Farringdon.

First to speak was Kat Craig, Legal Director of the Abuses in Counter-Terrorism (ACT) team at Reprieve. She investigates and seeks to combat human rights abuses arising out of the 'war on terror'. Kat engaged the audience through a Q&A quiz on torture to highlight the current widespread use of torture despite international human rights laws and treaties. Kat's message was "changing policy and making sure people don't get mistreated is the aim of the game".

Following this, Adam Wagner, a barrister specialising in public law and human rights, and the founding editor of the acclaimed UK Human Rights Blog discussed the importance of public inquiries and inquests in the context of Article 3 cases.

The final speaker was Sapna Malik, a partner at Leigh Day who currently heads a team of lawyers representing over 300 Iraqi citizens who claim that they were subjected to unlawful detention and treatment by British forces in Iraq. These cases followed the successful mediation in 2008 of the claims brought by the family of Baha Mousa (deceased), and nine other men tortured alongside him by British soldiers in Iraq in 2003. Sapna showed harrowing video footage of the Mousa detainees being forced in to stress positions by Corporal Donald Payne, a former soldier of the British Army who was convicted of inhumane treatment. Sapna explained that the Article 3 landscape constantly changes, so they have to use their initiative and be creative: “winning cases is not the aim, changing policy to stop illegal treatment is”.

Details of further events in this series and how to become a member of the HRLA are available at www.hrla.org.uk