



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC SEMINAR



The National Europe Centre at The Australian National University is pleased to invite you to:

Extraordinary Renditions, Secret Detention Centres and Diplomatic Assurances – Has Europe Lost its Moral High Ground in the Fight against Terrorism?¹

Christopher Michaelsen, currently a Visiting Fellow at the National Europe Centre

Wednesday, 19 April 2006, 12.30pm at the National Europe Centre

The Australian National University, 1 Liversidge Street [67C]

Parking available in Balmain Lane, opposite University House

Light refreshments will be served after the seminar.

Often critical of US counterterrorism practices like the detention of terrorism suspects without charge at Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere, Europe has generally regarded itself measured in its response to the challenges of international terrorism. Over the last 12 months, however, it has become apparent that many European countries themselves have adopted questionable counterterrorism practices. These range from accepting diplomatic assurances when deporting terrorism suspects to countries with poor human rights records to the alleged operation of secret detention centres and assistance in cases of "extraordinary renditions". What these practices have in common is that they beg the question of whether Europe has lost its moral high ground in the fight against terrorism. This paper will focus on recent terrorism and human rights related developments in jurisprudence and investigations, both at a national and an international level within Europe. In addition, it will briefly introduce the role and activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in this field.

Christopher Michaelsen is currently working as Anti-Terrorism Officer in the Human Rights Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, Poland. He is a law graduate from The University of Hamburg, and also holds a Master of Laws (LLM) from The University of Queensland. In 2003, he joined the Strategic & Defence Studies Centre at the ANU with a view to submitting a PhD on counterterrorism and human rights in 2006/7. Chris has also worked for the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York, the Asian Law Group/AusAID in Indonesia, and as an adviser to Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) in Canberra. He has published numerous articles in the field of human rights and counterterrorism both in the Australian print media and in various international academic journals.

**Please forward this invitation to anyone who may be interested. RSVP: europe@anu.edu.au
Enquiries: -T: 02 6125 9896 <http://www.anu.edu.au/NEC/>**

¹ The views expressed in this seminar are personal and not those of the OSCE.