

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

JUDITH KUMIN, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

Judith Kumin joined UNHCR in 1979. She has been UNHCR's Regional Representative in Brussels since August 2004. Previously she headed the agency's programs for orderly departure from Vietnam and for resettlement of Indochinese refugees, directed UNHCR's Information Service, and served as Representative in Yugoslavia, Germany and Canada. She has been Visiting Professor of Human Rights at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario and at the Pearson Peacekeeping Center in Nova Scotia. Ms. Kumin holds a PhD in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

LISBETH PILEGAARD, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Lisbeth Pilegaard is the Head of the Technical Support Section of the International Programme Department at the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Headquarters in Oslo. Her profile includes responsibility for new country operations within NRC, such as Syria. Ms. Pilegaard has more than 10 years working experience in emergency and refugee work for several NGOs as well as the Red Cross. Before assuming her current position Ms. Pilegaard was the Regional Resident Representative for NRC in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan for three years. Ms. Pilegaard has a degree in Rhetoric from the University of Copenhagen.

SHANNON MEEHAN, International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Shannon Meehan has spent more than 18 years working in conflict zones around the world. She is now the Director of Policy and Advocacy at the IRC in Belgium. Before recently joining the IRC European offices, Meehan was responsible for IRC's Africa priorities in Washington DC. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal from 1989 - 1991, Meehan went on to represent the American Refugee Committee International (ARC) in Guinea and later Kosovo, where she served as Country Director for three years. When she was a consultant for Refugees International and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Meehan conducted missions in Africa and the Middle East. Her humanitarian work was highlighted in the book, *Those Who Dare*, by Katherine Martin (2004). She is a graduate of the University of Oregon, 1998 with a BS in History and Economics.

CARSTEN JURGENSEN, Amnesty International (AI)

Carsten Jurgensen has more than 10 years' work experience as Researcher for Amnesty International on the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. He has conducted numerous research missions for Amnesty to the Middle East and North Africa, including recent missions to Jordan (March 2007) and Syria (June 2007) to investigate the Iraqi refugee crisis in the region. Mr Jurgensen's expertise is also based on more than 4 years living in different countries in the Middle East. He is a graduate of the Free University of Berlin (Islamic Studies) and the University on East London (LLM, International Legal Studies).