



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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Guest Lecture – International Humanitarian Law – 20th February 2014

On 20th February 2014, Mr. Ahmer, Soofi Bilal, Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan delivered a guest lecture on International Humanitarian Law and International Law between India and Pakistan to the LLM students of the Gujarat National Law University. The lecture was delivered through the medium of SKYPE.

Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi is Pakistan's former caretaker Federal Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights during the interim government in 2013. He is also the founding President of Research Society of International Law, which is the leading think tank of international law in Pakistan. He is also a Member United Nations Human Rights Committee Advisory Council (UNHRCAC) and has acted as an expert from Pakistan to provide country report that became a part of the International Committee on Red Cross Customary Study on international humanitarian law. He also supervised preparation of a ratification memo for the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) containing comparison of Pakistan's domestic legislation with the provisions of the ICCPR that formed the basis to ratify the ICCPR by the Government. More recently, he has advised the Government on the Child Rights Convention. He has also advised the Government on the legal aspects of the country report from Pakistan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

The lecture focused on how International Law plays a vital role in improving the bilateral relations between the two countries. He also analyzed the impact on Pakistan since it has signed the Torture Convention recently. He spoke about how Indian Jurisprudence has advanced in the field of IHL as opposed to Pakistani Jurisprudence. He spoke to the students on how international pressure can be applied to force countries to ratify conventions. Mr. Soofi was happy to answer all the questions posed by the students.

For more information, please contact Mr. Joshua N Aston, Assistant Prof. and ONGC Fellow in International Contracts on (Mobile) 8511188724 or jaston@gnlu.ac.in.