Interdisciplinary Program in Law and Religion
The Middle East Dialogue Program
PAST LECTURERS


**The International Criminal Court: Reflections of an Advocate**

**Wednesday, January 31**
**10 a.m.**

**Walter A Slowinski Courtroom**
**Columbus School of Law**
Prince Zeid is Jordan’s Ambassador (Appointed) to the United States and was previously the kingdom’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations; a post he held six and a half years (2000-2007). From 1996-2000, he was Jordan’s Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN, with the rank of Ambassador.

An expert in the field of international justice, Prince Zeid played a central role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court. He chaired, for example, over the course of two years, the complex, often pioneering, negotiations on the ‘elements’ of the individual offenses falling under the crimes of: Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes. Courts around the world now cite the definitions for ‘Crimes Against Humanity’, refined by the ‘elements’, as ‘authoritative’.

In September 2002, Prince Zeid was also elected the first president of the governing body of the International Criminal Court, at a time when the Court was only a plan on paper, with no officials or even an address to its name and, in three years, oversaw the Court’s growth into the institution it has now become.

He has also been active on other legal issues. He was the first of two UN ambassadors to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. And in the spring of 2004, he was chosen to be chairman of the ‘Panel of Experts for the UN Secretary-General’s Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice’, in the matter relating to the boundary dispute between Benin and Niger. Earlier that year, he was also appointed by his government as Jordan’s representative, and head of delegation, before the International Court of Justice in the matter relating to the wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Prince Zeid also served as a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia from February 1994 to February 1996, and, having worked intimately with peacekeeping issues for over the last decade, his knowledge of peacekeeping is extensive. Following allegations of widespread abuse being committed by UN peacekeepers in the summer of 2004, he was appointed as ‘Advisor to the Secretary-General on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.’ In the spring of 2005, he produced a report on this subject; praised subsequently by international civil society for having been ‘revolutionary’ in its approach. It provided, for the first time, a comprehensive strategy for the elimination of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in UN Peacekeeping Operations. The report was endorsed in full, by the 191 Heads of State and Government, in September 2005.

For the last three years, Prince Zeid also chaired the Consultative Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and led an effort to establish greater strategic direction for the Fund.

Prince Zeid holds a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from Cambridge (Christ’s College). In 1989, he also received his commission as an officer in the Jordanian desert police (the successor to the Arab Legion) and saw service with them until 1994.


Prince Zeid is a member of the Advisory Committee to the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation. He is married to Princess Sarah Zeid, and they have a son and a daughter.