

XENOS

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Goldsmiths

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

TERROR / TORTURE

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Tuesday 6 May 2008, 5.00pm, Room RHB 137

Richard Hoggart Building,

Goldsmiths, University of London

All welcome - email [Xenos@gold.ac.uk](mailto:xenos@gold.ac.uk) to confirm your attendance

How can we develop a radical universalist response to both halves of terror / torture, that is to both terrorism and counterterrorism? What would a "human rights account" of terrorism look like? What are the best arguments that can be made against justifications of torture in the context of the "war on terror"? How do instrumental justifications of torture bolster justifications of terrorism, and vice versa? Should we call terrorism by non-state actors a human rights violation? What are the implications of doing so, and of not doing so? In addition to its work to criticize state practices in the context of the "war on terror," does the human rights movement need to develop an analysis of and specific response to the phenomenon of transnational jihadist movements that engage in or advocate terrorism? What should the contours of any such analysis and response be?

Karima Bennoune is an Associate Professor at Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, USA where she teaches international law and human rights. Prior to beginning her academic career, she served as a legal adviser for Amnesty International's International Secretariat for four years, working on issues including torture and human rights in armed conflict. Recently, she served as a consultant in developing the organization's policy on human rights and terrorism. She was also an organizer of Amnesty International – USA's groundbreaking 2007 conference on terrorism and human rights. Bennoune has previously served on the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law (2003-2006) and is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Center for Constitutional Rights. In December 2006, she became the first Arab-American law professor to win the Derrick Bell Award from the Minority Groups Section of the American Association of Law Schools. Her scholarly writing has appeared in the American Journal of International Law, the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law, the European Journal of International Law and the Michigan Journal of International Law. "Terror/Torture," her most recent article, is forthcoming in the Berkeley Journal of International Law.

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