

THE *Alison J. Des Forges* MEMORIAL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

AN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

COVID-19: Human Rights and International Cooperation



COVID-19 first appeared in China and soon became a global pandemic, but the politics of East Asia have been relatively successful in containing it. Some African states adopted harsh measures to suppress the pathogen while others drew on experience with AIDS and Ebola to mount effective responses. Although a wealthy and technologically developed country, the U.S. has been notably ineffective in responding to the pandemic. This symposium will explore these contradictions and complexities. It will also discuss the decline in positive international cooperation, which puts all of humanity at risk, and will expose ways states are cooperating to exploit the pandemic to do harm.

Schedule of Events

8:30 WELCOMING REMARKS

8:45-10:45 CONTROLLING COVID-19 IN EAST ASIA

From Sick Man of Asia to Sick Uncle Sam

Marta Hanson, Associate Professor, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

One Country, Two Approaches in Responding to COVID-19: Mainland China and Hong Kong Compared

Chunyan Ding, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

History, Democracy, and Science in the Republic of Korea's Response to COVID-19

Juhwan Oh, Professor, College of Medicine/Hospital, Seoul National University

10:45-12:00 ROUNDTABLE -- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: WILL NATIONALISM AND SECURITIZATION ECLIPSE REAL GLOBAL SOLIDARITY?

Facilitator: Julia Hall, human rights lawyer and Expert on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, Amnesty International--International Secretariat, London

Opening Remarks: Global Solidarity versus Nationalism: Reflections on International Cooperation in the COVID-19 Response

Rajat Khosla, Senior Director, Research, Advocacy and Policy, Amnesty International--International Secretariat, London

Opening Remarks: Under the Cover of COVID-19: Securitization of the Pandemic Response at Global and National Levels

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Regents Professor, Law School, University of Minnesota; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12:00-1:00 LUNCH BREAK

1:00-3:00 PANDEMICS, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

COVAX, TRIPPS and AstraZeneca: Challenges Facing African Countries in Responding to COVID-19

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director, African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya

Public Health, Politics, and Human Rights in Sierra Leone: Encounters with an Ebola Epidemic (2013-2015) and a Coronavirus Pandemic (2020)

Tamba M'bayo, Associate Professor, Department of History, West Virginia University

Weaponizing COVID-19 as a Pretext for Human Rights Violations in Africa

Mausi Segun, Executive Director, Africa Division, Human Rights Watch

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FREE EVENT

**FRIDAY
APRIL 30, 2021**

8:30AM – 3PM

**REGISTER
FOR VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**

EMAIL DUSSOURD@BUFFALO.EDU

This symposium honors the life and work of human rights activist Alison Des Forges (1942-2009).

Find more event information at www.alisondesforges.org