

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION



Sixth Floor
1225 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20005-5937
(202) 626-3463
FAX (202) 626-3453

The District of Columbia Bar

Sections EventLine
(202) 626-3455

November 25, 1996

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INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION

PUBLIC STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RULE OF LAW

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The International Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar affirms its support for the Rule of Law in the international community and its recognition of the need for an independent judiciary and for the independence of lawyers in order to maintain internationally recognized standards of justice and the protection of human rights.

The Section is concerned about adverse treatment by national governments of lawyers who have represented politically controversial individuals or worked to protect human rights. Certain national governments reportedly have arrested, detained, or otherwise restrained such lawyers, in violation of international legal standards.

The International Law Section seeks to express its serious concern about and objection to such actions when they occur. The Section plans, based on credible information received from established human rights organizations or other reliable sources, to call upon governments reported to have engaged in such behavior, through letters to appropriate government officials, to take immediate remedial steps in accordance with internationally accepted human rights norms and recognition of the Rule of Law.

The views expressed herein represent only those of the International Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors.