

**Launch of the Report of the  
Independent International Panel on Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations**

**Side Event - International Law Week 2025  
28 October 2025, 13:15 – 14:30 EDT  
Conference Room 6, UN Headquarters**

**Co-organized by:** Antigua and Barbuda, Canada

**Co-sponsors:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands

Arbitrary detention in State-to-State relations - a practice in which States arbitrarily detain foreign nationals to exercise leverage over another State - has emerged as a topic of growing global interest, with increasing numbers of individuals and countries affected.

The consequences extend beyond borders - human lives are disrupted, trust between States is eroded, and global security and trade are undermined. As this practice continues to threaten international laws and inter-State relations, the need for a coordinated global response has never been more urgent.

This side event marks the **global launch of the *Report of the Independent International Panel on Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations*** - the first comprehensive legal study of this practice. Established in January 2024, and comprising six eminent jurists from diverse legal and regional backgrounds, the Panel has conducted a rigorous examination of this issue through the lens of international law. This event will highlight the Panel's **legal analysis and findings**; its **recommendations for States and international organisations**; and provide a platform for dialogue on **coordinated legal and policy responses**.

The Panel's practical recommendations offer a timely and authoritative foundation for coordinated global action rooted in multilateralism and international law.

**Opening Remarks:** Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States

**Speakers:**

- Survivor testimonies (video compilation)
- Dr. Marja Lehto, Vice-Chair of the Independent International Panel on Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations
- Dr. Jean-Michel Arrighi, Secretary of Legal Affairs, Organisation of American States
- Dr. Elina Šteinerte, Vice Chair of NPMs, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

**Closing Remarks:** Dr. Alice Jill Edwards, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment