



M. Cherif BASSIOUNI (1989 – 2004)

President M. Cherif Bassiouni was born in 1937 in Cairo (Egypt).

He received his legal training in Egypt, France, Switzerland and the United States of America. In the latter country, he developed the essential part of his university career, as Professor since 1964 at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, where he was also nominated as “Distinguished Research Professor of Law Emeritus”. Within this University, he founded the International Human Rights Law Institute.

He has received innumerable awards, such as Doctor Honoris Causa degrees and numerous other awards.

The performance of his duties within the International Association of Penal Law has been exceptionally intense and it has led to important achievements. He was appointed as Associate Secretary General in 1972 and Secretary General from 1974 to 1989. He was elected as President at the International Congress of Vienna (1989), and he served three terms as President, until he was appointed as Honorary President at the Congress of Beijing in 2004.

President M. C. Bassiouni’s role in the foundation, development and direction of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISIS) of Siracusa (Italy) has been fundamental. Named Dean of the Institute in 1976, after two years as Secretary General, in 1988 he succeeded President Pierre Bouzat as President, and he played that role until his nomination as Honorary President in 2015.

His high specialization and significant expertise in the field of International Criminal Law, illustrated by a plentiful scientific production, has led him towards the highest duties as expert of the United Nations. Among these, the following must be underlined: the presidency of the Independent Commission of Inquiry for the crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia (1992), of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Libya (2011) and Bahrain (2011).

Among the various awards and honors he has obtained (see the links *infra*), the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 must be pointed out.

President M. C. Bassiouni’s name is linked in a special way to the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which he eagerly supported. His decisive role when redacting the Statute of the Court was seen at the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of the ICC (Rome, Italy, 1998), where he intervened as President of the Drafting Committee.

Prof. Bassiouni passed away on Monday, 25 September 2017 in Chicago, at the age of 79.

References:

- Links:
 - <http://www.law.depaul.edu/facultystaff/facultyinformation.asp?id=22>
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MCherifBassiouni>
 - <http://untreaty.un.org/cod/aul/pdf/ls/Bassiouni.bio.pdf>
- See also
 - M.F.H.Hirsch Ballin, 'In memoriam Cherif Bassiouni', *Nederlands Juristenblad* 2017, 1983 (http://www.penal.org/sites/default/files/files/NJB37_IM_Cherif_Bassiouni.pdf)
 - M.Pisani, Ricordo di Cherif Bassiouni (1937-2017), *Riv. italiana di dir. e procedura penale*, 2017 (<http://www.penal.org/sites/default/files/files/RICORDO%20DI%20CHERIF%20BASSIOUNI.pdf>)
 - Marlise Simons, M. Cherif Bassiouni, War-Crimes Jurist and Human Rights Champion, Is Dead at 79. *New York Times*, October 4, 2017 (<http://www.penal.org/sites/default/files/files/MCB%20NYT%204%20oct%202017.pdf>)
- *M. Cherif Bassiouni (1937-2017). Cherif 's Friends. In Memoriam*, J.L. de la Cuesta / R. Ottenhof / J.F. Thony (eds.), Siracusa, 23 September 2018 (<http://www.penal.org/sites/default/files/files/M%20Bassiouni%20souvenirs.pdf>)