

Subject: Berger International Speaker Series with Sasha Filippova and Kristina Fried – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers in Haiti: Legal, Policy, and Moral Failings of the International System

Please join us on Tuesday, 02/28/2023 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in Room 184 - Landis Auditorium - Myron Taylor Hall for a lunchtime seminar given by our guests Sasha Filippova and Kristina Fried of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH). The seminar will be moderated by Professor Kathleen Bergin.

Lunch will be provided during the event, so don't forget to RSVP!

RSVP here

Please fill out the following short form:

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJZDmWIAFTlgxHo

Can't make it to our event in-person? You can attend virtually!

We are also livestreaming the event, so you can sign up to attend the Zoom Webinar at this link:

https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eOQeZpx2Q-Se6DNK1D1tWw

Please feel free to distribute the link to anyone you feel would be interested in the seminar. All are welcome!

The Seminar:

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers in Haiti: Legal, Policy, and Moral Failings of the International System

Even as peacekeeping by the United Nations and international humanitarian assistance reflect some of our best human rights values, they can result in grave harms where the relevant actors fail to account for existing structural power imbalances and to treat affected populations as rights holders. In Haiti, UN peacekeepers and other humanitarian actors have been responsible for human rights abuses, including widespread sexual exploitation and abuse of Haitian women and girls that resulted in hundreds of fatherless children. Instead of supporting survivors in seeking justice and restitution, including by facilitating parental contributions, the UN system at best abandons victims to seek redress on their own through byzantine transnational legal mechanisms. At worst, it actively impedes accountability. In this presentation, we will explore the dynamics underlying sexual exploitation and abuse, especially by international actors, in Haiti; examine the failures of the UN system to offer accountability for victims; and discuss what needs to change.

About our Distinguished Guests:

Alexandra "Sasha" Filippova is a Senior Staff Attorney with IJDH, focusing primarily on achieving accountability for human rights violations; advancing gender justice, including by addressing sexual and gender-based violence; and promoting democracy and Haitian self-determination. Sasha started her legal career as an associate at Shearman & Sterling LLP, where her practice included international dispute resolution, public international law, and human rights. While there, she served as one of the lead counsel in a successful lawsuit against the Syrian government for its extrajudicial killing of war correspondent Marie Colvin and advised clients on a variety of legal and policy matters, including interstate territorial disputes and UN Security Council reform. Prior to joining IJDH, Sasha served as a

Senior Legal Fellow with the Center for Justice and Accountability, where she worked on litigating a crimes against humanity claim; and as a Legal Advisor and Fellow with the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative, where she focused on confronting gender-based violence and promoting women's empowerment around the globe.

Kristina Fried is a lawyer and Bertha Justice Fellow with IJDH. Prior to joining IJDH, Kristina was a Legal Fellow with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, DC, where she worked with stateless persons on administrative and legislative advocacy and intervened on individual stateless and refugee cases. She also interned with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, where she worked on strategic litigation and advocacy concerning violent push-backs of migrants at Europe's external borders, and with the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, where she represented a victim of gender- and gang-based violence in their asylum claims. Kristina holds a B.A. from the University of Melbourne in Islamic Studies and Arabic and is a 2020 graduate of Boston University School of Law, where she specialized in international human rights law.

How to Get Here:

From the Myron Taylor Hall Main Entrance - Upon entering Myron Taylor Hall, turn right and descend the staircase. Turn right at the bottom of the staircase and walk into the Gallery (the red-carpeted hall). Room 184 will be on your right.