

*“In the World of the Survivor”*  
*International Day Against Torture 2012 Series*

## Behavioural Science Evidence and the Courts: Providing Support to Victims of Torture in the Courtroom and Beyond

Thursday, 21 June 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Theatre 1, Meng Wah Complex  
The University of Hong Kong

In this lecture, Dr. Rajat Mitra will share his journey as a psychologist in providing support to survivors of atrocities and his experiences in testifying in courts on torture issues on behalf of survivors. He will share the challenges faced in the courtroom over the issues of veracity of narratives by survivors, the implications of traumatic memory, and the difficulties posed in discriminating between recall and reconstruction. He will also provide a personal assessment of possible future developments in the admission of behavioral science evidence in the courts in relation to victims of torture. The seminar will be followed by an audience question and answer session.



**Dr. Rajat Mitra, India** is a clinical psychologist by profession, with 20 years of experience as a psychologist working with the criminal justice system in the Indian subcontinent. Much of this time was spent working in the prisons and the police system. This he did in several capacities, being asked to help in the interrogations of complex cases and testifying in court on behalf of survivors of torture. He has also supported torture survivors through counseling, assisting them to come forward and register their cases. He has testified in over a hundred cases involving all types of heinous crimes including homicide, rape, child abuse, terrorism and torture of suspects. As a psychologist he has worked with the criminal justice system to prevent the use of torture through use of psychological methods to investigate offenses. He has taught investigative methods to the police, the judiciary in India, Sweden and several European countries.



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