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Foreword

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The Buffalo Human Rights Law Review is honored to present its Volume 11 for 2005. We hope that the words contained in this publication will inspire continued study and exploration into the world of human rights.

This edition of the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review contains a number of writings that pertain to many distinct human rights issues. The first article is by Professor Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, and delves into a detailed discussion of the historical and political issues which melded together to create the atmosphere responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks. Professor Mohamedou argues that the attacks should not be viewed in isolation, but rather as a result of the tensions that had characterized the years leading up to them. The second article, by Jan Arno Hessbruegge, focuses on the way that the conduct of seemingly “private” actors gives rise to human rights violations. Specifically, he discusses the ways that direct human rights obligations are emerging in customary international law for armed groups governing territory, and for non-state actors that become complicit in human rights violations of states.

The third and fourth articles deal with the aftermath of human rights atrocities, and the way that the international legal community has responded to them. In her article, Lisa Danish traces the progress of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the rule of hybrid international criminal courts in general. Additionally, the relative advantages of a hybrid, in-country international tribunal are weighed against those of the permanent International Criminal Court at The Hague. In the fourth article, Allison T.C. Milne discusses the prosecution of gender-specific crimes arising out of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She specifically evaluates seminal cases from the Court, showing the development of jurisprudence regarding sexual violence, noting the prosecutorial improvements that must still be made.

The first book review, by D. Christopher Decker, is of Minority Rights in Europe by Patrick Thornberry and María Amor Martín Estébanez. This book looks at the different mechanisms and institutions used to protect minority rights in Europe. The second book review, by Bryn D. Powell, is of Torture: A Collection, edited by Sanford Levinson. This collection of essays examines different perspectives on the philosophical, historical, and legal justifications for state-sponsored torture.

It was a great pleasure working with such wonderful Editorial Boards and staff in producing this volume. We would especially like to thank Professor Makau Mutua for his continued encouragement and guidance, and also the Deans of the University at Buffalo for their constant support. Also, we would like to thank the readers of this journal for their interest in human rights, and, as always, we would welcome your criticism and thoughts regarding this volume. We encourage and look forward to receiving submissions concerning human rights issues and their corresponding legal contexts.