

LECTURE SERIES ON PIRACY TRIALS IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

SPEAKER: ANTHONY F. T. FERNANDO, JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, SEYCHELLES

The **Security Institute for Governance and Leadership (SIGLA @ Stellenbosch)** is a research institute of Stellenbosch University located with the Faculty of Military Science, Saldanha Campus. SIGLA houses a maritime research leg that offers knowledge outputs in the field of maritime security governance with a focus on curbing maritime crime in African waters.

Good order at sea requires that transgressions must be criminalized and culminate in court proceedings where the accused are convicted and sentenced, or released. The Western Indian Ocean offers a model where the often neglected procedures of conviction and sentencing of piracy suspects came full circle and culminated in piracy trials in the Seychelles. The latter trials over time set in place the desired building blocks to address serious threats from criminal syndicates upsetting maritime security in large areas of the Western Indian Ocean.

Seychelles hosts a dedicated piracy court system that operates with international support to address sea piracy in the Western Indian Ocean. Anthony F.T. Fernando, Justice of the Seychelles Court of Appeal heard most of the appeals stemming from the piracy trials referred to the Seychelles. In this regard his knowledge of piracy trials, reviews and appeals represent a unique hub of knowledge on the legal procedures established for and eventually updated and applied in trying suspected pirates. In this vein, the judge agreed to visit South Africa on the invitation of SIGLA.

SIGLA plans to bring Appeals Judge Fernando to South Africa for a brief lecture series held in Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Saldanha. In pursuit of this endeavor, SIGLA must partner with selected maritime, naval and educational institutions to set up a speaker's programme, and solicit in kind support and funding commitments to cover the visit that is planned for one week towards the last four months of 2018. The broad outline for the visit comprises a set of three lecturing opportunities tied to academic and practitioner audiences, a sponsored publication of the lectures for public distribution and two social functions for interested parties to host the visiting speaker.

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