

## **Mr. Mario L. Coriolano** (Reference to A/HRC/21/17)

(Nominated by the Government of Argentina)

Mr Mario L. Coriolano is an Argentinian lawyer graduated from the National University of La Plata (UNLP). He also holds a degree as specialist in Penal Law and Criminology from the same university. Currently, he is an ordinary associate professor in the Chair of Procedural Law I at the School of Law and Social studies of the UNLP, position obtained through an open competitive exam.

The candidate has wide experience in the academic, judicial and cultural fields, most notably through his advocacy work against torture and other degrading conditions of detention, to name only the most relevant issue concerning human rights in the province of Buenos Aires.

In 2006, he has been appointed member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, created in the light of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture UN office obtained through a national and international selection process.

He was appointed by the Subcommittee to integrate a working group with the Committee against Torture in order to facilitate communication and coordinated action between the two bodies.

Also, he was appointed by the Subcommittee to write a paper analysing the national preventive mechanisms of different regions. The subcommittee will rely on this paper to study the measures to be taken to assist States to implement the guidelines. He was elected focal point with the National Preventive Mechanism of Mexico. He was part of the first international mission of the Subcommittee to Mauritius, Africa. He participated on behalf of the Subcommittee in Washington DC, USA, at a public hearing convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the prevention of torture to establish guidelines for coordinated work between the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommittee.

Finally, as a member of the Subcommittee, spoke at different events to promote the implementation of the national preventive mechanisms (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru.)

He has headed the Office of Public Defenders before the Highest Criminal Court of the province of Buenos Aires since 1998. He obtained this position through an open competitive exam presided by the Council of Magistrates.

His work with the Police and Penitentiary Service personnel has allowed him to gain a sound experience concerning the design and implementation of public policies related to imprisonment issues and to the mechanisms for the supervision and visits to detention facilities. He has used this experience with a view to improving the aforementioned institutions.

Along the same line of work, he created and started-up the areas of the execution of Public Defense devoted to the attention of detainees and to the visits to places of detention, activities carried out by specialized lawyers, with the aim of protecting the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

He has also created a database where torture cases and other occurrences involving cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the province of Buenos Aires are recorded. Various local, national and international institutions concerned with the protection of human rights ("Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales" – CELS-; Amnesty International, Center for Justice and International Law –CEJIL- and the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, among others) have used this database. Furthermore, he promoted the creation of a comprehensive programme for

processing information on harassment to defenders and adulteration of evidence. He has successfully developed and implemented an “Interdisciplinary Training Programme for Visits to Incarceration Facilities” whose aim is to improve the mechanisms of regular, unscheduled visits to detention facilities by providing specialized training to various state and civil sectors nationwide. The aforementioned programme is guided by the principles laid down in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Protocol. It is sponsored by the Swiss Embassy and supported by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

Mr Coriolano’s wide experience as proved by the projects he has been involved in and by his current position, have enabled him to render his views on the issue of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in countless presentations at national and international events as shown by his participation in United States of America (2008); Brazil (2007- 2006, 2005, 2001); Bolivia (2007); Perú (2007); Colombia (2006); Mexico (2006, 2005); Argentina (2007- 2005); Paraguay (2007- 2005, 2002); Uruguay (2004); Ecuador (2003); Canada (2003); Costa Rica (2002, 1999, 1998); Chile (2001); Guatemala (2001). He has also been the author of various publications related to his field of work.

He is the founder and current head of “Centro de Estudios para la Defensa Pública”, an organization providing training and opportunities for the public discussion of Justice and human rights- related issues.

He is also a co-founder and member of the “Asociación de Defensores por los Derechos Humanos” and “Foro para la Justicia Democrática”, non profit- making civil associations composed by judges, prosecutors and defenders, whose purpose is to offer a pluralist approach to the discussion needed for the consolidation of the democratic Rule of the Law and the protection of human rights.

He has been appointed as the liaison official between the Province of Buenos Aires and the National Programme against Impunity, a joint effort against flagrant violations to human rights undertaken by state-run, non-governmental and civil organizations at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

He has served as advisor to the “Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos” (IIDH), San José de Costa Rica and currently holds a fellowship from the Government of Canada.