



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Errol P. Mendes

**Redefining State Sovereignty:
Historical Flaws & Contemporary Crises**

DATE: Tuesday April 29, 2014

TIME: 12:00 noon (sharp)

PLACE: Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311- 313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa

COST: \$30 for luncheon and presentation

\$5 for presentation only

(For presentation only, please plan to arrive by 12:45 p.m. Coffee and tea will be available.)

RESERVATIONS: group78@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday April 25, 2014

We regret that late registrations cannot be accepted.

The group is required to pay for those who reserve but do not come.

Therefore, individuals who do not cancel their reservations at least 24 hours before the luncheon will be billed \$30.

Today's crises – including is Syria and the Ukraine – raise profound questions for international peace and security, human rights, and global governance. The international community, and notably the United Nations, has not been able to prevent mass atrocities in various theatres. How actors, state and non-state, intervene and respond reflects their views of the concept of state sovereignty – is it absolute, how is it qualified, what does it mean for cooperation and conflict resolution? Errol Mendes addresses these questions in his latest book about international law, "Combating the Tragic Flaw". Drawing on his research, Prof. Mendes will examine how the insistence on absolute conceptions of state sovereignty are pitted against universally accepted principles of justice and human rights resulting in destructive self-interest for both the state and the global community. He will trace the origins of state supremacy to its modern application in contemporary crises and will advocate the development of new strategies for negotiating between conflicting leadership and organizational values within global institutions.

Professor Mendes is a lawyer, author, professor and has been an advisor to corporations, governments, civil society groups and the United Nations where he assisted in the development of the UN Global Compact. He has acted as a human rights Tribunal and Boards of Inquiry adjudicator in Canada, acted as an international arbitrator on several occasions, served in the highest levels of the Canadian federal public service in the Privy Council Office of the Government of Canada and most recently served as a Visiting Professional at the International Criminal Court. He was recently appointed as a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School for the fall of 2013. His areas of expertise include private and public sector governance and social responsibility, international law, constitutional law and human rights law and policy. He has taught in these areas at law schools across Canada and is presently a full professor of Law at the University of Ottawa in the nation's capital. He has been a Project Leader for conflict resolution, governance and justice projects in China, Thailand, Brazil and Sri Lanka. He has lectured and given media commentaries in his areas of expertise across Canada and the world and has lectured on these topics in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America. He is the author, co-author or editor of six books in his area of expertise. His most recent is titled "Global Governance, Human Rights and International Law, Combating the Tragic Flaw" published by Routledge, New York and London.

Born in Kenya, East Africa, Professor Mendes obtained his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Exeter, England, where he ranked first in his graduating class. He obtained his Master of Laws degree from the University of Illinois in the United States. He became a Barrister and Solicitor in Ontario, Canada in 1986.