WCCHR January 2017



# The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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#### **Statistics**

We have conducted **331** evaluations for **286** clients from **59** countries.

We have trained **504** medical students to evaluate clients for signs of physical and psychological trauma.

#### **Upcoming Events**

### Winter Asylum Evaluation Training

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 AM – 1:30 PM

Weill Auditorium 1300 York Ave.

#### WCCHR Student Board Meets NYC Immigration Judge Noel Brennan



Photo credit: Rachel Rosenthal

On Wednesday, January 18th, the members of WCCHR's Student Board enjoyed dinner and conversation with Judge Noel Brennan, a New York City Immigration Judge who presides over asylum cases. As Events and Advocacy Coordinator Karina Ruiz-Esteves remarked, this educational event "helped us see the other side of the asylum and immigration process. It was invaluable to learn how immigration court is different from other courts, and to discuss what factors influence a judge's decision to grant asylum. Knowing that she shares some of our same concerns really motivates us to keep doing our work. Her enthusiasm and commitment to justice is contagious." Judge Brennan also underlined the importance of quality legal representation for immigrants. As students committed to advocating for human rights, we are deeply grateful to Judge Brennan for generously sharing her time and insight with us.

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#### MoMA Exhibit Addresses Global Displacement and Human Rights

On display at the MoMA through January 22, Insecurities: Tracing Displacement and Shelter explores the intersection between architecture and design and the global refugee crisis. The installation features work by several artists, designers, and architects that responds to the hard questions



Photo credit: Lynne Rosenburg

surrounding life as a refugee. Pieces in the collection range from contemplations of the sense of "unbelonging" felt by displaced people to explorations of refugee camps that exist in the limbo between permanent and temporary.

WCCHR evaluators work with individuals who, for myriad reasons, have left their home countries in search of safer futures in America. We are honored to hear their stories. Our work, however, occurs largely on an individual level. We encourage our volunteers and supporters to check out this exhibit, before it closes, to see a beautiful exploration of the large-scale effects of the world's refugee crisis.

#### In the News

#### Nigerian Jet Mistakenly Bombs Refugee Camp, Killing Scores

#### -NY Times, January 17, 2017

"This large-scale attack on vulnerable people who have already fled from extreme violence is shocking and unacceptable," said Dr. Jean-Clément Cabrol, the director of operations for Doctors Without Borders. "The safety of civilians must be respected. We are urgently calling on all parties to ensure the facilitation of medical evacuations by air or road for survivors who are in need of emergency care."



Photo credit: Doctors Without Borders, NYTimes.com

*Link to interactive article:* http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/30/us/syrian-refugees-in-the-united-states.html

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### Spotlight on...

## Andrew Milewski, MD-PhD

Andrew Milewski is an MD-PhD candidate at the Tri-Institutional Weill Cornell/Sloan-Kettering/Rockefeller MSTP. He received his BS in Chemistry and Physics from Harvard University, graduating Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors. Currently he is studying biophysical aspects of hearing in Jim Hudspeth's laboratory at the Rockefeller University. During his undergraduate training, Andrew taught English and mathematics in Tanzania and cared for disabled children in Peru. His passions include teaching in the physical sciences and fighting for social justice. Andrew has been an active member in the WCCHR community by volunteering as a student evaluator, working as a case scheduler, and serving as the former Director of Clinical Operations before entering his current role Co-Executive Director.





## Zahra Mehdi Malik, MD

Dr. Zahra Mehdi Malik was born in the Middle East and grew up surrounded by an array of cultures. She completed her anesthesiology residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has participated in voluntary medical work in Tanzania and the Dominican Republic throughout her training. She currently serves as an instructor at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City and specializes in cardiothoracic anesthesiology.



