

Dedication – Ern Nian Yaw

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the publication of our very first edition following the tragic news of Ern Nian's passing. Ern Nian was one of the Journal's Editors-in-Chief and contributed greatly to its formation and publication. Ern Nian first studied at Aberystwyth in 2012 as he completed his last year of study towards an LLB. He returned in 2013 as a master's student, enrolling on the Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Masters programme.

Ern Nian's passion for human rights and international law was clear to all who met him, and is available for you to see also in his paper *The Use of Nuclear Weapons: An International Humanitarian Law Perspective*, available to read on page 10 His passion was not however without direction and Ern Nian was very much a focused individual. In June this year he returned to his native Malaysia where he planned to finish his dissertation and to take up a placement with the United Nations Human Rights Commission. His commitment and ability were evident even on the day of his death when he managed to secure the release of forty refugees from a detention centre in Malacca. In the words of Professor John Williams, Head of the Department of Law and Criminology at Aberystwyth University, "*Ern was destined to be a great campaigner for human rights. He would have made a difference – he would have worked to shape a fairer and more just society.*"

He brought that same drive and ability to the Journal and was constantly striving to help ensure this first edition was as strong as possible. Ern Nian's contribution to this first edition was a great one, playing a key role in the early stages of planning, ensuring we kept on target and being very thorough when undertaking his editorial duties. For all of this I and all within the Journal would like to state on record our gratitude for his work.

It is mainly through working together to produce this first edition that I have come to know Ern Nian. When I first met Ern Nian it was immediately evident that he was not only a very capable individual, but also a very happy and warm one. He took a genuine interest in those around him and was also more than happy to help out. Beyond this bubbly and caring exterior however lurked a steely determination which became evident in his activities in the Journal and beyond. His work ethic and organisational ability were outstanding.

For all of these reasons and more we are extremely proud to announce that this first edition is to be published in Ern Nian's honour. It is our hope that its content can inspire others in the way he has inspired us.

Andy Hall

Managing Editor

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