

Human Dignity in Times of Emergency

A public lecture by

Prof. Dr. Dieter Grimm

Rector, Institute of Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany

Member, Global Law Faculty, New York University

Former Judge, German Constitutional Court

Monday, 17th April'06; Time: 4:00 pm

Venue: Faculty Hall, IISc

Prof. P. Balaram, Director, IISc will preside

Tea/Coffee will be served at 3:30 pm

All are cordially invited by the

Centre for Contemporary Studies

URL: <http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/Welcome.html>

□ The constitutional order of post-war Germany is based on the principle of human dignity. Many recent constitutions all over the world followed this example. Different from fundamental rights, which can be limited by law, human dignity is regarded as an absolute principle. In the current situation of terrorism and emergency some authors and state authorities in various countries began to question the absolute protection of human dignity. The lecture will explain the meaning of dignity and comment on some of the doubts raised, e.g.: Are there situations in which torture may be permitted? Is it compatible with the principle of dignity to kill a number of people (for instance passengers in a plane captured by terrorists) in order to save an even greater number from being killed?

□ Dieter Grimm is Professor of Public Law at Humboldt University in Berlin and at Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, USA, and Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study). From 1987 to 1999 he served as a Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany. He is a member of the Academia Europaea, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.