



Professor Pierre-Michel Fontaine, Ph.D.
Chief of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo & Senior Advisor, Special Representative for Rwanda, UN Commission on Human Rights

Pierre-Michel Fontaine is Chief of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Rwanda of the UN Commission of Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. He has also served as the Principal Officer, Division of International Protection at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva and as UNHCR's regional representative in various parts of the world. He received his Ph. D. (International Relations) Graduate School of International Studies University of Denver in Denver, Colorado. Professor Fontaine has been a member of numerous organizations which include: American Society of International Law, Georgia Political Science Association (Member, Editorial Board, Georgia Political, Science Association Journal, 1973-1975), USA, International Studies association (Founding member, International Political Economy Group; member, Task Force on Structures, Functions and Programs, 1976-1977), and Latin American Studies Association, USA.

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Status:

Chief of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo & Senior Advisor, Special Representative for Rwanda, UN Commission on Human Rights

Previous Appointments:

At present Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Rwanda of the UN Commission of Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland

Advise the Special Representative, undertake missions of consultation with national and international officials and civil society in Rwanda, and assist in the preparation of the Special Representative's report to the UN General Assembly.

2-6, 8-12/99 Programme Manager, International Peace, Security, United Nations Staff College, Turin, Italy

Developed and implemented a programme for peace and conflict resolution training for UN system staff in selected African countries.

Did extensive networking with UN and non-UN organisations involved in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Africa and elsewhere

Laid extensive basis for fundraising with donor governments, international organisations and private institutions.

12/98-01/99 Senior Advisor to the Special Representative on Rwanda of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland.

Advised the Special Representative, carried out missions of consultation with national and international officials in Rwanda, and prepared reports in pursuance of his mandate.

11/97-06/98 Consultant to the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies, Geneva

Co-ordinated relations with UNHCR and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC).

Organised and co-ordinated AALCC Meeting of Experts on Refugee Issues, Tehran, Iran, 11-12 March 1998.

06/97- 11/97 Other short-term assignments: Webster University, Geneva (Conference on refugee protection in complex emergencies); the United Nations University, Tokyo (Workshop on ethics and world affairs, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva); the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy (Refugee law course).

1983-1997 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

1995-1997 Principal Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Advised the Director of International Protection and undertook special assignments at his request, on matters relating to the promotion of protection and refugee law, in particular with respect to the development of soft law and to accession to the refugee and statelessness conventions.

Promoted cooperation with LAWASIA (Law Association for Asia and the Pacific), AALCC (Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee), other international organisations, foundations, and universities and other institutions of higher learning and research.

Successfully lobbied officials in China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, and representatives of other governments of Asia and of Africa in support of a positive AALCC resolution on the status and treatment of refugees in Africa and Asia.

1993-1995 Regional Representative for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, UNHCR Canberra, Australia

Represented the High Commissioner in 14 countries, ensuring the protection of refugees, permanent solutions to their problems, public information on the refugee issue, fundraising and relations with NGOs; administering and supervising the international and national staff of both the Regional Office in Canberra and its subsidiary office in Sydney.

Raised UNHCR's profile and the salience of refugee issues with all concerned in government and civil society in these respective countries.

Effectively contributed to Parliamentary inquiries and legislative activities related to refugees and asylum-seekers in Australia, and to government reviews of asylum and resettlement policies and practices in New Zealand.

Set up a successful internship program for Australasian law students and graduates and government legal officers of South Pacific countries.

Trained large numbers of asylum decision-makers and appellate bodies members, as well as NGO officials, in Australia and New Zealand.

Achieved outstanding success in fundraising in Australia: government contribution was roughly doubled; contribution from our NGO fundraising partner was quadrupled; the corporate sector was tapped for the first time and contributed US\$ 150,000 in the first year. In New Zealand, extra contribution came from the Overseas Development Agency in 1995.

Initiated and sustained an effective dialogue with NGOs and other advocacy groups at national and regional levels; and in particular, made possible the launching of such a dialogue between government and NGOs in New Zealand.

Persuaded two countries (Solomon Islands and Western Samoa) to accede to the refugee conventions and two more to start the process.

4-5/1993 Interim Representative in Algeria, UNHCR Algiers, Algeria

Normal representation, protection, assistance, administrative and supervisory activities of a Representative for refugee caseloads made up primarily of Tuaregs, Moors and Peuls from northern Mali and northern Niger, and of refugees from Western Sahara.

Supervised the initiation of assistance to Malian and Niger refugees in southern Algeria and preparation for voluntary repatriation to Mali.

Facilitated dialogue between the Algerian government, Mali representatives in Algeria, and the

Mali refugees regarding the implementation of the accords to end the war in Mali.

1992 -1993 First Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

In charge of a project to enhance UNHCR's policy research capacity.
Did the preliminary work on developing UNHCR's policy research..

1990-1992 Chief of Mission in China, UNHCR Beijing, China

Representing the High Commissioner in China, ensuring the protection of refugees in that country and seeking durable solutions to their problems, and the management and supervision of the Office in China..

Sensitized government officials on refugee law and protection issues, including with the first major refugee law seminar in China (Ford Foundation-funded).

Persuaded government to undertake the drafting of refugee legislation and the setting up of mechanisms to consider asylum claims.

Persuaded government to establish an inter-ministerial committee on Non-Indochinese refugees as UNHCR's interlocutor on the subject.

Launched a voluntary repatriation programme for thousands of Lao refugees from Yunnan Province, with full cooperation of both countries.

Persuaded government to solve various problems in the assistance programme for 285,000 refugees in China, including an unprecedented and successful law suit by provincial authorities to annul the contract of a rogue project manager.

1987-1990 Head, Promotion of Refugee Law Unit, Division of Refugee Law and Doctrine, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland:

Launched and carried out for the first time a systematic program of protection and refugee law training worldwide for UNHCR and NGO staff and government officials.

Played a major role in planning and implementing the training of Hong Kong and Southeast Asian officials in refugee status determination under the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action on Indochinese Refugees (CPA).

1986-1987 Senior Legal Officer/Refugee Law Training Focal Point, Promotion of Refugee Law Unit, UNHCR Headquarters:

Prepared a plan for the systematic training of UNHCR, NGO and government officials in protection and refugee law and persuaded the Office to support it. It was launched and carried out as per above, in close collaboration with UNHCR's Training Section.

Promoted refugee law worldwide, with special emphasis on Asia/Pacific.

1984-1986 Assistant Representative (Legal) in Thailand, UNHCR Bangkok, Thailand:

Responsible for all matters relating to the protection of refugees in Thailand; managing and supervising the Legal Section in Thailand, which included the Core Unit, the Anti-Piracy Unit, the Non-Indochinese Team, and the Laotian Screening Team; advising the Representative and Deputy Representative on refugee protection matters; and supervising the protection performance of Field Offices in refugee camps in Thailand.

Provided leadership and cohesiveness to the protection team during a period of transition and growth, for more effective refugee protection.

1983-1984 Chief, Legal Section in Thailand, UNHCR Bangkok, Thailand

Same responsibilities as in 1984-1986, but with a smaller, less complex section and fewer staff.

1962-1983 Academic Work Experience

1982-1983 Visiting Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Carried on research on law and society in Brazil.

1977-1983 Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

Responsible for teaching, research, students' advising and research supervision, and work on committees.

Revitalized interest in the study of international organization.

1977-1983 Research Associate, Center for Afro-American Studies, UCLA

Provided leadership in giving an international and comparative perspective to the work of the Centre, emphasizing in particular the political economy of race and class.

Raised funds and organized major international research conferences.

1976-1977 Visiting Associate Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Encouraged the systematic study of the multinational corporation as an actor in the political economy of Africa and other developing areas.

Promoted the comparative study of sectors of the African diaspora.

1974-1976 Research Associate, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Pursued research on race, transnational relations and the multinational corporation.

1972-1976 Lecturer, Afro-American Studies Department, Harvard University

Stimulated interest in the study and research of race, class, and political economy in the Caribbean and Latin America, and of Caribbean migration.

1972-1974 Professor (Ford Foundation-funded), Department of Political Science, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia

Provided strong teaching and research leadership in international, comparative and area studies in political science.

1968-1972 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Promoted interest in the study of the politics of race, and research on international migration.

Promoted the academic interests of minority and foreign students.

1964-1968 Instructor, Department of Political Science, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Introduced and carried the study of international politics, international organization, and Latin American politics and government.

1962-1963 Teaching Intern, Department of International Relations, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado

Publications: Lectures & Panel Contributions:

1991-1999 Conducted refugee law and policy seminars and gave papers and lectures in Australia (University of New South Wales; Sydney University; Monash University; Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra; Royal Australian Air Force Warfare Center, Williamstown, NSW; the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs; the Refugee Review Tribunal, Sydney and Melbourne; the International Commission of Jurists [NSW Branch], Sydney; the International Bar Association Conference, Melbourne, 1994; the 8th International Symposium on Victimology, Adelaide, 1994; the 3rd National Immigration Outlook Conference, Adelaide, 1995; the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, 1993, 1994, 1995; served as Judge in Jessup

International Law Moot Court Competition, High Court of Australia, Canberra, to select the Australian Team, which went on to win First Prize at the world competition in Washington, D.C., 1994), Canada (Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, 18 September 1997), China (Beijing, 1991, with funds provided by the Ford Foundation; Jinghong, Yunnan Province, 1992), Fiji (Department of Sociology, University of the Pacific), Haiti (in French and Creole, UNHCR, Port-au-Prince, 12-13 July 1995), Hong Kong (Immigration Service, 1991, 1992), India (Refresher Course on Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and Refugee Law for Senior Law Professors, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 17-23 February 1997), Indonesia (2 seminars, including one on refugee law and law enforcement, Batam, 1991), Italy (in French and in English, 12th Refugee Law Course, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, 4-9 November 1996; in English, 13th Refugee Law Course, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, 4-8 November 1997; in English on refugee emergencies, Induction and Orientation for Young Italian Professionals, UN Staff College, Turin, 6-17 December 1999), Japan (Ministry of Justice, Immigration Service, Osaka and Fukuoka; Japan Legal Aid Association, Tokyo), Korea (Ministry of Justice, Immigration Service, Seoul, June 1995), New Zealand (Law Faculty, Auckland University, 3 lectures, 1994, 1995), Switzerland (Webster University, Geneva, 15 February 1996, 11 June 1997; International Conference on People of Concern, John Knox International Center, Geneva, 21-23 November 1996), and Thailand (UNHCR, April 1997); and facilitated/co-conducted peace and conflict resolution training workshops in Democratic Republic of Congo (in French at Conflict Resolution Training Workshop for UN Development Programme and other UN system staff, Kinshasa, 9-11 October 1999) and Rwanda (co-conducted and facilitated in English and French a Training for Africa Peace Initiative (TAPI) workshop for UN system staff, Kigali, 17-20 November 1999).

Oct. 1990 Gave a paper on "Refugee Law and the Protection of Human Life and Dignity" at the 11th Seminar on International Humanitarian Law, organized by the Republic of Korea National Red Cross and the Korean Association of International Law, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Aug. 1989 & Aug. 1990 Gave six lectures (3 in French and 3 in English) on the 'International Regime for Refugee Protection', UNITAR International Law Fellowship Programme, The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague, The Netherlands

May 1990 Conducted a 3-day Refugee Law Seminar for Government Officials in Algiers, Algeria

1989-1990 Co-conducted CPA (Comprehensive Plan of Action on Indochinese Refugees) Refugee Status Determination seminars in Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Co-conducted two 3-day Refugee Law Seminars for Government Officials in Tanzania and Uganda. Conducted a 3-day Refugee Law Seminar for Government and NGO Officials in Athens, Greece. Conducted a 2-day Refugee Law Seminar for Government Officials in Nicosia, Cyprus. Co-conducted Voluntary Repatriation and Protection Seminars in Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta in Pakistan, for Government, NGO and UNHCR Staff

May 1989 Gave 7 lectures and led two workshops (in French) at the 7eme Cours sur le Droit des Refugies at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy

Apr. 1989 Organized, chaired and lectured in a Refugee Law Seminar for Government and NGO officials of East and Horn of Africa Countries in Nairobi, Kenya

Nov. 1988 Gave 3 lectures and led one workshop on Refugee Law and Protection at the Disaster Management Center, Department of Engineering Professional Development, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA

Aug. 1987 Gave 6 lectures (3 in French and 3 in English) on the theme of "The International Regime for Refugee Protection", United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) International Law Fellowship Programme, The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague, The Netherlands

May 1988 Gave 2 lectures and led two workshops (in French) at the 5eme Cours sur le Droit des Refugies, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy

Nov. 1987 Gave 4 lectures and led one workshop at the 4th Refugee Law Course, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy

July 1987 Co-organized, co-chaired and lectured in UNHCR Refugee Law Course for East and Southern African Countries, Harare, Zimbabwe

June 1987 Organized, co-chaired and lectured in Spanish in UNHCR Refugee Law Seminar for Officials Dealing with Refugees in South American Countries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Feb. 1987 Organized, co-chaired and lectured in UNHCR Refugee Law Course for Southern Pacific Countries, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Dec. 1986 Gave three lectures on theme of "International Protection of Refugees" in UNITAR's Regional Training and Refresher Course on International Law for Asian and Pacific Countries, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand

Oct. 1983 Chaired a Seminar on Refugee Protection in Asia, jointly organized by UNHCR and the Law Faculty, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Book Reviews:

The Journal of Politics (1975); American Political Science Review, Vol. 73, No. 1, March, 1979, 279-280; Africa Today, Vol. 26, No. 3, November 1979, 68-70; American Ethnologist, Vol. 7, No. 3, August 1980, 576-577; African Studies Association Book Reviews (1981-82); Perspective, Vol. 11, No. 7, Sept. 1982, 152-153

Degrees:

1968 Ph. D. (International Relations) Graduate School of International Studies University of Denver, Denver, Colorado

1967 Certificate (International Law) The Hague Academy of International Law Center for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations, The Hague, The Netherlands

1961 Diplome (with highest honors) (International Relations) School of Advanced International Studies University of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

1960 Licence en Droit (Law) Faculty of Law, University of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Additional Training

May-Jun 1999 Senior Government Conflict Resolution Training Programme, Centre for Conflict Resolution, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.

May 1996 Stress Management Workshop for Emergency Operations, conducted by Dr. Atle Dyregov, Director, Center for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway, at UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva

Dec. 1994 People-Oriented Planning (POP) Training Workshop (emphasis on gender and other factors of inequality or vulnerability), UNHCR, at the Overseas Service Bureau, Melbourne, Australia

May 93 Negotiation Training Seminar, Harvard Negotiation Program, at the American University of Paris, Paris, France

Oct. 1991 Workshop on Country-level Coordination for Senior UN System Representatives in Asian Countries, conducted by the Turin International Training Center of the ILO (International Labor Organization), at Phuket, Thailand
Sept. 1990 Representatives Workshop, UNHCR, at the Chateau de Penthes, Pregny, Geneva Canton, Switzerland
Sept. 1989 Gender Impact Training Course, UNHCR, followed by Dec. 1989 "Brainstorming" Session on Gender Impact Analytical Framework, at Rolle, Geneva Canton, & UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
Nov. 1989 Basic Training Skills and Broad Management Skills Training Follow-up Course, UNHCR, at the Chateau de Penthes, Pregny, Switzerland
Feb. 1989 Working-in-Teams Course, UNHCR, Geneva, Switzerland
Nov. 1988 Emergency Management Training Course, Disaster Management Center, School of Engineering Professional Development, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI: Certificate
Dec. 1987 Broad Management Skills Training Course, UNHCR, at Ferney-Voltaire, France
Mar. 1987 Trainers' Training Course, UNHCR, Geneva, Switzerland
Oct. 1986 Emergency Management Training Course, UNHCR/University of Wisconsin, at Cartigny, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland: Certificate, Disaster Management Center, Dept. of Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
April 1984 Regional Protection Workshop for Asia, UNHCR, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Honors:

1997 PSIO (Programme for the Study of International Organizations) Fellow, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
1982-1983 Graduate Law Fellowship, Law School, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
1980-1982 UCLA Academic Senate Research Committee Grants, University of California at Los Angeles
1980-1981 Grant, Committee on Latin America, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)
1980-1981 Official Commendation, City Council, City of Sao Jose dos Campos, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil
1979-1980 UCLA Institute of American Cultures/Center for Afro-American Studies Grants; National Endowment for the Humanities Research Conference Grant; UCLA Committee on International and Comparative Studies Grant
1975-1976 Harvard Graduate Society Fund Grant, Harvard University
1967-1968 Social Science Foundation Research Fellowship, University of Denver
1967 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Fellowship for study at The Hague Academy of International Law
1962-1964 Organization of American States Fellowship; Social Science Foundation Fellowship; Hill Foundation Graduate Fellowship
1961-1962 Institute of International Education (IIE) Fellowship; French Government Fellowship (declined)
1958-1960 Haitian Government Scholarship

Professional Organizations:

Academic Council on the United Nations System
African Heritage Studies Association, USA
African Society of Victimology (Founding member)
American Political Science Association
American Society of International Law
Georgia Political Science Association (Member, Editorial Board, Georgia Political Science Association Journal, 1973-1975), USA
International Studies Association (Founding member, International Political Economy Group; member, Task Force on Structures, Functions and Programs, 1976-1977)
Latin American Studies Association, USA
National Association for Postgraduate Research and Studies in the Social Sciences, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Founding member, Working Group on Themes and Problems of the Black Population in Brazil)
National Conference of Black Political Scientists, USA
Peace Science Society (International)
Social Science Research Council (Member, Committee on Ethnicity, 1977-1982), USA
Southern Political Science Association, USA
The Academy of Political Science, New York, USA

Languages:

Fluent: English, French, Spanish, Creole, and Portuguese
Elementary: Mandarin Chinese
Rudimentary: Thai