

Biography

Professor Crawford SC is Whewell Professor of International Law at the University of Cambridge and a member of Matrix Chambers. On the International Law Commission (1992-2001), he was responsible for its Draft Statute for an International Criminal Court and its Articles on State Responsibility. He has an extensive international practice as arbitrator and counsel. On the issue of secret CIA flights through UK airports, he argued (in an opinion given to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Rendition) that the UK government must satisfy itself that these flights are not leading to torture. "The question that must be asked is whether torture is likely to take place if a person is transported, irrespective of whether or not the government claims that the answer is no, or what its hopes or beliefs may be. A government is not exonerated from conduct which leads directly to a person being tortured merely by closing its eyes to that prospect." He co-edits the British Yearbook of International Law and is the author of numerous books, most recently the second edition of *The Creation of States in International Law* (2006).