



## International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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### Walter Kälin (Switzerland)

**Date and place of birth:** 20.05.1951, Zurich, Switzerland

**Working languages:** English, French

#### Current position/function

Professor of constitutional and international law, University of Bern

Director of the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights

#### Main professional activities

Since 1985 professor of constitutional and international law, University of Bern

On several occasions, served as expert for the Swiss Parliament and the Swiss Federal Administration (on issues of refugee law, human rights law, constitutional law) and Swiss Development Cooperation (in Nepal, Pakistan, India and Kyrgyzstan) as well as the United Nations (UNHCR, UNDP, OHCHR).

#### Educational background

Legal studies at the Universities of Fribourg and Berne: lic. iur. summa cum laude 1976

Dr. iur. summa cum laude (doctoral thesis on the principle of non-refoulement) 1982

LL.M Harvard Law School 1984

“Habilitation”, Faculty of Law University of Bern 1985

#### Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned

1991/92: Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission on the situation of human rights in Iraqi occupied Kuwait

2003 – 2008: Member of the UN Human Rights Committee

2004 – 2010: Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

#### List of most recent publications in the field

The Law of International Human Rights Protection, Oxford 2009 (paperback ed. 2010)

Filling the Gaps - Contributions by the Human Rights Committee to the Fight Against Torture, in: M. Voyame et al (eds) International Law, Conflict and Development, Leiden/Boston 2010, pp. 169 – 180m

'Death is different' – The Death Penalty and the Right to a Fair Trial, in: Tomuschat et al. (eds.), *The Right to Life*, Leiden/Boston 2010, pp. 21 – 39

State reports, in: H. Keller/G. Ulfstein (eds.), *The UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. Law and Legitimacy*, Cambridge (forthcoming)

Universal Human Rights Bodies and International Humanitarian Law, in: R. Kolb/G. Gaggioli (eds.), *Research Handbook on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* (forthcoming).