

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHE SWINARSKI— IN MEMORIAM*



Professor Krzysztof (Christophe) Swinarski was born on 21st December 1940 in Warsaw. He was raised in Poznań where he attended the well-known Karol Marcinkowski High School and, afterwards, the Faculty of Law and Administration at the Adam Mickiewicz University. Having obtained his Master's degree in law and economy, he left on a Rockefeller scholarship to Geneva where he completed doctoral studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (under the tutorship of Prof. Michel Virally), and undertook teaching duties at the Faculty of Law at the University of Geneva.

In 1980 Professor Swinarski started his career as a legal advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Between 1986 and

* Photograph by courtesy of the Hague Academy of International Law.

1991 he served as the Regional Delegate of the ICRC in Buenos Aires (with jurisdiction for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay). He was then entrusted with the duties of Regional Delegate of the ICRC for South-East Asia and was stationed in Hong Kong and Bangkok (1991–1998).

Professor Swinarski was a frequent lecturer at universities as well as diplomatic and military academies all over the world. He was regularly invited to lecture at the seminar of the International Law Commission in Geneva, the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José and the United Nations University in Tokyo. After retiring from the International Red Cross, Professor Swinarski continued his academic activities as visiting professor at law schools in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and – last but not least – in Poland: at the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. His authored numerous books and articles on international humanitarian law and human rights in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish. In 2012 Professor Swinarski delivered a course at the Hague Academy of International Law (*Effets pour l'individu des régimes de protection de droit international*), which was published in volume no. 391 of the “Collected Courses”.

Professor Swinarski passed away on 21st August 2018 in Geneva. He donated his legal library to the Faculty of Law at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. We will remember him as a distinguished scholar and one of the great minds of international law, as well as an eminent mentor of many international lawyers worldwide.

* * *

(Michał Balcerzak)