



# Raoul Wallenberg Institute

*of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*

## *Gunnar Lagergren in memoriam*

Judge Gunnar Lagergren has passed away at the age of 96 years. He was the first Chairman of the Institute Board of Trustees, serving from 1984 to 1990. He was married to Nina, née von Dardel and sister to Raoul Wallenberg.

Judge Lagergren was a prominent lawyer specialized in international law. He studied at the University of Stockholm where he graduated with a BA in 1934 and a LL.M. in 1937. Thereafter, he pursued a career, *inter alia*, at the Court of Appeal in Stockholm and served at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In the years 1966 to 1977, he was President of the Court of Appeal in Gothenburg. After retirement from this Court, he was from 1977 to 1988 judge in respect of Sweden at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. He was also over the years member of a number of international courts and tribunals of arbitration. He was the first President of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal set up in 1981 in The Hague. From 1976 to 1982, Gunnar Lagergren served as Marshal of the Realm. In 1965, an honorary doctorate was conferred on Judge Lagergren by the Faculty of Law at the University of Uppsala and since 1980, he was member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

On 26 October 1984 in Lund, Judge Lagergren chaired the constituent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. A new independent academic institution was born. From the very outset, Judge Lagergren as Chairman strongly supported the development of the Institute. His dedicated work during the formative years of the Institute was instrumental in its success. His vast experience, his deep knowledge of international law and his contacts with colleagues and other influential people all over the world were invaluable to us.

We, the Founders of the Institute, remember Gunnar Lagergren with gratitude and pride. We remember his integrity, his professionalism and his never failing loyalty.

Lund, 9 January 2009

Göran Melander

Leif Holmström