

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08



Human Rights Internet (HRI)  
Internet des Droits Humains (IDH)



*Committed to social justice, good governance and conflict prevention*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### CORINNE PACKER

Our Annual Report 2007-08 covers the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This was a busy year again for all of us at HRI. The International Internship programme started up later than usual as funding was slow to arrive but we managed to recruit 39 young Canadians into exciting internship placements in non-profit and academic organizations in all regions of the developing world. As is typically the case, many of these interns caught the “development” bug and either stayed on in the countries where they were placed to continue working or volunteering in the areas of health, human rights or development, or went on to pursue graduate studies in these areas. We are always happy to hear from our former interns and learn how the internships influenced their study and career choices. It is a great pity that government funding for international internships in 2008 was greatly reduced given the significant impact it has had on many young Canadians’ lives (HRI alone has placed some 250 interns in developing countries over the last decade), helping them become informed, concerned and involved global citizens, whilst offering a lending hand to many over-stretched and under-resourced organizations in developing countries.

Both the *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy* and Conflict Transformation programmes steadily worked on their objectives. In this Report one can see some of the important steps forward achieved in both programmes. The *Initiative’s* ever-growing international Advisory Board, composed of distinguished personalities from all parts of the world, attests to the fact that quiet diplomacy as a means to prevent conflict is taking root.

Our collection of Human Rights Documents, long made available from IDC Publishers on microfiche, made a huge leap into the technological era in 2007; the collection became available for the first time as a full text searchable online database. We are confident that this will make the materials much more accessible to a greater number of people. Finally, we introduced a new programme in 2007-08 – the Human Rights Think Tank Watch (HRTTW) programme. The “watches” (electronic news bulletins on human rights) produced and disseminated by HRI under this programme are intended to create a community of practitioners and students of human rights and development who have not only an interest in keeping informed on the latest research and thinking, but also incorporate the latest ideas and thinking into policy formulation and practice.

I would like to thank all the staff and consultants of HRI for another successful year which is due, in large part, to their hard work and unflinching dedication to promoting and protecting human rights.

Sincerely,

Corinne Packer

## MANDATE

### A BRIEF HISTORY

Human Rights Internet (HRI) is an independent information, consulting and capacity building organization, founded in 1976 in the United States. HRI was originally known as Internet: the International Human Rights Documentation Network, identifying as an international network of human rights organizations and a clearinghouse of human rights documentation. In the 1990s, with development of technology and the growth of globalisation, HRI recognized the need to incorporate the internet into its mandate.

In keeping with HRI's solidarity-building and networking, incorporation of web technology has furthered HRI's activities in human rights education efforts, its databases and documentation collections and its ability to bring together the similar strategies of various, and sometimes remote, human rights organizations.

Since 1990 Human Rights Internet has been headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. From Ottawa, HRI communicates with thousands of organizations and individuals around the world working for the advancement of human rights.

### MISSION

HRI is committed to social justice, good governance and conflict prevention. It seeks to accomplish these goals through policy formation, knowledge transfer, promotion of dialogue, training and information distribution. HRI works with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental actors to initiate policy change, disseminate information and empower marginalized groups.

HRI maintains expertise in governance, democratization, human rights, capacity building and project management. The HRI team includes experts in human rights with experience in governance, minority issues, women's rights, reproductive rights, democratic institution-building, international human rights and humanitarian law, conflict prevention and management, as well as web-based human rights publishing. HRI's experts have worked in a variety of locations around the world, including the Middle East, Eastern Europe, East Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and Southeast Asia.



## PROGRAMMES

The scope of HRI's programmes has taken its work to most regions of the world, and its focuses to such diverse themes as conflict prevention, minority rights, migration, women and conflict, good governance and information technology. Human Rights Internet currently manages six programmes:

- The Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy
- Conflict Transformation
- International Internships
- Human Rights Think Tank Watch
- Microfiche
- Speakers Series

HRI's largest program is the ***Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy*** which is an undertaking begun in 2005, aimed at preventing violent conflict through co-operative, problem-solving and quiet diplomatic arrangements within existing regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations.

The **Conflict Transformation** programme focuses on permanent and durable solutions surrounding the transformation of violent conflict into lasting and just peace. Currently, the primary project under this programme is *Transforming the Conflict: from Violence to Non-violence*, which focuses on current challenges in Sri Lanka. The project is in partnership with the Council for Public Policy (CPP), which is based in Colombo.

HRI's **International Internships** programme implements several government-funded internships for young Canadian graduates to work overseas in human rights NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. HRI has placed hundreds of Canadians in locations throughout the world over the years through the Young Professionals International, International Youth Internship Program, NetCorps and Canada Corps programs.

The **Human Rights Think Tank Watch (HRTTW)** programme develops strategic partnerships with the purpose of building and strengthening knowledge networks and to ensure that the knowledge and information generated by organizations in these networks is disseminated both within Canada and abroad to a wide governmental and non-governmental audience with the objective of bridging the divide between research and policymaking.

For well over a decade, HRI, through its **Microfiche** programme, has served as an unofficial repository for the documentation produced by human rights NGO's worldwide. Each year HRI collects, edits and catalogues these documents; spanning a broad range of human rights issues from all regions of the world.

HRI's **Speakers Series** programme is intended to facilitate discussions on important themes when the opportunity arises. Typically, these are prompted by the visit to Ottawa of thematic or country experts. They may also be organized on internationally-recognized theme days (such as World Aids Day), or when important films or publications are released.

## THE INITIATIVE ON CONFLICT PREVENTION THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY

Experience has shown that effective prevention of destructive conflict requires co-operative action before violence erupts. The *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy* (ICPQD) contends that capable institutions dedicated to preventing conflict by way of quiet diplomacy are an effective yet under-used means to reduce, if not entirely prevent, violent conflict. Quiet, third-party diplomacy establishes and maintains confidence, creates space for dialogue, and encourages conciliation and accord. Early and pro-active engagement over time through institutional mechanisms and a human rights-informed, problem-solving, assistance-oriented approach can be the most effective way to prevent the outbreak of violence.

Few institutions exist to address the causes of conflict. With the exception of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the international community so far offers little in the way of institutional mechanisms with a mandate solely to address the



**Mission:** To contribute to the prevention of violent conflict by promoting early, quiet and pro-active preventive diplomacy.

**Thesis:** Institutionalised mechanisms for early quiet diplomacy addressing disputes through a human rights-informed, problem-solving and assistance-oriented approach can effectively prevent armed conflict.

**Goal:** To establish and/or strengthen, within regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organisations, institutions dedicated to preventing violent conflict through quiet diplomacy.

causes of conflict and engage directly with disputing parties. The *Initiative* therefore aims to stimulate institutional development within regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations (RIGOs) to enable effective conflict prevention through early action and quiet diplomacy.

The *Initiative* and its activities are in part an outgrowth of expert consultations and briefings which took place in 2003-2004. The overriding conclusions at these and subsequent meetings have been that regional and inter-governmental

organisations, when provided with adequate mandates and resources can, through early preventive action and cooperative engagement, effectively address both the root and proximate causes of violent conflict.

### ICPQD Activities

Through high-level engagement, targeted trainings and the development of practical handbooks and promotional materials, the *Initiative* continued to advance its aim of establishing and/or strengthening, within regional, sub-regional and other inter-governmental organisations, institutions dedicated to preventing violent conflict through quiet diplomacy. Contacts were further developed, including via presentations in national capitals around the world, to secure support, raise awareness and understanding of the *Initiative's* premise, aims and approach, and encourage broader discussion and debate of conflict prevention in practice. Project Co-ordinator, Principal Investigator and project initiator John Packer was succeeded in October 2007 by long-time *Initiative* consultant Craig Collins. Mr. Packer stepped down as Co-ordinator in order to take up a prestigious appointment as Professor of International Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex in the UK; Mr. Packer remained engaged with ICPQD as a Senior Advisor and deepened direct engagement with various inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), national governments and non-governmental organisations. In the course of the year, Ms. Teri-Ann Bryans (Project Officer) became the third ICPQD staff member to be recruited by the United Nations (to work with the UN Mission to Timor Leste); she was replaced by Mr. Tarek al-Zand.

## **Capacity Building**

Capacity building activities have included the development of a widely available practical toolkit in the form of a collection of issue- and process-specific handbooks on how to address recurrent conflict-generating challenges and/or to apply tension-reducing strategies, and related training modules. The handbooks have been incorporated into the work of all *Initiative* components, including specific training workshops at regional and sub-regional levels with targeted inter-governmental organisations and others. The handbooks themselves are intended as practical tools for third-party actors who are typically not experts in the specific issues but need reliable orientations and indicated alternatives which they might apply or adapt to the situations in which they are engaged.

Tailored trainings of professional staff on conflict prevention and resolution have included groundbreaking courses/contributions on mediation and dialogue for, *inter alia*, the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations Senior Mission Leaders Course, to develop professional knowledge, skills and institutional capacity.

### *Development of a handbook on Managing Linguistic and Religious Diversity*

An initial draft of the third handbook in the *Initiative's Conflict Prevention Handbook Series*, entitled "Managing Linguistic and Religious Diversity" was prepared by Ms. Zdenka Machnyikova, an independent expert and former Senior Legal Advisor to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. A process of review by expert commentators and the *Initiative* Co-ordinator and revision by the principal author continued to year end. The handbook was expected to be used as a reference for prospective meetings in Spring 2008 around the conflicts in Sri Lanka and Iraq.

### *Development of a handbook on Power sharing, Self-governance and Participation in Public Life*

Following a March 2007 meeting in Ottawa of an Expert Working Group to scrutinise the fourth handbook in the *Conflict Prevention Series*, "Power sharing, Self-governance and Participation in Public Life", a process of revision commenced involving the principal author, Dr. Stefan Wolff, Professor of Political Science at the University of Nottingham, and a small group of commissioned expert critics with a view to enhancing the handbook's content, methodology and utility. A final draft was being prepared at year end and the handbook was expected to be used to frame discussions in prospective meetings in Spring 2008 around the conflicts in Sri Lanka and Iraq.



Expert Working Group participants met to discuss a draft of the *Power-sharing* handbook (Spring 2007).



### *Additional Handbooks*

Preparation of a draft handbook (No. 5) on “Structures for Dialogue and Mediation” began in Spring 2007. An initial draft was prepared by an independent expert with external expert commentary and internal editing/revision; the full draft was introduced to officials from regional IGOs at an Executive Course held in Istanbul in the early summer (see below).

Another independent expert author, Dr. Chandra Lekha Sriram, Chair in Human Rights and Director of the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict in the School of Law, University of East London (UK), was contracted in January 2008 to develop a handbook (No. 6) on “Disarming, Demobilising, Reintegrating and Security Sector Reform: Options for Effective Action”. Arrangements were made for an April Expert Working Group meeting to discuss and evaluate a first draft. The Working Group subsequently met at the end of April 2008.

Work also began on Handbook No. 7 in the form of contracting background research for a handbook on “Managing Cultural Diversity”, including the identification of key issues, bibliography and other useful references, and relevant experts to consult.

### *Executive Course on Structures for Dialogue and Mediation*

The training module on Structures for Dialogue and Mediation seeks to enhance the knowledge and skills of officials from regional, sub-regional and other inter-governmental organisations who can find themselves in a position to promote, support and/or lead dialogue, facilitation and mediation processes. The *Initiative* and project partner Folke Bernadotte Academy of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a three-day Executive Course in Istanbul, Turkey, for senior officials from ten different IGOs to develop practical skills in the design and structuring of dialogue and mediation processes, and to address a wide range of challenges facing mediators.

The Course was facilitated by Dr. Ben Hoffman of the Canadian International Institute for Applied Negotiation (CIAN) and Professor Diana Chigas of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts (USA). Follow-up courses are planned with participating IGOs on this and other topics.



Participants in Executive Course on Structures for Dialogue and Mediation

### **Research**

*Initiative* partner institution The Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCR), under the direction of Professor Eileen Babbitt, at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University expanded upon an analytic evaluation of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities’ (HCNM) preventive diplomacy work and related project activities generated by the HCNM during its first ten years, 1993-2003. The research and analysis has been done as a key element in the broader *Initiative*, and in conjunction with ongoing *Initiative* activities engaging targeted IGOs.

To add critical and comparative depth to the study of the HCNM, other institutional mechanisms with relevant mandates, supporting resources and varying experiences in preventive diplomacy have been studied as comparison cases. A four-month paper-based comparative study of the conflict prevention activities of the OSCE HCNM, selected United Nations Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, The Commonwealth, La Francophonie and the Organization of American States was undertaken with a

grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada. Case studies were designed to highlight and assess the institutional, procedural and individual factors most likely to contribute to optimal outcomes of preventive engagement by third-party inter-governmental actors. As such, the conclusions, which will be circulated widely, are intended to serve as a guide to institution-building options for more effective conflict prevention by regional, sub-regional and other inter-governmental organisations. A meeting will be convened of senior officials from the studied IGOs along with others in order to share lessons learned and to discuss options for more effective preventive diplomacy.

### **The Initiative's International Advisory Board**

The *Initiative's* international Advisory Board is composed of distinguished personalities from all parts of the world. It was created to provide, in addition to specific advice and counsel, valuable political weight and direction to the project. The *Initiative* welcomed three additional eminent persons to the Board:

- H.E. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria – former Foreign Minister, long-time Special Adviser to and Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and leading practitioner of conflict resolution;
- H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania – former Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, long-time Secretary-General of the OAU and current AU Special Envoy; and
- H.E. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga – former President of Sri Lanka, responsible for conclusion of the cease-fire agreement in the protracted Sri Lankan conflict.

Each adds valuable real-life experience and indisputable credibility, generating greater chances for success of the *Initiative's* prospects, overall aims and various specific activities.

<b><i>Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy</i></b> <b>Advisory Board</b>	
H.E. Max van der Stoel – Chair /Special Advisor, the Netherlands	
• H.E. Ali Alatas, Indonesia	• H.E. Lakhdar Brahimi, Algeria
• H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Jordan	• H.E. Inder Kumar Gujral, India
• H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia	• Ambassador Tommy Koh, Singapore
• Dr. Bernard Kouchner, France	• H.E. Donald McKinnon, New Zealand
• Mr. Juan E. Méndez, Argentina	• H.E. Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzania
• H.E. Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh	• H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Sri Lanka

## CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

### **Project: Transforming the Conflict: From Violence to Non-violence**

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has fought a bloody war with the Sri Lankan state and an internecine war with other Tamil militant groups from the early 1980s. During this time, the LTTE became a highly militarized and authoritarian organization. The Cease-Fire Agreement (CFA) of February 2002, between the Government and LTTE, has succeeded in stopping medium and large-scale military clashes; but it has not stopped political violence in the forms of assassinations or other killings, forced conscription of children, or similar attacks on individuals.

2007 saw a marked escalation of violence in the war which has been fuelled by the current Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) Government's rigid political and military strategies. Although the government reiterates its commitment towards a political solution it forges ahead with its military strategy, openly stating its aim of militarily destroying the guerrilla LTTE and assassinating its leader. Defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa stated in an interview dated 30th December 2007, that "the government had come up with a clear policy that terrorism must be defeated by any means." With regard to military operations he further stated that, "priority was given to provide whatever the necessary equipment to continue the missions despite the economic hardships that the country was facing" and that "overall we are very successful in all these operations and they are going on according to a plan."

The Government, with support from political parties such as the extreme Sinhala nationalist Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) continues to show its partiality towards a unitary definition of the State, which is largely not acceptable to minority communities. The other significant Sinhala nationalist party, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which has support from the government, openly opposes any peace settlement with the LTTE.

The All Party Representative Committee (APRC), still minus the main opposition group, the United National Party (UNP) is yet to develop and submit constitutional proposals involving extensive power devolution because of the government's reluctance and the lack of cohesion between all political parties. Amidst this environment of conflict, the government is also facing censure from opposing political parties as well as civil society for the unprecedented inflation rate.

In the current context, the Council for Public Policy (CPP) has continued with its programs on good governance, conflict transformation or mitigation and humanitarian issues in this quarter of 2007. This included a focus on quiet diplomacy, violence monitoring and prevention, and formulating projects that address human rights issues in Sri Lanka.

*Transforming the Conflict: From Violence to Non-violence* is an undertaking in partnership with the Sri Lankan Council for Public Policy (CPP), based in Colombo. It focuses on two challenging tasks facing the peace process in Sri Lanka: the transformation of the Sri Lankan state to accommodate its full diversity; and transforming the LTTE from a military organization into a political one. The project is headed-up by Harim Peiris who have strong experience in the politics of peace, the relevant treaties and history of the conflict and a nuanced understanding of political and technical dilemmas for decision-makers. The project also receives the political support from President Kumaratunga.

The Project seeks to:

- Promote a substantive informal dialogue among the main systemic political parties on the peace process, to build sufficient consensus for advancing a reasonable solution to the conflict;
- Support informal but substantive dialogue with Tamil nationalist-oriented groups, encouraging movement in a less violent direction;
- Include the Muslim parties and other Tamil parties in a substantive dialogue on the peace process;
- Incubate ideas about positively linking the different elements of the peace process;
- Initiate a dialogue among local and international actors about the challenges, alternative means and benefits of international engagement in the peace process.

The core of the current program centres on humanitarian issues and good governance. The guiding principle of this project is to blend technical expertise with the prevailing political opportunities of the time. In the context of the latest situation in Sri Lanka, the 2007 project focused on the following activities:

- CPP hosted visiting senior researcher Dr. Ram Manikkalingam. During his visit Dr. Manikkalingam chaired a series of meetings and discreet bi lateral consultations, both within CPP and outside; he met with high ranking government officials, government leaders, senior opposition leaders, and diplomatic heads of mission at ambassador and high commissioner level, and civil society representatives.
- CPP continued its research on Tamil and Muslim relations in the context of the Sri Lanka conflict, with a view towards implementing dialogue and discussion on interim reconciliation. The CPP research team is gathering information regarding this, including statements from various political entities. The output of this process would be a research paper that would serve as the basis for a dialogue in the coming months.
- As CPP's regular programme work, staff members continue to keep abreast of policy development issues in Sri Lanka. This affords an archive of knowledge that CPP can draw upon when formulating projects to improve policy.
- Under the Governance Programme of CPP, Mr. Harim Peiris (Senior Researcher) and Mr. Javid Yusuf (Director) of CPP were panellists at the Regional Conference on Pluralism in South Asia, conducted by the National Peace Council and Government of Canada, held in March. They presented specifically on a 'Pluralist Approach to the Peace Process in Sri Lanka.' The purpose of the event was to enhance shared understanding that pluralism is the foundation for peace, democratic governance, human rights and countering violent extremism.
- CPP was short listed by the European Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives to submit a full proposal on Securing Key Documentation (SEKDO), that is, securing a standardized method of issuing birth certificates for children and those 'unregistered' who have no access to information and resources regarding their plight, in the plantation community of Sri Lanka.
- As CPP's regular programme work, staff members continue to keep abreast of policy development issues in Sri Lanka. This affords an archive of knowledge that CPP can draw upon when formulating projects to improve policy.
- The main event of this quarter under the 'Conflict Transformation Programme' of CPP was the Roundtable Dialogue on Muslim – Tamil Tensions and Reconciliation Measures.



## INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

### International Youth Internship Program (IYIP)

This project proceeded with the continuing partnership of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The program assists human rights organizations working to promote development in the South and in countries in transition by sending skilled young Canadians to work with their agencies for six month periods. The program also provides interns with practical work experience in an international setting.

#### 2007 IYIP Interns

• Nicole Cardinal	The Botswana Network on Ethics Law and HIV/AIDS, Botswana
• Leanne Rexworthy	Child Protection Alliance, Gambia
• Jennifer Heys	Planned Parenthood Federation of America – International, Africa Regional Office, Kenya
• Emily Hansson	Health Systems Trust (HST), South Africa

### NetCorps

NetCorps is a coalition of nine Canadian health-, development- and human rights-oriented organizations which implement international information technology internships in Southern countries and countries in transition. Interns participate in six month placements with host organizations and provide technical support such as creating Webpages and developing databases to help facilitate information dissemination and sharing.

#### 2007 NetCorps Interns

<b>Hayat Ali</b>	School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
<b>Yara Amer</b>	Participation Junction, South Africa
<b>Mona Belusevic</b>	Grupa 484, Serbia
<b>Lisa Campbell</b>	Consejo de Educacion de Adultos de America Latina (CEAAL), Panama
<b>Michaele Chou</b>	National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), The Gambia
<b>Gabriela Corluka</b>	Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), Costa Rica
<b>Jesse de Leon</b>	Defensa de Niñas y Niños-Internacional (DNI), Costa Rica
<b>Mark Donnelly</b>	Surplus People Project (SPP), South Africa
<b>Scott Elliott</b>	European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), Hungary
<b>Mikael Gebre – Mariam</b>	University of West Cape (UWC), South Africa
<b>Ramanjit Johal</b>	Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), South Africa
<b>Amanda Kerr</b>	Earthlife Africa, South Africa
<b>Aaron Klaassen</b>	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Malaysia
<b>Ryan Liss</b>	Child Protection Unit Network (CPU-NET), Philippines
<b>Halli Manolakos</b>	School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
<b>Matt Mayer</b>	IDASA – Kuthwanong Democracy Centre, South Africa
<b>Mark Nonkes</b>	Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), Namibia

<b>Benjamin Oliphant</b>	Participation Junction, South Africa
<b>Federico Ospina</b>	Defensa de Niñas y Niños-Internacional, (DNI), Costa Rica
<b>Catherine Pagett</b>	Community Health Cell (CHC), India
<b>Ryan Palmer</b>	Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG), South Africa
<b>Arnold Pat</b>	Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA), South Africa
<b>Owen Perry</b>	Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), Namibia
<b>Syed Qadri</b>	Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), Hungary
<b>Jacqueline Quigg</b>	Children's Legal Action Network (CLAN), Kenya
<b>Sandra Smiley</b>	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), The Gambia
<b>Cody Skinner</b>	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Thailand
<b>Roman Sokolowski</b>	Task Force Detainees Of The Philippines (TFDP), Philippines
<b>Andrew Stern</b>	Development Action Group (DAG), South Africa
<b>Jessica Thornhill-Skeete</b>	League of Friends of the Blind (LOFOB), South Africa
<b>Jason van Dyk</b>	African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Regional Office, Kenya
<b>Susan Wong</b>	African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) – Ethiopia Chapter, Ethiopia
<b>Amy Yeung</b>	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Malaysia

## **HUMAN RIGHTS THINK TANK WATCH (HRTTW)**

HRI's goal, with the support of CIDA, is to develop strategic partnerships with the purpose of building and strengthening knowledge networks and to ensure that the knowledge and information generated by organizations in these networks is disseminated both within Canada and abroad to a wide governmental and non-governmental audience with the objective of bridging the divide between research and policymaking. The specific objective of the HRTTW is to create a community of practitioners and students of human rights and development who have not only an interest in keeping informed on the latest research and thinking, but also incorporate the latest ideas and thinking into policy formulation and practice.

### **Results**

HRI has successfully built some important strategic partnerships with international organizations through its program activities. Several conferences that HRI has attended have established new networks of cooperation and interest within the human rights field. Furthermore, the Think Tank Watch e-bulletins have disseminated both relevant material and interest in HRI and CIDA. Another addition to HRI's goal to develop strategic partnerships was the consecutive meetings in Costa Rica with various indigenous and human rights organizations. These meetings have the potential to strengthen even further our strategic partnerships with future joint projects.

## **E-Bulletins**

HRTTW has already successfully disseminated four e-bulletins within the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year which have been received by subscribers with great interest and appreciation. In particular those e-bulletins have established the effectiveness of HRTTW and its growing influence as a human rights tool for policy-makers and human rights practitioners.

Volume 1, Issue 1, 15 February 2008 – Introduction to HRTTW

Volume 1, Issue 2, 1 March 2008 – Further Sources

Volume 1, Issue 3, 10 March 2008 – International Women's Day Edition

Volume 1, Issue 4, 26 March 2008 – Special Health Edition

## **MICROFICHE**

For more than a decade Human Rights Internet has been serving as an unofficial depository for the documentation produced by human rights NGO's worldwide. Each year HRI collects, edits and catalogues these documents; spanning a broad range of human rights issues from all regions of the world.

In partnership with a Dutch company, IDC Publishers, HRI makes these documents available on microfiche. The effective worldwide network in which HRI operates, ensures availability of a vast amount of material that otherwise would not be retrievable from the country of origin. It brings together a wide variety of reports on human rights issues that would otherwise be very difficult to locate, obtain and consult. The collection HRI has amassed over the years includes publications by 355 nongovernmental human rights organizations (NGOs) worldwide.

The material produced by NGOs concerned with human rights and social justice – both published and unpublished documents – is vital to the analysis of the status of human rights and to the promotion and protection of those rights. Yet much of this source material is difficult to obtain. In a certain sense, it is "fugitive" material: copies of publications are produced in limited numbers and very narrowly disseminated; material is often produced on poor quality paper, in odd shapes and sizes, at irregular intervals; organizations which emerge to confront a particular crisis often dissolve after the crisis ends, and the documentation of those organisations disappears.

Human Rights Internet edits this collection for microfiche publication to aid in the preservation and the dissemination of this important record of the human rights struggle. HRI and IDC Publishers also index documents, which makes the project so much more useful to the user. The collection currently covers the years 1980-2002 (with the years 2003-2006 in process) and spans a broad range of human rights issues. The focus of some NGOs is universal in scope, others are concerned with the attainment of human rights in specific areas of the world. The collection represents the concerns of all groups in all regions of the world: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, Latin America, North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

The collection of Human Rights Documents has long been available from IDC Publishers on microfiche but in 2007 the collection was also made available as a full text searchable online database available at <http://hrd.idcpublishers.info/>.

## **SPEAKERS SERIES**

### **International Day of Peace Screening**

September 21 was established by the United Nations as the International Day of Peace to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace. In 2007, Human Rights Internet (HRI) celebrated this important day by screening two relevant films accompanied by discussion.

The program featured the Canadian-premieres of both “Wars and Waves” (2007, 28 minutes) and “The Black Road” (2005, 52 minutes). “The Black Road” addresses the conflict in Aceh leading up to and following the tsunami and the subsequent negotiations of peace. It was the winner of the Best Documentary and Best Film of the 2006 Mumbai International Film Festival. “Wars and Waves” treats the situation of displaced persons in Sri Lanka as a result of the conflict and tsunami.

The discussion was led by John Packer who has worked in both situations including with regard to the matters addressed by the films. Guests shared their experiences, views and perspectives in an informal and off-the-record exchange.

Attending the session were representatives from the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, International Centre for Municipal Development, CUSO, Canadian Foreign Policy Researchers and Masters Students.

The event emphasized HRI’s close work with Canadian government agencies on conflict prevention and transformation issues, both in Sri Lanka and Aceh. In addition, it allowed the diverse group to discuss best practices for achieving sustainable peace in these areas and around the world.

### **Sri Lanka: Post CFA Peace Process Scenarios**

On 20 February 2008, HRI hosted a Speakers’ Series Discussion with Harim Peiris, a Senior Researcher from the Sri Lankan think tank, Council for Public Policy. He presented an overview of the Sri Lankan peace process as well as some of the work that the Council is doing to move this process forward. Mr. Peiris spoke of the current political environment within Sri Lanka and possible solutions towards transforming the violence. In particular, he discussed the Rajapaksa Administration and the War and the role of the international community and civil society.

## HRI People in 2007

### OTTAWA OFFICE

**Teri Ann Bryans** acted Project Officer for the *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy*. Prior to working with HRI she worked in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions as a legal research fellow. Ms. Bryans has also worked in Eastern Europe with the European Roma Rights Centre based in Budapest, where she co-authored the first edition of a human rights training manual directed at Romani activists and non-governmental organizations in Central and Eastern Europe; applying human rights training methodologies to local Romani issues to assist in further capacitating activists in the language of international human rights law and activism. She holds a Combined Bachelor of Arts in Human Rights and Sociology from Carleton University in Ottawa and an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights located at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Ms. Bryans ended her position with HRI in December 2007 upon her recruitment to United Nations Volunteers.

**Jean-Claude Lizé** acted as the International Internship Coordinator and has been responsible for the microfiche program since 2006. He has a Combined Honours in Human Rights and Law from Carleton University and is currently working on his MA in Conflict Studies from Saint Paul's University. Jean-Claude has spent several years in the Balkans, primarily in southern Serbia working with local NGO's in developing programs in women's rights and civil society.

**Corinne Packer** is Executive Director of Human Rights Internet (appointed in summer 2006) and has worked with Human Rights Internet since July 2004. In addition to her duties at HRI, she is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Ottawa's Institute of Population Health, working on global health equity matters. Dr. Packer has previously worked as a consultant for, *inter alia*: The Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (evaluating the Technical Cooperation Branch of the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights); the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (notably on the matter of reproductive health in refugee situations); the World Health Organisation (on population and reproductive health standards); the Council of Europe (on women's reproductive health equality and on Romani women's reproductive health in general); and for The Netherlands' Ministries of Foreign Affairs (with regard to the successful Dutch campaign for membership on the UN Security Council) and of Social Affairs and Employment (regarding Dutch policy on the human rights of women). In 2003-2004, she was a Research Fellow at the Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University's School of Public Health. She holds an M.A. in Applied Population Studies (Exeter University), an M.Phil. in International Relations (Cambridge University) and a PhD in International Human Rights Law (Utrecht University). She has authored two books, co-edited several books, and contributed to numerous scholarly compilations and journals, conferences and policy and training programmes.

**John Packer** acted as Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator for HRI's global *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy*. Until February 2004, Mr. Packer was Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (and previously Senior Legal Advisor). In 2003-2004, he was a Visiting Assistant Professor of International Law at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 1991-1995, John was a Human Rights Officer at the United Nations, investigating serious violations of human rights in Iraq, Burma and Afghanistan, and on the protection of Judges and Lawyers. He has been a consultant to several international organizations, governments and NGOs, edits several journals on the protection of human rights and on inter-ethnic relations, and has lectured throughout the world. John holds an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, and diplomas in the same field from the Finnish Institute of Human Rights at Abo Akademi and from l'Institut international des droits de l'homme in Strasbourg, along with a certificate in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies from l'Université de Genève where he pursued doctoral studies. In September 2007, upon his appointment

as Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, he stepped down as Project Coordinator and became Special Advisor to the ICPQD program.

**Gemma Richardson** acted as the Internship Coordinator for all of HRI's internship programs. Ms. Richardson joined HRI in April 2005. She is a former CIDA IYIP intern, who spent six months in Nairobi, Kenya with Planned Parenthood Federation of America - International's Africa Regional Office. Ms. Richardson has a Combined Bachelor of Journalism and Human Rights from Carleton University in Ottawa.

### INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

**Craig Collins** is a Research Associate and Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Component of the *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy*, working from Brisbane, Spain. Mr. Collins holds a Master's of Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance, University of the South Pacific, Fiji and the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Queensland, Australia. He has specialized in multilateral approaches to conflict prevention, the relationship of human rights protection, good governance and conflict management, and UN/regional peacekeeping operations. Among other experience in this field, Mr. Collins has worked with intergovernmental organizations on developing early warning and response capabilities, and for UNDP on Track I and II dialogue processes in the Pacific region. In September 2007, Mr. Collins replaced Mr. Packer as Project Coordinator of the ICPQD program.

**Taryn Lesser** held the position of Assistant Advisor in conflict prevention for Human Rights Internet. For two years she coordinated the Latin America and the Caribbean component of the *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy*, seconded to the Association of Caribbean States in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (2005) and the Organization of American States in Washington, DC (2006). During this time she advised/assisted regional inter-governmental actors with quiet diplomatic engagement and focused on migration and conflict issues. She also compiled and edited *Intra-Caribbean Migration and the Conflict Nexus*, a 17-article book on conflict-related migration themes in the Greater Caribbean, which provided recommendations to policy-makers for preventing conflict. Previously, Ms. Lesser worked in immigration law and human rights advocacy with various NGOs in the United States and Argentina. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development and Spanish Language/Literature from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's degree in International Law and Human Rights from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University near Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Lesser is a trained mediator and mediates discrimination cases on a *pro bono* basis for the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights. In Autumn 2007, Ms. Lesser was recruited to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and assists the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms indigenous people.

## HRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kirt Ejesiak**, Vice-Chairman of the Board.

He is currently President of Uqsiq Communications based in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Previously, he was Chief of Staff to the Premier of Nunavut and Director of Communications at the Inuit Tapirisat. In that role, he managed a capacity building project that brought together young Inuit from Canada and Russia, as well as indigenous youth from Chile. He has been a member of the Inuit delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and to the World Conference on Human Rights. He has also worked as a broadcaster and served on the Board of the Nunavut Trust.

**Angie Forte**, Director of the Board.

She is currently a lawyer with Health Canada. She has worked in the areas of transportation, competition and privacy law, including the drafting of the new Privacy Act. Ms. Forte has worked with the OSCE on an election observation mission in the Ukraine and served on the Board of Pax Humana, an NGO dedicated to international peace and conflict resolution. She has traveled extensively in Asia, Africa and Latin America and is a graduate of the University of Ottawa Law School.

**Ron Hoffmann**, Treasurer of the Board.

Mr. Hoffmann is Minister of Political and Public Affairs in Canada's High Commission in London, England. In this role, he has chaired the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth. Prior to this role, Ron served as advisor to then Canadian foreign ministers Bill Graham and John Manley. He has also served in Canadian embassies in the Netherlands, South Africa and China, where he initiated human rights briefings for Canadian business missions.

**Scott Leckie**, Director of the Board.

He is the founder and Executive Director of Displacement Solutions. Mr. Leckie also founded and directed for many years the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), a leading advocacy organisation for adequate housing and protection from forced evictions. Mr. Leckie regularly advises various United Nations agencies including UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, OHCHR, OCHA and UN Habitat. He has written extensively on various human rights issues and including the preparation of a draft policy on incorporating housing, land and property rights into future UN and other peace operations in post-conflict settings. He holds degrees in politics and law, has published some 100 articles and books and has lectured around the world. His most recent book *Returning Home* (vol. 2) examines housing and property restitution rights of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the world.

**Eli Turk**, Chairman of the Board.

He is Vice President of the Canadian Electricity Association. He has also been Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Industry and Director of Policy and Programs for the Inuit Tapirisat. In that role, he acted as constitutional negotiator and managed the self-government program. Mr. Turk managed Canadian Inuit participation at the World Conference on Human Rights and attended the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. He has worked with the U.N. Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) helping to organize and supervise elections and more recently was a member of the Canadian delegation to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Support for HRI

### DONORS AND FUNDING

In 2007, HRI obtained project funding from:

- Foreign Affairs Canada;
- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA);
- The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development (CORDAID), and
- The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## Financial Report 2007

HRI's 2007 Financial Report covers HRI's fiscal year running 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

### Financial Report 2007-2008

	2008	2007
<b>Revenue</b>	1,071,037	1,074,927
<b>Expenditures</b>	958,217	1,055,715
<b>Excess of revenue over expense</b>	112,821	19,212
<b>Accumulation of equity</b>	262,499	149,678

Audited statement by Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP, Ottawa, November 2008.