



Human Rights Think Tank Watch

Volume 1 - Issue 5

April 1, 2008

In This Issue

Publications

- Bringing Rights to Bear
- Catching the Wind - Human Rights
- Corruption, Human Rights and Gender: An Empirical Investigation
- Creating a Peace to Keep in Darfur
- The Equal Rights Review
- Getting Serious About Ending Conflict and Sexual Violence in Congo
- Human Rights Annual Report 2007
- Ninth Periodic Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan
- Troubled Waters: The Unwitting Weapon Against Tribal Peoples
- Women and the Right to Food: International Law and State Practice

Journal References

- Social Justice: The Link Between Trade Liberalisation and Sub-Saharan Africa's Potential to Achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015
- Human Rights and Harmony

Book References

- Human Rights and Structural Adjustment

Forthcoming Publications

- Terrorism and Human Rights: Discussing Politically Motivated Violence

Multimedia & Tools

Editor's Note

As mentioned in our previous issue, HRI has recently launched its redesigned Web site at hri.ca. We invite you to check it out. And if you would like to subscribe, or spread the word about our newsletter, please visit our [sign-up page](#).

For the spring, we have scheduled two special editions of the HRTTW to be published on April 22 and May 19, respectively. In honour of Earth Hour held this past Saturday, and to coincide with Earth Day on April 22, HRI will be publishing its next special issue on the topic of the Environment and Human Right. This will be followed on May 19 by a special issue dedicated to Conflict and Fragile States.

And finally, we welcome any feedback. Please send any comments or questions to subscriptions@hri.ca.

-HRI Team

- *A Work-in-Progress: Human Rights in Haiti - A UN Documentary*

Blogs

- *Become a Blogger for Human Rights - A Human Rights Watch Tool*

Events

- *Tackling Global Business & Human Rights Challenges*

Publications

Bringing Rights to Bear

Organization: *Center for Reproductive Rights*

Date: March 2008

From the Authors

Bringing Rights to Bear, a signature publication of the Center for Reproductive Rights, takes a long, hard look at the thousands of comments, statements, and recommendations produced by UN treaty monitoring bodies, and analyzes their potential for advancing reproductive rights. This 2008 update, produced as a series of independent briefing papers, reflects the growing recognition among these UN bodies that reproductive rights are firmly grounded in international human rights treaties. The more flexible layout allows audiences with more tailored thematic interests to receive only the information they require.

The first four updated briefing papers focus on the subjects of sex education, HIV/AIDS, violence against women, and contraception and family planning. Check back for briefing papers on the issues of maternal mortality, female genital mutilation, abortion, and marriage and private life, scheduled for release later this year.

[View Source](#) [ReproductiveRights.com]

Catching the Wind - Human Rights

Organization: *International Council on Human Rights Policy*

Date: 2007

From the Authors

The International Council on Human Rights Policy was created ten years ago to deliver relevant and useful ideas in the field of human rights policy. To reflect its first ten years of activity, the

Council has produced this document, which surveys recent trends in human rights and, more speculatively, looks forward at some of the large issues that lie ahead.

Unusual because it is not a product of the Council's normal processes of research and consultation, the report should be read as a reflection, a "taking stock" designed to stimulate further reflection. It is certainly not definitive, let alone a programme of action. Because the aim is to start a debate, not draw conclusions, we make no apology for raising large issues in broad and preliminary terms.

[View Source](#) [ichrp.org] [PDF]

Corruption, Human Rights and Gender: An Empirical Investigation

Author: Namawu Alhassan Aolo

Organization: *International Council on Human Rights Policy - Corruption and Human Rights Division*

Date: 2007

From the Authors

In recent years, there is increasing attention paid to the impact of corruption on human rights. Corruption is said to be a major constraint to the enjoyment of human rights as it perpetuates discrimination and subjugates already marginalised groups. Indeed, corruption has been said to reinforce and perpetuate existing gender inequalities, as it disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, such as women and girls.

Despite this association of corruption with human rights violation, very little empirical research has been attempted on the impact of corruption on human rights, with special emphasis on gender. It is on this basis that the ICHRP commissioned an empirical research project which sought to map out areas where corruption impacts on the human rights of women and men. Specifically, the project had three primary objectives: Map out areas where corruption impacts on gender and human rights; assess the extent to which organisations are considered to be gender sensitive in the work towards corruption; and, assess gender differential perceptions of the impact of corruption on human rights.

In this report, we present a detailed outline of the research methodology employed for study in Ghana to address these three aims, as well as the findings of the field work. Structurally, the report is divided into two broad sections: research methodology and research findings.

[View Source](#) [ichrp.org] [PDF]

Creating a Peace to Keep in Darfur

Authors: John Pendergast and Jerry Fowler

Organization: *Joint Report by the ENOUGH Project & the Save Darfur Coalition*

Date: March 2008

From the Authors

This paper outlines the urgent steps that must be taken to create a peace to keep in Darfur. ENOUGH and the Save Darfur Coalition have identified these steps through our field work, our consultations with key actors, and our own experience with peace processes in Sudan and

elsewhere. In particular, we draw on the model used to negotiate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the decades-long war in southern Sudan.

[View Source](#) [enoughproject.org]

The Equal Rights Review

Organization: *The Equal Rights Trust*

Date: March 2008

Brief Description

The Equal Rights Trust is an organization formed in 2007 as a "response to two major problems: the drifting apart of the fields of equality and human rights; and the fragmentation of equality," writes Dmitra Petrova the Equal Rights Review's editor.

To assist in its effort, the Equal Rights Trust has published its inaugural edition of the *Equal Rights Review*, a bi-annual publication that is "intended to be neither an academic peer-reviewed journal, nor an NGO activist newsletter." This *Review* is meant to be instead "somewhere in the middle," inviting "new and controversial ideas that generate debate or fundamentally rethink established concepts and approaches." It's "special focus" will be on the "complex and complementary relationship between the different forms of discrimination, and on developing strategies for translating principles of equality into practice."

This first edition features the following articles:

- *Locating Equality: From Historical Philosophical Thought to Modern Legal Norms*, written by Jarlath Clifford;
- *Multiple Discrimination: How Law can Reflect Reality*, written Paola Uccellari;
- *Legislating for Equality in Colombia: Constitutional Jurisprudence, Tutelas, and Social Reform*, written by Patrick Delaney;
- *Slums, the Right to Adequate Housing and the Ban on Discrimination*, written by Claude Cahn.

[View Source](#) [equalrightstrust.org] [PDF]

Getting Serious About Ending Conflict and Sexual Violence in Congo

Authors: Rebecca Feeley and Colin Thomas-Jensen

Organization: *ENOUGH Project*

Date: March 2008

Brief Description

"While a recent ceasefire agreement is hailed as a diplomatic success, the continued suffering of Congolese civilians remains an international failure."

The quotation above could very well have been written at several times since the Democratic Republic of Congo gained independence in 1960. Though this particular quotation comes from the ENOUGH report published in March 2008.

The ENOUGH report focuses on this fragile ceasefire and the on-going violence that is prevalent in many parts of the country, namely the sexual violence (i.e. rape) targeted towards women as a weapon to "weaken the fabrics of communities that women work so hard to uphold." Because, according to the authors, "when women's economic activities (going to the market, collecting water, gathering firewood, among others), are hindered by fear of sexual violence, women and their families suffer."

The authors describe some of the atrocities that they have come across and offer recommendations to the regional and international stakeholders that follow the "3 Ps of crisis response," while incorporating a "4th P". These "Ps" are: "Peacemaking"; "Protection"; "Punishment"; and, "Prevention."

[View Source](#) [enoughproject.org]

Human Rights Annual Report 2007

Organization: *UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

Date: March 2008

From the Report

In this report, we set out the importance of human rights to all our international policy goals, highlighting our policies, our main programmes, and the challenges we face. We also show in Part 3 how we work to protect the human rights of UK nationals abroad through our consular services, and outline what we are doing to ensure respect for human rights in Britain's Overseas Territories. In Part 4, we explain our work on some crucial human rights themes that underpin all the FCO's strategic policy goals: equality, democracy and the rule of law. Finally, in Part 5 we examine 21 countries of concern in greater depth, setting out the main human rights problems and how we have aimed to address them, and outlining future challenges and plans. states and people.

[View Source](#) [fco.gov.uk] [PDF]

Ninth Periodic Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan

Organization: *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right & UNAMID*

Date: March 2008

From the Report

This report is issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with the United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The report contains the findings of the investigation conducted by UNAMID Human Rights into the January and February attacks on the villages of Saraf Jidad, Sirba, Silea and Abu Suruj in West Darfur.

[View Source](#) [ohchr.org] [PDF]

Troubled Waters: The Unwitting Weapon Against Tribal Peoples

Organization: *Survival*

Date: March 2008

Brief Description

"All tribal peoples rely upon the water in their land to sustain them. It is crucial to their health, to their independence, to their very existence. And it is disappearing."

This brief report is a call to action by the indigenous rights group, Survival. The report presents several cases where indigenous tribes' rights to water are being undermined in the interest of national development.

[View Source](#) [survival-international.org] [PDF]

Women and the Right to Food: International Law and State Practice

Organization: *Food and Agriculture Organization*

Date: 2008

From the Author

In light of the Millennium Development Goals No. 1 - to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger - and No. 3 - to promote gender equality and empower women - the present study provides a cross-cutting analysis of the right to food from a gender perspective, examining relevant international instruments as well as State practice.

The study will, first of all, examine international instruments protecting the right to food in general, and the right to food of women in particular. The analysis of these documents will give an idea of what is today's level of awareness of women's right to food and related issues, how much is covered by law and how much is missing.

[View Source](#) [globalpolicy.org] [PDF]

Journal References

Social Justice: The Link Between Trade Liberalisation and Sub-Saharan Africa's Potential to Achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015

Author: Ben Chigara

Journal: *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights - Volume 26, No. 1*

Date: March 2008

From the Author

The possible impact of the unintended worst possible effects of the current multilateral WTO sponsored trade liberalisation project on Sub-Saharan Africa's potential to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015 is examined. The article shows that the WTO's current approach to trade liberalisation is nurturing and strengthening economic inequalities between and within economic regions of the world and also between and

within States themselves without taking any steps to mitigate this difficulty. The article recommends the integration of ILO and WTO dynamics to ensure human development oriented wealth maximisation under the WTO trade liberalisation regime. In this sense the ILO would become the broker and insurer of equality in the dignity of labour between Sub-Saharan African workers and other workers of the world, increasingly thereby the chances for Sub-Saharan African States to achieve the MDGs by the target date of 2015.

Also in this! Issue:

- *The Personal Application of the Right to Work in the Age of Migration* written by Haina Lu
- *UN Peace Operation and Security Council Resolutions: A Tool for Measuring the Status of International Human Rights Law?* written by Katarina Mansson

[View Source](#) [nqhr.net] [Available for Purchase via the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights site]

Human Rights and Harmony

Author: Stephen C. Angle

Journal: *Human Rights Quarterly* - Volume 30, Number 1

Date: February 2008

From the Author

There are a number of reasons for thinking that human rights and harmony, two values much discussed with regard to contemporary China, make poor bedfellows. They emerge from different traditions and may apply in different ways: human rights setting a minimal standard and harmony articulating an elusive ideal. In addition, might not harmony demand the sacrifice of one person's rights in order to achieve some larger objective? Does not individual striving to protect one's human rights smack of disharmony? Drawing on both Confucian and contemporary Western philosophy, however, this essay argues that a simultaneous commitment to human rights and to harmony is both coherent and desirable.

Also in this issue:

- *Western Scientists' Reactions to Andrei Sakharov's Human Rights Struggle in the Soviet Union, 1968-1989* written by Charles Rheaume
- *Akbarzadeh, Shahram. Prospects for Feminism in the Islamic Republic of Iran* written by Rebecca Barlow, Rebecca.
- *The African Peer Review Mechanism and Human Rights: The First Reviews and the Way Forward* written by Magnus Killander
- *The Irreconcilable Goals of Transitional Justice* written by Bronwyn Leebaw,
- *Defining the Problem of Trafficking: The Interplay of US Law, Donor, and NGO Engagement and the Local Context in Latin America* written by David Guinn
- *The European Union and Democratization in Turkey: The Role of the Elites* written by Fusun Turkmen
- *Flowers, Diamonds, and Gold: The Destructive Public Health, Human Rights, and Environmental Consequences of Symbols of Love* written by Martin Donohoe
- *Neither Relative nor Universal: A Response to Donnelly* written by Michael Goodhart
- *Human Rights: Both Universal and Relative (A Reply to Michael Goodhart)* Jack Donnelly

[View Source](#) [muse.jhu.edu] [Abstract - Full Text available for purchase via [Project Muse.](#)]

Book References

Human Rights and Structural Adjustment

Authors: M. Rodwan Abouharb & David Louis Cingranelli

Publisher: *Cambridge University Press*

Date: 2007

From the Publishers

'Structural adjustment' has been a central part of the development strategy for the 'third world'. Loans made by the World Bank and the IMF have been conditional on developing countries pursuing rapid economic liberalization programmes as it was believed this would strengthen their economies in the long run. M. Rodwan Abouharb and David Cingranelli argue that, conversely, structural adjustment agreements usually cause increased hardship for the poor, greater civil conflict, and more repression of human rights, therefore resulting in a lower rate of economic development. Greater exposure to structural adjustment has increased the prevalence of anti-government protests, riots and rebellion. It has led to less respect for economic and social rights, physical integrity rights, and worker rights, but more respect for democratic rights. Based on these findings, the authors recommend a human rights-based approach to economic development.

[View Source](#) [cambridge.org] [Available for Purchase via Cambridge University Press]

Forthcoming Publications

Terrorism and Human Rights: Discussing Politically Motivated Violence

Organization: *International Council on Human Rights Policy*

Expected: April 2008

From the Authors

Due in April, this report discusses how human rights organisations talk to governments and the public about acts of terrorism. The report emphasises the vital importance of making sure governments respect human rights and the rule of law. It suggests that human rights organisations should engage in international discussions on a global definition of terrorism, and explores how a victim-centred approach might enable advocates to apply human rights to those responsible for terrorist acts.

Check back at the ICHRP's website for more information.

[View Source](#) [ichrp.org]

Multimedia & Tools

A Work-in-Progress: Human Rights in Haiti - A UN Documentary

From the Site

In a delicate blend of paintings and exclusive footage, this documentary - the first of its kind - takes viewers through the history of Haitian people and the struggle for their rights.

Through the eyes of victims, human rights defenders and observers with the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), one gets an insight into the prison system, the courts and the police.

A Work-In-Progress is the fascinating and compassionate story of a people facing the challenge of building a society respectful of human rights.

[View Source](#) [un.org]

Blogs

Become a Blogger for Human Rights - A Human Rights Watch Tool

From the Site

Human Rights Watch has been committed to upholding the right to free expression since its beginnings in the 1970s. The Internet, and blogs in particular, have made it easier for people to express themselves to a potential audience of millions. They have also created an enormous opportunity for disseminating information about, and ending, human rights abuses around the world.

This site offers links to services that Human Rights Watch offers to help promote blogging and create a community of bloggers dedicated to promoting human rights.

[View Source](#) [hrw.org]

Events

Tackling Global Business & Human Rights Challenges

Presented by: The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, in collaboration with The Centre for International Policy Studies - The Human Rights Research and Education Centre

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2008

Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Desmarais Building, 4th floor. 55 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa

Speaker: John G. Ruggie, United Nations Special Representative for Business & Human Rights Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University

Panelists:

- Alex Neve, Amnesty International Canada
- Penelope Simons, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa
- Bruce Broomhall, Department of Law, UQAM

Moderator: Don Hubert, Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa

For further information on this upcoming session, please contact api@uOttawa.ca

Sources: Abouharb, M. Rodwan & Cingranelli, David Louis. Center for Reproductive Rights. ENOUGH Project. Equal Rights Trust. GlobalPolicy.org. Human Rights Quarterly. Human Rights Watch. International Council on Human Rights Policy. Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Save Darfur Coalition. Survival. UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. UNAMID. United Nations. University of Ottawa.

The opinions expressed in the material presented in this newsletter are those of their authors and not Human Rights Internet. If you have any feedback, please e-mail subscriptions@hri.ca

Human Rights Internet, 1 Nicholas St. Suite 301, Ottawa, ON. K1N 7B7

To unsubscribe or change subscriber options visit:

<http://www.aweber.com/z/r/?rCwszBzMtCxMjGwszAxstEa0zEwsjCwsTA==>