



RESPECT

The Human Rights Newsletter

Special Issue Commission on Human Rights, 15 March 2004

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A Year of Birthdays...

From the Editors

The past year has seen a number of important dates in the human rights calendar. We have marked the 55th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, the 10th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the 10th anniversary of the resolution creating this Office, among other events.

These auspicious occasions were reason enough to spur us to start a regular publication. But last year our Office also faced the most tragic event to hit the UN since the death of

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961: the killing of High Commissioner Sergio Vieira de Mello, along with 21 other colleagues and civilians, in the despicable attack in Baghdad on 19 August.

Our resolve to carry on with our work in defense of human rights, as Sergio would have wished, convinced us to put pen to paper and start this forum, *Respect*, as a way of exchanging ideas and sharing with our colleagues and partners in the human rights com-

munity some of the work that we do.

In each issue, we will try to give an overview of the most important activities and events our Office is working on and listen to the “voices from the field”, colleagues confronted on a daily basis with some very harsh realities and who can tell us what is being done to make our maxim – “all human rights for all people” – come true. We look forward to your feedback as we work to make *Respect* a useful tool for all of us.

Justice Louise Arbour Named High Commissioner for Human Rights

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Canadian Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour as the next High Commissioner for Human Rights. The General Assembly confirmed the appointment on 25 February. The High Commissioner-designate is expected in Geneva in the summer.

Mrs. Arbour, who has served on Canada’s Supreme Court since 1999, distinguished herself as chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda from 1996 to 1999 in The Hague.

Before leaving the Dutch capital, she issued the first-ever indictment of a still-serving Head of State, Slobodan Milosevic.

Mrs. Arbour gained widespread recognition in Canada for her work at the head of an investigation into the operation of the correctional service, based on allegations by female inmates at a women’s prison in Kingston, Ontario.

Louise Arbour and Kofi Annan in Ottawa, March 2004.

(UN Photo)



Making Rights Work —Ten Years Since Vienna

By José Luis Díaz



Palais Wilson, Geneva
(OHCHR Photo)

Looking back at the last decade, it is plain that after a difficult birth, the Office has become a relatively stable institution, but one that is still operating in a most challenging environment.

Anniversaries only have the significance we give them. They are extremely useful as occasions for reflection. The tenth year of the institution we now know as OHCHR is such an opportunity. Looking back at the last decade, it is plain that after a difficult birth, the Office has achieved considerable stability, even though it is still operating in a most challenging environment.

The formal creation of the Office is easy enough to date. Delegates at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna agreed in June 1993 to recommend to the General Assembly the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights". The complete story goes much farther back than 1993, however. In 1947 René Cassin put forward the idea of an Attorney-General for Human Rights. And in 1967 and 1977 there were more formal proposals for a "High Commissioner".

With the end of the Cold War, things finally got moving. The optimism and opportunities engendered by those events created a more favorable climate which, among other things, led Morocco and the then Under Secretary-General for Human Rights Jan Martenson to propose, in 1989, the holding of a world conference on human rights. Much hard work lay ahead -- and a lot of the initial optimism about the supposed promise the end of the cold war held for a new human-rights era waned in the meantime -- but the formal process set in motion by General Assembly resolution 45/155 culminated in another GA text, 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

establishing the post and office of High Commissioner.

The new Office quickly made its mark. The first High Commissioner, José Ayala-Lasso, took up his post on 5 April 1994, one day before the genocide in Rwanda began. He visited the country as the killings were still taking place, and went on to set up there the first stand-alone human-rights field office. He also established an office in Burundi to help avert mass killings like those in Rwanda next-door. Views still differ on the first High Commissioner's legacy, but these initiatives provided reason for hope about how the role of the High Commissioner could evolve.

Mr. Ayala-Lasso's successor, Mary Robinson, raised the profile of the Office and of the human rights discourse generally, making well known her intention to be a voice for victims of violations. She made a groundbreaking visit to China and put the international spotlight on a number of serious situations, from Sierra Leone to Chechnya.

The appointment as High Commissioner in June 2002 of Sergio Vieira de Mello, widely recognized as one of the Organization's best assets, confirmed the status the Office had achieved. Sergio, as he was known to practically everyone, served in some of the toughest UN missions, constantly coming face to face with the reality of human rights violations. This experience forged his vision for the Office.

A big part of Sergio's brief was to give the institution a sharper focus and continue to strengthen it. For enormous challenges remain. Assessing

the situation of human rights around the world ten years after the Vienna conference, acting High Commissioner Bertrand Ramcharan told a New York audience earlier this year that despite much progress since the end of the Second World War, "[F]or millions of people the world over the basic human rights of the Universal Declaration remain illusory".

This reality is probably the greatest challenge before the Office. To meet it, OHCHR is focusing increasingly to action where it matters most, on the ground. This thinking is behind the emphasis OHCHR places on the way countries protect their citizens from breaches of human rights (« national protection systems ») and reinforcement of the rule of law. OHCHR's field activities seek, among other objectives, to integrate in a better way human rights into the activities on the ground of all United Nations agencies and country teams, as reflected in the Secretary-General's reform plan.

How the Office responds to increasing demands and a generally dire human rights situation in many parts of the world will be crucial. It was very present in the late High Commissioner's mind when he addressed a symposium on OHCHR early last year: "As High Commissioner, I am trying to emphasize [...] how the presence of the OHCHR in the field can affect the situation on the ground. [...] This has been the bulk of my own experience. 'How can I make this work now,' is the very difficult question I am trying to answer".

Trying to Make a Difference : Human Rights Commission Meets for 60th Session

The most important global annual event on human rights is upon us again, along with all the hopes, controversies and excitement it generates. It has become predictable to hear it said this time of year that the Commission on Human Rights is meeting at a critical juncture in international affairs. That does not make it less true that the issues on its agenda for this 60th session are likely to focus international attention with unusual intensity (for background on this session, see article page 4). The war on terrorism and its impact on civil liberties; situations in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo; the occupied territories including the wall Israel is building; the effects of globalization on human rights; sexual orientations; human rights guidelines for transnational corporations, to mention only a few, should all be the subject of heated debate.

But stopping at these “hot” issues would be to miss much of the point of the Commission. The panel remains the most inclusive international human rights body, bringing together country representatives and “civil society”, or non-governmental delegates, and a host of other types of participants in between. Members and observers discuss the whole range of human rights concerns, not least economic, social and cultural rights, which some still don’t consider rights at all.

The acting High Commis-

sioner, Bertrand Ramcharan, will be presenting one flagship report to the Commission (document E/CN.4/2004/12) in which he paints a grim picture of the current human rights situation. Bertrand Ramcharan writes that, “Since the World Conference on Human Rights was held in Vienna in 1993, human rights have continued to be violated. Poverty has not declined; civilians are targeted in violation of international law; violence continues to be perpetrated by State and non-State actors; racism and intolerance, in all their contemporary manifestations, can be said to have increased; democracy and the rule of law are under threat. And to the litany of the world’s ills, we must now add terrorism”.

Calling on States to recommit themselves to their responsibilities under the International Bill of Human Rights, and the other international instruments adopted since, he outlines five areas of activity that are assuming increasing importance: the emphasis on strengthening national protection systems in each country; better implementation of the human rights treaty system; strengthening the system of special procedures; promoting human rights education; and developing the role of the courts in the protection of human rights. The report deals with each of these in turn.

The report then turns to an assessment of the current state of protection, emphasizing the prevention of gross violations

of human rights and rapid intercession to protect potential and actual victims. “The Commission on Human Rights has the primary role in prevention”, the acting High Commissioner writes.

On specific questions, the acting High Commissioner makes a strong appeal to the Commission to act on the problem of trafficking in young women, which he calls “the negation of every basic human right”. He urges the Commission to consider the establishment of a mechanism to address “this shocking and all-too-pervasive problem”.

Bertrand Ramcharan has also indicated his support for the establishment of another mechanism to study how the fight against terrorism is affecting human rights. A report from OHCHR (document E/CN.4/2004/91) lists the appointment of an expert or rapporteur to examine this question as an option the Commission could consider. The acting High Commissioner has also called for an international convention on human rights education.

Six weeks of public discussions and behind-the-scenes negotiations await the thousands of delegates that will attend this year’s Commission session. And while views differ on the Commission, the level of participation at each session and the intensity of debate on its floor make it an essential stop for those who want to make a difference.

J.L.D.



Acting High Commissioner
Bertrand Ramcharan
(OHCHR Photo)

The acting High Commissioner makes a strong appeal to the Commission to address the problem of trafficking in young women, “this shocking and all-too-pervasive problem”.



OHCHR Photo

The 60th Session - an Overview

The principal human rights organ of the United Nations will conduct its annual six-week session for 2004 from 15 March to 23 April.

The Commission on Human Rights, created in 1946 and made up of 53 member States, will begin its meeting at the Palais des Nations with a three-and-a-half-day "high-level segment" featuring interventions by senior Government officials and by heads of various United Nations agencies.

It will then work its way through an agenda covering such topics as human rights violations around the world; racism; the rights of minorities, migrant workers, and indigenous peoples; the rights of women and the prevention of violence against women; the rights of children; the prevention of torture, disappearances, and summary executions; efforts to end religious intolerance; the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights; and the advancement of the right to development.

Among long-standing topics of consideration will be a review of the human rights situation around the world. Numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will, as every year, address the subject. Accountings also will be presented by the Commission's Special Rapporteurs or Special Representatives on the status of human rights in the oc-

cupied Arab territories, Myanmar, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Iraq. Reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will address situations in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste. A report of the Secretary-General will deal with the question of human rights in Cyprus. All these situations fall under the Commission's agenda item on "the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world".

The situation in Colombia will be reviewed under an agenda item on "organization of work", and matters in Afghanistan, Somalia, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Timor-Leste and Haiti will be debated when the Commission discusses "advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights".

Trends and themes in the field of human rights deemed pressing enough to warrant the appointment of Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives, Independent Experts, or Working Groups also will be reviewed. Reports will be presented, among other things, on combating defamation of religions as a means to promote human rights, social harmony and religious and cultural diversity; the use of mercenaries to undermine the right to self-determination; the right to development; unilateral coercive measures; the

right to education; the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes; structural adjustment policies and their effects on human rights; the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of human rights; extreme poverty; the right to food; adequate housing; the right to physical and mental health; access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; human rights and terrorism; incompatibility between democracy and racism; arbitrary detention; torture; enforced or involuntary disappearances; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; freedom of opinion; and freedom of religion.

In addition, as in previous years, in closed meetings under what is called the "1503 procedure", the Commission will discuss communications concerning alleged violations of human rights in specific countries.

Bureau composition

The Commission in January elected Ambassador Mike Smith of Australia as Chairperson of the sixtieth session. It also elected Saeed Mohamed Al-Faihani of Bahrain, Manuel Antonio Gonzalez Sanz of Costa Rica, and Gordan Markotic of Croatia to the Bureau. Michael Gbadebo Omotosho of Nigeria was elected as rapporteur.

The Commission on Human Rights is the world's foremost human rights forum, where countries large and small, non-governmental groups and human rights defenders from around the world can voice their concerns.

“Modernizing” the Arab Rights Charter

By Sonja Mann

The Permanent Arab Human Rights Commission (PAHRC), based in Cairo, has embarked on a process of “modernization” of the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Last January, in the Egyptian capital, the Commission adopted most of the recommendations of an independent team of experts appointed by the OHCHR and the League of Arab States (LAS) to bring the Charter into conformity with internationally-accepted human rights standards. The Council of the LAS endorsed the revised Charter on 4 March and has submitted it to the Arab Summit (Tunis, 28-29 March) for adoption.

The recommendations adopted in January provide for the strengthening, in the Charter, of civil and political rights, minority rights, and of the mechanism of monitoring the compliance of Member States with the Charter’s provisions; the extension of guarantees of fair trial, protection from torture and the imposition of restrictions on inflicting and executing the death penalty; the furthering of aspects related to the equality of the two genders; the addition of new rights particularly in areas such as children rights, rights of persons with disabilities and economic and social rights.

There remain, however, a number of provisions of the Charter that are contrary to international human rights standards, including the possibility of sentencing people under 18 years of age to death;

allowing for non-discrimination laws that are applicable only for citizens; and limitations on the freedoms of expression and association and gender equality. Another contentious issue concerns the language in the Charter related to Zionism.

In its deliberations, the team emphasized the non-derogable rights agreed upon internationally regarding the suspension of some civil and political rights during states of emergency. This would ensure that the prospective Charter would enshrine those rights and liberties considered indispensable for any regional and national human rights instrument worthy of its name. The experts also made clear their belief that the prospective charter had to be a covenant which Arab States could then ratify.

The team of five experts -- two women and three men from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria --

mandated by OHCHR and the LAS to work with the commission was selected from among the Arab members of UN human rights bodies, based on their expertise and taking into account geographical and gender balance. The experts received input from a number of Arab and international human rights groups, including the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Cairo Center for Human Rights Studies, the Arab Lawyers’ Union, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists.

The LAS Council approved the original Charter in March 1994. It never entered into force because it failed to obtain a sufficient number of ratifications. In addition, the Charter has been criticized by many Arab and international NGOs for containing articles that are believed to be inconsistent with international human rights standards.

A group of experts has recommended the strengthening of the charter's provisions on civil and political rights, minority rights, and guarantees of fair trial, among others.



The recommendations adopted in January provide for the addition of new rights particularly in areas such as children rights, rights of persons with disabilities... (UN Photo)

The Pain of Reconciliation : Forgiving the Unforgivable - The Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission

By *Abigail Noko*

Although the Commission is victim-oriented, it still sought the cooperation of those who perpetrated human rights violations during the war, as their testimonies were crucial to the process of establishing the truth and creating conditions for national reconciliation.

Throughout much of the 1990s Sierra Leone was the scene of some of the worst human rights violations ever seen. The Lomé Peace Agreement of 1999 signaled the end of the war after a decade of fighting and gave Sierra Leoneans a reason for hope, even as many wondered how the country would overcome its recent tragic past.

Much of that work of healing fell upon the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), called for in the Lomé Agreement and enacted into law by Parliament in 2000. The TRC was to be a national reconciliatory body rooted in human rights standards and supported by local civil society and the international community. OHCHR has been among its most committed and long-standing partners, all the while ensuring national ownership of the reconciliatory process.

The Commission began its work in July 2002 to try to create an impartial historical record of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law related to the armed conflict in Sierra Leone; to address impunity; to respond to the needs of victims; to promote healing and reconciliation; and to prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses suffered. It has operated alongside the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is responsible for bringing to justice "those who bear the greatest responsibility" for

crimes against humanity and humanitarian law during the conflict.

One of the TRC's biggest challenges has been to overcome the antagonism between victims and perpetrators. As a widow who testified before the Commission said, the pain of reconciliation is forgiving the unforgivable. There was a healthy skepticism at the beginning of the process, but as public awareness of the Commission's goals grew so did a better understanding of the Commission's work, meaning that calls for revenge have become less prominent.

In order to bring together communities torn apart by the conflict, the Commission devised an operational plan in three stages -- deployment, hearings and report writing. During the deployment phase (December 2002 – March 2003), it collected over 7,500 statements from target groups including women, children, and ex-combatants. Based on those statements witnesses were invited to give testimonies during the hearings phase (April – July 2003). The Commission heard some 400 witnesses in private and public sessions across the country. At the conclusion of each district hearing a closing ceremony was held involving traditional and religious leaders. Although the Commission is victim-oriented, it still sought the cooperation of those who perpetrated human rights vio-

lations during the war, as their testimonies were crucial to the process of establishing the truth and creating conditions for national reconciliation. Several pleas for apology and forgiveness were made including from rebels, ex-combatants and politicians. This phase of the Commission's work ended with a National Reconciliation Ceremony in Freetown.

The hearings phase was an important part of the TRC's work. As one displaced person remarked, it provided "an opportunity to address reconciliation at the community level...because the legacy of the past conflicts still leaves many communities internally divided. We want to know the causes of war so that we can begin to reconcile and heal our wounds".

The Commission has entered into its final phase and aims to finalize its report, to be submitted to President Kabbah and the Security Council, this month. According to the TRC Act (2000) the Commission's recommendations are binding upon the Government, and considerable political will will be required to implement them. Even before its final report is published, it is clear that despite the constraints it has faced, the Commission has been instrumental in a number of efforts at establishing truth and facilitating healing and peace-building.

Helping Put “Post-Conflict” States Together Again

One of the many difficulties countries emerging from war and armed conflict face is that often the rule of law and their systems of justice are among the casualties of the fighting that has just stopped. OHCHR is embarking on a two-year project to help countries in this bind.

The aim is to enhance OHCHR’s capacity to provide expertise in the field of international standards for the administration of justice, including truth and reconciliation processes, and international criminal law in post-conflict countries. The European Commission –

funded project, “*Rights-sensitive Transitional Justice in Post-conflict and Post-crisis Countries*”, has four major components: undertaking assessment missions to UN field presences to review approaches in this area and identify needs and lessons learned; consultations with partner institutions on the needs in the transitional justice area and the establishment of a project network; research and development of a framework to explore principles and rules applicable for transitional justice practices and mechanisms in post-conflict situations; and the

provision of technical advice in these areas to UN missions. At the end of the project there will be an Operational Manual that will help UN field missions and transitional administrations in their work to reestablish the rule of law and the administration of justice in post-conflict situations.

OHCHR will host a workshop on the subject from 27 to 29 September 2004. A pre-workshop session for UN field personnel will get their perspectives and feedback on the manual and its tools. More information on the “pre-workshop” will follow in future issues. J.L.D.

New Rights Panel Calls for Greater Acceptance of Migrants Convention

By Gabriella Habtom

The newest UN human-rights body, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, met for the first time at OHCHR Headquarters from 1 to 5 March.

The Committee, made up of 10 independent experts, is charged with monitoring the implementation of the migrant workers’ convention in the countries that are party to the treaty. Those countries – 25 so far – must report to the Committee on a regular basis.

At this first session, the panel met informally with representatives of States parties to the Convention as well as with officials of OHCHR, the International Labour Orga-

nisation, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It also exchanged views with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants and with the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights on the Rights of non-citizens. Several NGOs addressed the Committee and pledged their full support for its work.

Speaking at the end of the session, Committee Chairman Prasad Kariyawasam (Sri Lanka) called the one week of meetings successful.

“We are pleased with this

first session, as it allowed for a productive exchange of views with relevant UN agencies and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations and States parties”, Mr. Kariyawasam said. “It is of supreme importance that more States ratify the Convention in order that its protection may be extended to the very large number of migrant workers around the world, estimated to be over 120 million and growing”, the Chairman said. “We are somewhat concerned at the relatively low level of ratification of the Convention”, he added.

Echoing the words of United Nations Secretary-General

- (continued page 8)



Sergio Vieira de Mello and Barbara Hendricks at the opening of the first edition of the Festival, March 2003.

Photo Sarkis Ohanessian/FIFDH

Human Rights Film Festival: Tribute To Sergio Vieira de Mello

The second edition of the International Film Festival on Human Rights is taking place in Geneva from 12 to 19 March 2004.

The inspiration for the series of screenings, directed by filmmaker Léo Kaneman, came from the Human Rights Watch's International Film Festival, as well as from the University of Geneva, the

International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Organization against Torture, and associations of filmmakers also provided a boost.

Sergio Vieira de Mello was the first to sponsor the Festival in 2003, alongside Ken Loach, Robert Badinter and Barbara Hendricks. The organizers have dedicated this second edition to Sergio, and the Fes-

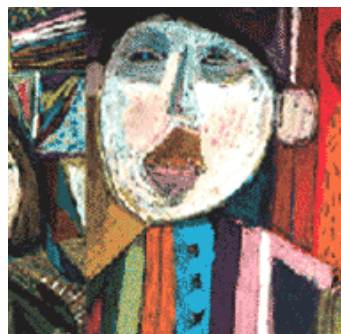
tival's main prize will bear his name. As Bertrand Ramcharan, who is a patron of the present edition, said: "This festival stands as a tribute to human rights defenders like Sergio and all the others who have paid the ultimate price or who toil tirelessly and often under threat so that we can all enjoy a decent life in freedom".

A.S.

"ConectaSur" Newsletter

ConectaSur, a portal for human rights in the South created by Human Rights Dialogue and *Sur* — Human Rights University Network, has just published the first issue of *ConectaSur Newsletter*, available on the web in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The objective of *ConectaSur*, created largely thanks to the financial support of the UN Foundation and the Ford Foundation, is to strengthen respect for human rights around the



world. Through networking, *ConectaSur* promotes the exchange of information and the development of cooperative initiatives to strengthen the human rights movement, particularly in the southern hemisphere.

The monthly Newsletter can be read at the following address: www.conectasur.org

New Rights Panel Calls for Greater Acceptance of Migrants Convention

(cont'd from page 7)

Kofi Annan, he said the situation of many migrant workers amounted to a silent human rights crisis. He noted that the Convention seeks to prevent and eliminate all forms of exploitation of migrant workers throughout the entire migration process and to grant their rights and obligations by providing a set of binding international standards to address the treatment, welfare

and human rights of both documented and undocumented migrants, as well as the obligations and responsibilities on the part of sending and receiving States.

In particular, it seeks to put an end to the illegal or clandestine recruitment and trafficking of migrant workers and discourage the employment of migrant workers in an irregular or undocumented situation.

The General Assembly adopted the Convention on 18 December 1990. The treaty entered into force on 1 July 2003.

The next session of the Committee is scheduled for July 2005.

For more information, please visit the following Internet address:

<http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/cmw/>

Lessons From the Iraq Human Rights Operation

By *Mona Rishmawi*

Upon returning from mission to Baghdad late last year, Mona Rishmawi, Senior Adviser to Sergio Vieira de Mello at OHCHR headquarters, sent the message below to all OHCHR staff. Mona wished to show how the late High Commissioner, acting as Special Representative to the Secretary General in Iraq, has managed to integrate a strong human rights concern in all aspects of his activities. Mona, who was injured in the 19 August attack, accompanied Sergio to Baghdad as his Human Rights and Women's Rights Adviser.

Dear colleagues,

In my first day in the Office after the events in Iraq, I would like to thank you all for the wonderful support you have extended to me over the last few weeks (...)

We traveled a hard and unexpected journey together in the last few weeks. We mourned together the loss of many friends and colleagues, including our leader and High Commissioner. So, we are now connected in grief and pain that is difficult to overcome.

As I return to the Office, I would like you to think of me however as a friend who came through a powerful experience with its tragic and positive sides.

Despite the sad memories of our last few days in Iraq, there are important positive

images that should not be erased. When I think of my time in Iraq I think of the extremely precious and fulfilling work I was engaged in under Sergio's leadership.

It was remarkable to work with a Special Representative who placed human rights at the centre of all his action. We at OHCHR speak often about the importance of placing human rights at the centre of UN action, but these are often words that are not translated into practice. Well -- that is exactly what Sergio did in Iraq on a daily basis. So we have multiple reasons to be proud of our late High Commissioner, who, I know for a fact, had set his heart on coming back to OHCHR on 30 September.

When I think of Iraq, I think of the many outstanding UN staff I encountered there. Many of them have now moved on to other UN assignments and we shall remain friends for ever. But I particularly also remember the competent, highly educated, hard-working, committed and pleasant Iraqi UN staff that we were surrounded by: I think of the exceptionally talented Information Technology team; I think of George the head of transportation; and I think of Adnan, the driver with a law degree who often helped me finding my way through Baghdad.

I also think of the participants at the first human rights

workshop ever convened in Iraq, on 30 June and 1 July, thanks to OHCHR support. I think of the young and energetic Iraqi human rights NGOs that were beginning to emerge. I think of the first UN human rights training workshop for Iraqi human rights groups, women's organizations, and media professionals that we were about to convene. I think of the four institutions that Sergio was so keen to start, including the Human Rights Documentation Centre at Baghdad University and the Media Center. I think of the Iraqi women and their determination to fight for their rights. I think of the Iraqi lawyers and the Bar Association, and the newly-elected Bar Council, which was the first elected body in Iraq. And I think of the Iraqi detainees - on whose behalf Sergio regularly intervened.

"I particularly remember the competent, highly educated, hard-working, committed and pleasant Iraqi UN staff that we were surrounded by..."



Mona Rishmawi sitting right to Sergio Vieira de Mello during a Press Conference in Baghdad – mid August 2003
(UN Photo)

Respect, The Human Rights Newsletter, is produced by the OHCHR External Relations Branch

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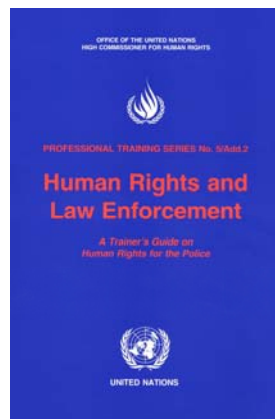
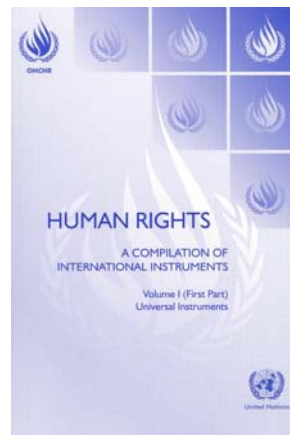
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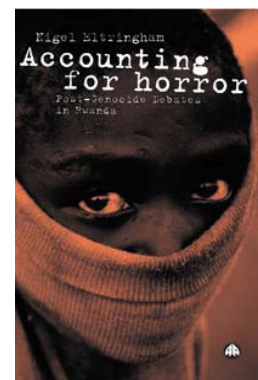
The *Digest of jurisprudence* of the United Nations and regional organizations on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism was compiled by OHCHR and published in September 2003. The digest is a compilation of findings of judicial and quasi-judicial bodies of the United Nations and regional organizations on the issue of the protection of human rights in the struggle against terrorism. Its aim is to assist policy makers and other concerned parties in developing a vision of counter-terrorism strategies that are fully respectful of human rights.

The sixth revision of OHCHR's "*Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments - Universal Instruments*" contains many new texts adopted up to 18 December 2002, such as the Millennium Declaration, the Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights.



The *Trainer's Guide on Human Rights for the Police* (Component 2 of the training package for the police) is now available. This publication provides outlines on a full range of human rights topics, group exercises, instructions and tips for trainers, as well as a number of training tools, such as overhead transparencies, to be used in conducting police training courses.

Ten years after the Rwanda genocide, *Accounting for horror*, based on interviews conducted in the country in 1998 by author Nigel Eltringham, argues that conventional modes of historical representation are inadequate in a case like Rwanda. Eltringham maintains that if we are to understand the genocide, we must explore the relationship between multiple explanations of what happened and interrogate how, and why, different groups within Rwandan society talk about the genocide in different ways. Nigel Eltringham is a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), London. He worked for three years with a conflict resolution NGO in Rwanda before conducting doctoral research inside the country and among the Rwandan Diaspora in Europe. He has extensively published on post-genocide Rwanda. **Pluto Press, London, www.plutobooks.com 2004, 234 pages, £15.99 paperback.**



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