



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER WORKS LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY TO PROVIDE TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, AND ASSISTANCE TO PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS, AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

From the Co-Directors

A GREETING OF THANKS FOR YOUR WORK AND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS!



Dear Human Rights Colleagues and Friends,

The Human Rights Center's mission since its founding has been to provide training, educational materials, and assistance to professionals, students, and volunteers working to promote and protect human rights locally, nationally, and internationally. We have sought, and still seek, to maximize the effectiveness of human rights advocates by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to advance an informed human rights agenda. In 2009, the Human Rights Center's accomplishments included:

- Expanding our online Human Rights Library, now available in nine languages, to better serve educators, researchers, and advocates around the globe;
- Coordinating, planning, co-sponsoring, or presenting at 40 conferences, film screenings, lectures, panels, and performances relating to human rights;
- Training more than 1,000 educators, Human Rights Commissioners, students, and other community leaders on Human Rights Education using our This is My Home and Close the Gap educational tools;
- Publishing and disseminating more than 21,000 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Convention on the Rights of the Child passports;
- Celebrating the graduation of our 2008-09 Humphrey Law Fellows and welcomed our new 2009-10 Humphrey Law Fellows cohort;
- Awarding 40 Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows with grants to work at human rights organizations, locally, nationally, and internationally;
- Presenting expert testimony on Women's Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women at the Office of the High Commissioners of Human Rights and the Hague;

We recognize that the Human Rights Center's success would not be possible without the collaboration of so many dedicated partner organizations, donors, and volunteers. Thank you all for your dedication to human rights and the work of the Center. We are deeply honored and humbled to be part of this greater human rights community and hope to continue our work.

Warm regards,

Kristi Rudelius-Palmer
Co-Director

David Weissbrodt
Co-Director
Regents Professor of Law

Human Rights Center Advisory Board

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Human Rights Center Staff, Associates, and Interns

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Human Rights Education

This is My Home
www.thisismyhome.org



- Over 4,000 online registrants since November 2005
- Registrants from 49 U.S. states and 141 countries and territories
- Over 3,000 *This is My Home* Toolkits distributed to MN educators
- Over 500,000 hits on the *This is My Home* website in the last year

This is My Home (<http://www.thisismyhome.org>) is the Human Rights Center's free and easily accessible pre-K-12 Human Rights Education (HRE) initiative. It offers numerous resources to educators and community activists, including curriculum units, lesson planning tools, training opportunities, an electronic newsletter, videos, a section on Effective Practices, the Taking the Human Rights Temperature of Your School questionnaire, a glossary of human rights terminology, downloadable posters, and links to additional resources.

Over the last four years, hundreds of educators throughout Minnesota have participated in our HRE workshops. Teachers have collaborated to develop their own lesson plans that explore issues of human rights in local schools and classrooms, as well as human rights issues on an international scale. The curriculum units produced by workshop participants are available on the *This is My Home* website, at <http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/processmodel2/samples.php>. Participant evaluation of our workshops and our HRE materials has played a key role in identifying effective HRE practices, which challenges us to develop our resources to better respond to the needs of educators.

Human Rights Training

One of the cornerstones of our Human Rights Education programming is training. Whether we are reaching out to teachers, school administrators, local Human Rights Commissioners, or simply interested persons, the goal of our training programs is to equip participants with relevant knowledge, skills, and resources for effective human rights promotion in schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and larger communities. Our training programs often focus on the use of our Human Rights Education resources, like *This is My Home* and *Close the Gap*, as well as on HRE capacity building. In 2009, we offered workshops and provided resources to a number of different audiences, including teachers, after school program educators, students, future teachers and Human Rights Commissioners.

2009 Human Rights Trainings

March 11, 12, 18, and 19 – Multicultural Curriculum Writing Academy

- Four-day writing academy for educators from the Northwest Suburban Integration School District

May 18 – Human Rights Education Focus Group

- One-day follow-up meeting to the Multicultural Curriculum Writing workshop for educators from the Northwest Suburban Integration School District.

June 22-24 – Facing History and *Close the Gap* Workshop

- Three-day workshop for Minnesota educators focusing on two curricula: "Facing History and Our selves: Choices in Little Rock" and "Close the Gap on Race, Class, and Place Disparities," conducted by Facing History, Tolerance Minnesota, and the Human Rights Center.

July 16 – Human Rights Presentation for Upward Bound

- Presentation on human rights and the value of a college education for Upward Bound participants.

July 20 – Presentation on Capacity-Building Resources for Bloomington Human Rights Commissioners

- Presentation on resources and opportunities available to Human Rights Commissioners.

August 5 and 7 – Sessions for the “Human Relations and the Teacher” class at Anoka Ramsey Community College

- Two classroom sessions for student teachers focusing on the *This is My Home* and *Close the Gap* resources.

September 1 – Professional Development Workshop for Buffalo High School

- Training on *Close the Gap* and other community resources for human rights and multicultural education. Conducted jointly with Northwest Suburban Integration School District.

October 14 – Presentation for the South Korean National Human Rights Commission in Korea

- Presentation for Human Rights Commissioners from Korea focusing on *This is My Home* and other human rights education resources.

October 15 – Bringing the World to You: Community Resources for Today’s Educators

- Workshop for educators at the Annual Education Minnesota Conference in St. Paul.

November 4 – Professional Development Workshop for Anoka Hennepin School District

- Training session focusing on the *This is My Home* and other human rights education resources for after-school programs.

November 17 – Social Justice and Technology

- Presentation for the Office for Equity and Diversity highlighting the *This is My Home* resources.

November 20 – *Close the Gap* Workshop for Winona Human Rights Commissioners

- Workshop on using the *Close the Gap* documentary and curriculum resources for Winona Human Rights Commissioners.

December 10 - Human Rights Day Around the World

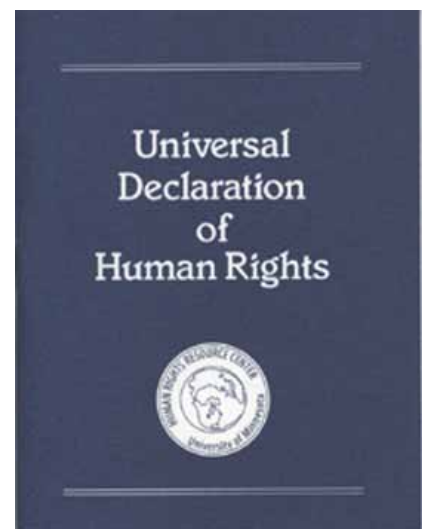
- Presentation on human rights by Humphrey Fellows for 300+ St. Louis Park Junior High students.

December 14 - Presentation for “Practitioners to Practice” Students

- Presentation on human rights education for graduate-track undergraduate students in education at the University of Minnesota.



Teachers at the Facing History and Close the Gap Workshop



Online Human Rights Education Course

“I learned about the history of human rights and the birth of the UDHR. I learned about the rights of children. I learned that human rights goes beyond just the color of your skin, but having something as simple as adequate housing or working conditions. I learned that there is pressing need to integrate human rights into curriculum at all levels and not just in K-12 lesson-plans . . . Human rights is such a powerful and important subject that it should have its own platform to stand on. . . . Going forward, my work in higher education can be shaped and influenced from the human rights perspective. Working with students on a daily basis, I am fortunate to be in a position to inspire change.”

-Chris Churma, Spring 2009, speaking about the Online Human Rights Education Class

In Spring 2008, the Human Rights Center launched an online Human Rights Education Pedagogy class through the University of Minnesota College of Education. The course was so successful that it was taught again in Spring 2009. The Human Rights Center partnered with Education Policy and Administration instructor Amy Garrett Dikkers to co-teach this 3-credit course for advanced undergraduate and graduate-level students, current school practitioners, and individuals interested in human rights and social justice.

This special topics course was conducted entirely online through Moodle, a free and open source online course management system. The course included a weekly guest, who was an experienced global educator and/or human rights advocate. Students were encouraged to participate actively and engage in online discussions with classmates, instructors, and guests.

One of the most worthwhile opportunities observed by the instructors was the teaching of theory and new methodologies, which could be immediately used by the participants in their classrooms and other educational settings. Participants were able to share within a short period of time the ways in which they had integrated both the activities and methods. One example was participants' use of the Taking the Human Rights Temperature of Your School questionnaire (<http://hrusa.org/hrmaterials/temperature/default.shtm>). They discussed this survey first as students and then as practitioners who used this tool in their classrooms.

Human Rights & Peace Store www.humanrightsandpeacestore.org

The Human Rights and Peace Store is a joint venture of the Human Rights Center and Growing Communities for Peace. The Store is an important tool for bringing Human Rights and Peace Education into schools, homes, workplaces, and communities. This unique Store provides easy access to Human Rights and Peace Education books, booklets, curricula, posters, training guides, multimedia materials, gifts, bookmarks, and other resources.

In 2009, the Human Rights and Peace Store offered over 1,600 different resources to the public. The Store travels to numerous conferences and events each year, including the annual Education Minnesota teachers' conference in October, which draws hundreds of teachers and community educators from across the state.



Based on popular demand, the Human Rights Center has been working to update the Store's online functions to enable online product browsing and purchases. The enhanced online store will be launched in early 2010. Our revised and updated catalog can be accessed at: <http://www.hrusa.org/store/documents/HRANDPEACESTORE-CATALOG2009.pdf>

The Human Rights & Peace Store has also been instrumental in helping Minnesota Human Rights Commissioners to set up local human rights libraries. The League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions, as well as local Commissions in Moorhead, Crystal, and Hopkins have already acquired resources for their libraries. In 2010, we will be working with Commissions in Winona and Grand Rapids.

Among the many popular items sold by the Human Rights and Peace Store is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) passport-style booklet. In 2009, the Store distributed over 21,000 UDHR booklets nationwide.

Close the Gap

<http://www.hrusa.org/closethegap/main.php>



The 5-part *Close the Gap* documentary series on race, class, and place disparities was created by Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) in close partnership with the Itasca Project, Twin Cities Compass, and Wilder Research. The Human Rights Center was enlisted by *tpt* to design a human rights-based companion curriculum to foster dialogue and action to recognize and eliminate these disparities in our schools and communities. Our *Close the Gap* curriculum consists of two companion manuals that are freely available on the web at <http://www.hrusa.org/closethegap/main.php>.

In 2009, the Human Rights Center has been actively promoting *Close the Gap* resources to educators and Human Rights Commissioners throughout Minnesota. These resources became the core of a number of training and professional development opportunities. These opportunities included the Multicultural Writing Academy, the “Facing History” and “Close the Gap” workshops, two sessions at the “Human Relations and the Teacher” workshop at the Anoka-Ramsey Community College, training for Buffalo High School teachers, and the workshop for Winona Human Rights Commissioners. In addition, on October 15, 2009, the Human Rights Center presented *Close the Gap* to over 40 teachers at the Education Minnesota Conference, the state’s largest gathering of teachers, administrators, and other educators. Over the next year, we will continue promoting *Close the Gap* as a learning tool that connects international human rights to our local context in the Twin Cities among educators and community members.

The *Close the Gap* documentary is a series of five 30-minute episodes plus a 60-minute retrospective and is available to community members on one DVD at no cost. To order, you can call the Human Rights Center at 612-626-0041 to order DVDs or inquire about training opportunities. DVDs and shipping are free of charge. You can also send an email to mindthegap@unitedwaytwincities.org including quantity requested and mailing address.

2009 Human Rights Day Poster Contest

Contest Challenge

Contestants were asked to create a poster showing their interpretation of the 2009 Human Rights Day Conference theme quote by civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Where Do We Go From Here?”

“Many of the ugly pages of American history have been obscured and forgotten... America owes a debt of justice which it has only begun to pay. If it loses the will to finish or slackens in its determination, history will recall its crimes and the country that would be great will lack the most indispensable element of greatness—justice.”



Justice Tips the Scales by McEwan, 1st place (Grades 5-8)

This quote is from Dr. Martin Luther King's final book written in 1967, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* In this book Dr. King discussed the challenges of the next phase of the civil rights movement that would necessitate structural changes in the society, such as better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, and education equal to that of whites. He believed that for the victories of the civil rights movement to be sustained and built upon, the entire United States society needs to move toward greater economic justice. We suggested that when discussing this quote with students or children, teachers and parents convey Dr. King's message in its historical context and link it to the present day efforts to promote justice and community spirit for all.

This contest is sponsored by the Human Rights Collaborative which includes:

Advocating Change Together

The Advocates for Human Rights

League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions

Minnesota Department of Human Rights

University of Minnesota Human Rights Center

Tolerance Minnesota

For more informations and to download 2010 calendar with winning artworks, go to:

http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/newsandaction.shtml#contest_2009



Justice by Megan, 1st place (Grades 9-12)

International Women's Rights Action Watch - IRAW

www.iwraw.net

The International Women's Rights Action Watch (IRAW) was organized in 1985 at the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya, to promote recognition of women's human rights under the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention), an international human rights treaty. IRAW was founded on the belief that the human rights of women and girls are essential to development and that equality between women and men will only be achieved through use of international human rights principles and processes. Since its inception, the IRAW program has expanded to encompass advocacy for women's human rights under all the international human rights treaties. IRAW operates as an international resource and communications center that serves activists, scholars, and organizations throughout the world. IRAW is directed by Dr. Marsha A. Freeman.



Highlights from IRAW's 2009 Activities

- Dr. Freeman served as an expert resource for the Washington-based coalition that promotes U.S. ratification of the CEDAW Convention.
- Dr. Freeman has become the co-editor of the authoritative CEDAW Commentary, to be published by Oxford University Press. The Commentary is due to be published in 2011. She co-chaired two meetings of the authors, held in The Hague in May and in Berlin in August.
- Dr. Freeman made a core issue presentation on the Colloquium on Women's Human Rights v. Religion, Culture, Tradition at a consultation on May 12, 2009, held by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague in May.
- Dr. Freeman and the IRAW program provided expert support for gender-based asylum applications made in several jurisdictions across the country.
- Dr. Freeman participated in the Eighth Inter-Committee and Chairpersons, held at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in June 2009.
- IRAW assisted CEDAW Committee member Ruth Halperin Kaddari in preparation of a General Recommendation on the Economic Consequences of Marriage and Divorce. In July 2009 IRAW held a meeting of nongovernmental organizations in New York, sponsored by the Mission of Israel to the United Nations, to provide input into the General Recommendation from all regions of the world.
- Dr. Freeman also met with the Committee's Working Group on the General Recommendation and made a presentation to the full Committee at the public discussion during its 43rd Session in New York in August. IRAW will assist in preparing the draft General Recommendation.
- Dr. Freeman also made a presentation on "The Dynamics of Reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women," on December 7, 2009. (Presentation of written study on the pattern of reservations and their withdrawal, produced for UNICEF in 2009).

Human Rights Library

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts> or <http://www.humanrightslibrary.org>

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library continues to be one of the leading and most comprehensive online sources of freely accessible human rights materials in the world. Holding over 60,000 documents, including treaties, declarations, reports, commentaries, training manuals, and other resources, the Human Rights Library provides advocates the world over with the tools they need to advance an informed human rights agenda. The Library is highly accessible and offers resources in nine languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Human Rights Library-Key Statistics in 2009

Over 60,000 freely available human rights resources
Documents in 9 languages

User Sessions and Hits in the past year

Library Section	User Sessions	Hits
Overall	2,463,758	29,734,384
Arabic	294,164	2,146,061
Chinese	78,706	414,212
Japanese	65,317	309,609
Russian	206,545	1,838,213

Updates and New Features in 2009

Special International Human Rights Tribunal Documents and Search Tools

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/un-orgs.htm#crimtrib>

The Human Rights Library has added the case law of Special International Human Rights Tribunals, which include the International Criminal Court and post-conflict international tribunals. These courts represent relatively recent and innovative developments in human rights law enforcement. They serve as a way for victims of human rights violations to seek redress, as well as a challenge to the impunity of chronic human rights violators.

Important additions to the Human Rights Library in this area include the post-conflict tribunals for Rwanda (http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/ICTR/ICTR_Cases_Index.html) and Sierra Leone (http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/SCSL/SCSL_Nav.html). In addition to posting the case law of both courts, we have created unique search tools to aid legal researchers. Ours is currently the only website with a search tool designed specifically for the case law of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). While both tribunals have their own websites, they are not yet searchable. During the next year, we plan to expand the searchable archives of ICTR and SCSL jurisprudence, as well as add a section for the case law of the International Criminal Court.

Human Rights in the News

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/HRnews.html>



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Human Rights Library

To demonstrate how the human rights cases, principles, and legal resources on the Human Rights Library are relevant everyday and throughout the world, we have added a new section on human rights and current events. An anonymous friend of the Human Rights Library regularly clips articles relating to international human rights from the online editions of the New York Times, Washington Post, Guardian, Huffington Post, and Wall Street Journal. Additional articles are occasionally clipped from other online periodicals (New Yorker, New York Review of Books, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and others), as well as the websites of the United Nations, United States Government, and human rights NGOs.

Resources for Researching Country Conditions

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/research>

This emerging section of the Human Rights Library carries relevant national and international documentation relating to human rights conditions and legal obligations in individual countries. Materials for each country are broken down systematically, making them easy to find and access, through such sub-sections as Legal Structure, Institutions, Reports, Media, and links to additional resources. Country profiles that have undergone significant expansion and updates during 2009 include: Angola, Botswana, China, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, North and South Korea, and Zambia. When fully developed, this resource will provide easy reference for lawyers, journalists, policymakers, and others who are working on human rights, law, and policy issues in specific countries. It will also provide an easy way to do comparative research on multiple countries.

Arabic Human Rights Library

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/arabic.html>

In 2009, the Arabic Human Rights Library underwent a major reorganization in order to make it easier to access. Over the past year, hundreds of new international instruments have been added to the Arabic Library, notable among them the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Declaration on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Arabic Human Rights Library has also added a section containing the constitutions of Arabic-speaking countries, as well as new training manuals on civil society and the use of UN mechanisms to protect migrant workers.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Human Rights Library

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Human Rights Documents and Materials
Currently more than 60,000 Documents.
Treaties and other International Instruments
Other United Nations Documents
Regional Materials
Bibliographies and Research Guides Topic Guides
NEW! U.S. Military Medicine in War on Terror Prisons

Screenshot of the Human Rights Library front page

Chinese Human Rights Library

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/chinese/CHindex.html>

The Chinese Human Rights Library also grew in 2009, with the addition of core human rights treaties and more jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee. The Chinese Library provides access to materials in both Traditional and Simplified Chinese characters in order to reach a broad Chinese-speaking constituency.

Japanese Human Rights Library

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/japanese>

In 2008, the Human Rights Center started an update project on the Japanese Human Rights Library, which continued into 2009. The update project resulted in the addition of 95 new international conventions, protocols, declarations, and other human rights materials. Additionally, we added the Japanese constitution and numerous Japanese domestic laws pertaining to human rights.

Russian Human Rights Library

<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/russian>

The Russian Human Rights Library has enlarged its collection significantly in 2009, including such notable additions as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the most recent periodic report of the Russian Federation to the Human Rights Committee, and Russia's National Report for its Universal Periodic Review by the Human Rights Council. A large portion of the newly added materials are cases involving Russia in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). These ECHR decisions are highly important for Russian human rights activists as the Court is being used more and more often to seek remedy for human rights violations committed in Russia.

Applied Human Rights Research

Human Rights Research in 2009

Each year, Professor David Weissbrodt and a number of research assistants produce groundbreaking research in the field of human rights. In 2009, this human rights research focused on a variety of important topics.

The Role of the UN Human Rights Committee in Interpreting and Developing Humanitarian Law

The Geneva Conventions generally lack authoritative mechanisms for interpretation. This task is principally left to the judgment of nation states and, increasingly, to the International Criminal Court. The International Committee of the Red Cross encourages states to comply with international humanitarian law, but is not an adjudicative body and rarely publishes its authoritative interpretations of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols. To fill this gap, a number of human rights bodies have been called upon to interpret humanitarian law. Among the questions that guide our research are: How competent are these institutions to interpret this complex body of international law? Has the "War on Terrorism" heightened the need for competent international bodies in this area? Should there be a single widely accepted treaty body to interpret the Geneva Conventions and its Protocols?

This research assesses the current and potential role of the Human Rights Committee – widely regarded as the premiere UN human rights treaty body – in filling this gap. Through a systematic examination of the Committee's jurisprudence, our research has found that it performs all the analysis necessary to offer informative and precedential interpretations of humanitarian law, but that its analysis is implicit and spread across its three interpretation-generating functions. The Committee can play a more robust role in interpreting and developing humanitarian law with only modest alterations to its approach. This analysis leads us to recommend an expanded role for the Committee as a more feasible alternative to the creation of a new international body to interpret humanitarian law.

The Administration of Justice and Human Rights

Professor Weissbrodt authored an article on the right to a fair trial in extraordinary courts. Extraordinary courts are special tribunals used for prosecuting civilians for crimes usually associated with terrorism (e.g, the Military Commissions system in Guantánamo Bay). Based on extensive research, the article lays out the protections offered by international instruments related to the right to a fair trial and explains how those protections apply to all courts, whether normal or extraordinary. The article then examines how extraordinary courts routinely fail to provide a fair trial, particularly due to their lack of independence or impartiality. The article concludes by suggesting that while the theory is clear, there remains a large gap between norms and practice for ensuring a fair trial in an extraordinary court.

International Human Rights: Law, Policy, and Process (4th Edition) **David Weissbrodt and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**

This comprehensive work provides an introduction to human rights law, policy, and process. The text discusses drafting and ratifying treaties, establishing institutions, using procedures for monitoring compliance and responding to gross violations, using adjudicative remedies, applying refugee and international labor law, relating human rights norms to terrorism, and addressing the root causes of violations to improve human rights compliance. The new Fourth Edition explores a number of significant recent developments in the human rights arena including:

- The emergence of international criminal law as a response to crimes against humanity;
- The role of the United Nations Security Council as a significant human rights actor and the challenges it faces;
- The function of human rights norms in responding to and regulating state responses to terrorism;
- The capacity of human rights law to respond to abuses by corporate actors;
- The ability of the human rights regime to respond to and account for violations committed in the context of ethnic hatred, internal conflict, and intrastate violence;
- The challenges faced by non-governmental human rights organizations in the post-9/11 context.

The text has a supplementary companion volume, *Selected International Human Rights Instruments and Bibliography for Research on International Human Rights Law*. Professor Weissbrodt provides periodic updates to the casebook on the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library Website (<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/intlhr>).

2009 Human Rights Law Award

Karen Anderson (Class of 2009) was the recipient of the University of Minnesota Law School's 2009 Human Rights Law Award. This award honors graduating students who have made significant contributions to scholarship and/or service in the human rights field. In addition to her excellent academic performance in courses relating to International and Human Rights Law, Karen was part of a team of 20 law students and half a dozen lawyers who assisted in the defense of the Guantánamo detainees. While there were many impressive contributions to the team's effort to help assure a fair trial for the detainees, she worked more hours and devoted herself more completely to the defense than any other law student. She worked particularly hard on the research project to gather jurisprudence as to the meaning of torture and other ill-treatment.

The Human Rights Award was announced at the Class of 2009 Awards and Recognition Ceremony, which took place at the Law School at 3:00 PM on Friday, May 15, 2009 in Lockhart Hall (Room 25). In addition to being honored at the Ceremony, Karen received a cash award of \$1,000 to thank Karen for her work in the human rights arena. This award was made possible by the generosity of 1964 University of Minnesota Law School graduate Renate Sharp.

Fellowship Programs



Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program www.umn.edu/humanrts/center/humphrey

The Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional development, related academic study, and cultural exchange in the United States for mid-career professionals from developing countries throughout the world. It is a Fulbright Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Executive Director Ed Roslof and the Institute of International Education. Fellows are placed nationally at one of fifteen U.S. universities chosen for excellence in relevant fields and for the resources and support they offer the Humphrey Fellows. Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to public service, and Fellows are assigned to a host university based on their interests and needs. This year's program includes 187 Fellows from 94 countries, hosted by 17 universities throughout the United States.

The University of Minnesota has welcomed Humphrey Fellows since 1981, attracting more than 436 Fellows from 113 countries around the world. After successfully reapplying to the Institute of International Education last year, the Human Rights Center/Law School and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs now each host a cohort of Fellows, focusing respectively on Public Administration and Law and Human Rights. Humphrey Law Fellows bring with them a wealth of expertise and experience. They are experts on a variety of legal issues, such as women's rights, anti-human trafficking laws and policy, law enforcement, alternative dispute resolution, children's rights, the right to free and fair elections, criminal law, family law, and domestic abuse.

This year, University of Minnesota Humphrey Fellow Suaad Salman Allami was selected as one of only eight women worldwide to receive the International Woman of Courage Award, which was presented by First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

2009-2010

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows

Riffat Inam Butt, Pakistan

Uttam Kumar Das, Bangladesh

Ibrahim El Ghazawi, Egypt

Zhiyuan Guo, China

Marie Chantal Koffi, Côte d'Ivoire

Grzegorz Lewocki, Poland

Edmon Marukyan, Armenia

Outeiba Ahmad Merhebi, Lebanon

Carmen Elena Molina, El Salvador

Suaad Salman Allami, Iraq



2009-10 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows



Ms. Riffat Inam Butt
Pakistan

Ms. Butt is an attorney and a civil/family court judge. She holds a master's degree in political science.



Mr. Grzegorz Lewocki
Poland

Mr. Lewocki is an attorney and a legal Expert/Advisor for the Ministry of Justice in the Human Rights Unit.



Mr. Uttam Kumar Das
Bangladesh

Mr. Das is an attorney and has most recently worked as the National Program Officer at the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



Mr. Edmon Marukyan
Armenia

Mr. Marukyan is an attorney, lecturer, and a member of the Public Monitoring Group, observing the rights of persons taken into custody.



Dr. Ibrahim EL Ghazawi
Egypt

Dr. El Ghazawi holds a doctorate in law and is a lieutenant colonel of police in the Ministry of the Interior and conducts human rights trainings for police officers.



Ms. Outeiba Ahmad Merhebi
Lebanon

Ms. Merhebi is an attorney and works in Tripoli. She is a founding member of the Arabic Women Lawyers' Association.



Mr. Zhiyuan Guo
China

Dr. Guo is an attorney, professor, and the director of the Center for Law Application of Anhui University.



Ms. Carmen Elena Molina
El Salvador

Ms. Molina is an attorney and a family court judge for the Edificio SVM. She holds a degree in psychology.



Ms. Marie Chantal Koffi
Côte d'Ivoire

Ms. Koffi is an attorney, judge, and the Deputy Chairperson of Youth Administration in the Department of Justice in Abidjan.



Ms. Suaad Salman Allami
Iraq

Ms. Allami is an attorney and operates Women for Progress, a Baghdad assistance center with free legal, medical, and educational services for women.

2009-10 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows



Welcome Reception in September



Fall Planning Retreat at Shalom Hill Farm in Windom



Pipestone National Monument Visit



Halloween Brunch with Host Families



Duluth Networking Visit in October



Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center Visit in December

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HUMPHREY FELLOW HOST FAMILIES

The Humphrey Fellows Host Family Program has evolved over the years from providing informal occasional assistance to being an integral component of the exchange program. The Host Family Program has contributed significantly to the wealth of experience of each Humphrey Fellow. It is often through the host families that the first personal contact with U.S. culture is established. And frequently it is that contact that provides a long-lasting link with Minnesota and the United States. The host families are true ambassadors of the United States and carry on the legacy of Hubert H. Humphrey. The Human Rights Center would like to sincerely thank these amazing individuals, who are volunteering their time our Humphrey Fellows at the University of Minnesota Law School/ Human Rights Center.

Jo Leir, Host Family Coordinator
Renée Ofori, Host Family Coordinator

Myron Anderson and Susan Duffy
Elaine and Guy Bartolain
Addi and Elsa Batica
Mike and Ruth Bettendorf
Ron Elwood and Bonnie Esposito
Dan Galbraith
Michele Gersich and John Hartman
Jeanne Greenwood

Lila & Kevin Kelly
Duane and Mary Alice Krohnke
Gary and Glen King
Mary Ellen Lynch
Joan and Dennis Neaton
Liz Reiser
Marielle Robinson
Nick Musachio and Bette Schmit
Luke Stellpflug
Patti Stuhlman
Nora and Tim White



Upper Midwest and Robina Human Rights Fellowship Programs

www.humanrightsfellowship.org

The Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program marked its 21st year with a successful group of forty Fellows undertaking exciting projects all over the world. With core Otto Bremer Foundation support, the Center has assisted 426 Fellows to work with human rights organizations in more than 75 countries around the world. The 2009 Fellows come from many different backgrounds, including undergraduate and graduate students in the social sciences, law students, public health students, practicing lawyers, the founder and executive director of a local nonprofit, and a journalist and radio producer. Thanks to a generous grant from the Robina Foundation to the University of Minnesota Law School, the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows were joined this year by several Robina Human Rights and Public Policy Fellows.

Issues of Focus in 2009

- Asylum seekers
- Ban on landmines and cluster bombs
- Child labor
- Children's rights
- Community organizing for human rights
- Criminal justice system reforms
- Effective practices in human rights
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) issues
- Homelessness
- Human rights education
- Indigenous land rights
- Internally displaced peoples
- Legal representation and judicial access
- Migration
- Peace, spirituality, and theology
- Public health and healthcare access
- Racism and discrimination
- Refugees
- Torture
- Transitional justice
- Women's rights

About the Upper Midwest Fellowship Program

The Human Rights Center encourages residents of the Upper Midwest—including students, teachers, lawyers, health professionals, community leaders and others—to undertake practical experiences and internships with local, national, and international human rights organizations. Participants return with a stronger commitment to a lifetime of work in human rights and contribute to bringing human rights concerns home to their communities in the Upper Midwest.



The 2009 Upper Midwest Human Rights and Robina Fellows and Human Rights Center Staff



Abdi Ali Womankind Kenya <i>Kenya</i>	Johanna Grefsrud Great River Interfaith Partners <i>St. Cloud, Minnesota</i>	Jordan Shepherd Refugee Advocacy and Support Program (RASP) <i>Istanbul, Turkey</i>
Zainab Akbar Neighborhood Defenders' Service of Harlem <i>New York, New York</i>	Alisha Hilde Empowerment Society International <i>Duayee, Liberia</i>	Kelsey Sheridan Kallari Association of the Ecuadorian Amazon <i>Ecuador</i>
Veronica Bean OutFront Minnesota <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Mory Keita Actions pour les Droits Humains et l'Amitie (ADHA) <i>Dakar, Senegal</i>	Tyler Simmons Malawi Human Rights Commission <i>Lilongwe, Malawi</i>
David Biggs Human Rights Library <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Anne Johnson International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Tajikistan Mission <i>Dushanbe, Tajikistan</i>	Elizabeth Super Transitional Justice Institute <i>Belfast, Northern Ireland</i>
Ramla Bile Horn Relief <i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>	Kyle Lewis Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) <i>Belfast, Northern Ireland</i>	Jennifer Swedberg United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Contemporary Forms of Slavery <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>
Mike Brehm Midwest Coalition for Human Rights <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Nick Manthey DECIDE Corporación de Estudios <i>Quito, Ecuador</i>	Shelby Vandenberg The Alliance for Children's Rights <i>Los Angeles, California</i>
Sean Burke Homeless Advocacy Project/UNITY Homeless Coalition <i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	Laura Matson The Advocates for Human Rights <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Anna Veit-Carter Saligan <i>The Philippines</i>
Ilina Chaudhuri Fundación Mexicana para la Salud <i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>	Timothy Meyer Center for Victims of Torture <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Paul Walters Friends of Ngong Road <i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>
Kate Crampton Alaska Public Defender Agency <i>Palmer, Alaska</i>	Monica Miller International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) <i>The Hague, Netherlands</i>	Matthew Webster Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) <i>Rochester, Minnesota</i>
Brandon Drazich Pax Christi International <i>Brussels, Belgium</i>	Nikolas Nadeau Global Overseas Adoptees <i>Seoul, South Korea</i>	Jay Wilkinson International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus <i>Brussels, Belgium</i>
Kumneger Emiru National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) <i>Chicago, Illinois</i>	Samir Nassar Center for Victims of Torture <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	Nick Wunder American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) <i>Washington, D.C.</i>
Anders Erickson The John Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development <i>Jackson, Mississippi</i>	Hollie Nyseth Mexico City Human Rights Commission <i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>	Maisue Xiong Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia <i>Chiang Mai, Thailand</i>
Shannon Golden Friends Committee on National Legislation <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	Graham Ojala-Barbour Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	
Kathryn Green Karenni Development Research Group <i>Thailand</i>	Taylor Pierce Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) <i>Accra, Ghana</i>	

Annual Human Rights Day Event: *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*

December 9, 2009

Presented by the Advocates for Human Rights and the Human Rights Center



A story of sacrifice, unity, and transcendence, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” honors the strength and perseverance of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country.

Panelists:

- Commissioner Oumu Syllah, Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Cheryl Thomas, Women’s Program Director, the Advocates for Human Rights
- Marie Chantal Koffi, 2009-2010 Humphrey Fellow from Côte d’Ivoire at the University of Minnesota Law School

Human Rights Film Series
Presented by the Human Rights Center and the Center for Human Rights Studies
University of Minnesota

The Greatest Silence

Rape in the Congo

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

THURSDAYS AT FOUR

Roundtable Discussions
Minnesota-Mexico Dialogue:
Examining the University's Relationship with Mexican Communities

Benedito Meléndez, Dean, Office of International Programs
Lorena Martínez, Associate Provost, Office of Equity & Diversity
Edna Velasco, Chair, Graduate Studies

Somaliland: Rebuilding the Rule of Law in a Post-Conflict Environment

Presented by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center

Getting Here From There: The Somali Refugee Experience

Featuring:

- Photographer Abdi Roble, Writer Doug Rutledge, and Tariq Tiager, from the Somali Documentary Project
- Sadiq Abdurahman, Community Organizer
- Midek Noor from the Office of U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison
- Korie Sing'Ooi, Former Director of the Center for Minority Rights and 2007-2008 Humphrey Fellow in Law and Human Rights

Tuesday, April 14, 2009
5:00—9:00 p.m.
Room 25 Mondak Hall, University of Minnesota
229 19th Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
DINNER WILL BE SERVED

Agenda
5:00—7:00 p.m.: Session 1—A Journey Aways: The Somali Refugee
7:00—9:00 p.m.: Session 2—Action and Discussion: What Can We Do?

From the refugee camps of Dadaab, Kenya to Libya, Malta, and the European mainland, and continue to face harrowing journeys as they search for a better life, increasing discrimination, and even torture. The Somali Documentary Project is recording the stories as they happen, not only for historical record, but also to encourage a new vision of Somali identity. Join us for an evening of advocacy.

SOMALI DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Visiting Lecturer

STEVEN T. WAX

Federal Public Defender and Author

Steven T. Wax, as a federal public defender, represented two men caught up in post-9/11 counterterrorism “War on Terror.” In his book, *Katlas Comes to America: Fighting for Justice in the War on Terror*, Wax reveals how our civil liberties have been battered and violated since 9/11 and how the public can make a difference to reestablish these civil liberties.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wednesday, February 18, 2009
6:00 p.m.—8:15 PM
Room 25 Mondak Hall
University of Minnesota
Law School
229 19th Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

KATLAS COMES TO AMERICA

The Human Rights Center cordially invites you to the

Welcoming Reception

for the
2009-2010 Humphrey Law Fellows

Wednesday, September 23, 2009
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Human Rights Center Events

<http://www.hrusa.org/calendar>

HRC Events

3/21/2009 – Somaliland: Rebuilding Rule of Law in a Post-Conflict Environment

3/26/2009 – Darfur and the Crime of Genocide

- Cosponsors: Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies (CHGS), Human Rights Program (HRP), Students Taking Action Now Darfur (STAND)

4/14/2009 – Getting There From Here: The Somali Refugee Experience

4/22/2009 – Human Rights Film Series: Sand and Sorrow

- Cosponsors: CHGS, HRP, STAND

10/29/2009 – Somaliland: Rebuilding Rule of Law in a Post-Conflict Environment (second presentation)

11/15/2009 – Women's Leadership and Political Participation Around the World

- Co-Sponsors: Amnesty International – Law School Chapter

12/9/2009 – Annual Human Rights Day Event: *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*

- Co-Organizer: the Advocates for Human Rights



Human Rights Center staff, Fellows, interns, volunteers, and colleagues at various functions in 2009

HRC Co-Sponsored Events

2/10/2009 – Taking a Stand Against Genocide (with Dr. Ashis Brahma)

- Organized by: Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, STAND

2/14/2009 – Genocide: A Public Health Disaster

- Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, STAND

2/18/2009 – Trends in Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Rights

- Minnesota State Bar Association, University of Minnesota Law School

2/18/2009 – Steven T. Wax: Kafka Comes to America: Fighting for Justice in the War on Terror

- Amnesty International Legal Support Network, American Constitution Society

3/13/2009 – Transitional Justice Partnership

- University of Minnesota Law School

3/14/2009 – International Women's Day Conference: Transforming the World Through Women's Voices

- Human Rights Program, Advocates for Human Rights

3/30/2009 – Panel Discussion on Uncivil Wars

- Institute for Advanced Studies

4/1/2009 – Panel Discussion Regarding Ethiopia's New Law Restricting Foreign Aid

- Oromo-American Citizens Council

4/30/2009 – Minnesota-Mexico Dialogue: Examining the University's Relationship with Mexican Communities

- Institute for Advanced Studies

6/22/2009 – 2009 Law and Policy Conference: Refugee Protection around the World: Durable Solutions or Durable Suffering?

- The Advocates for Human Rights

7/22/2009 – Film Screening: This Hard Ground; Remembering the Displaced

- Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

10/2-4/2009 - The 2009 "We Are One" Dakota Conference and Minnesota Truth-Telling Listening Circle

- "We Are One" Conference Committee

10/17/2009 – Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Black Gold

- Oromo-American Citizens' Council

10/22/2009 – 10/23/2009: Conference on Exceptional Courts and Military Commissions

- University of Minnesota Law School and the Robina Foundation

Women's Leadership and Political Participation around the World

Invest in Women! Improve the World!



Thursday, Nov 12, 2009

Presenters: Suaad Salman Allami (Iraq) *third to right in photo*, Carmen Elena Molina (El-Salvador), Outeiba Ahmed Merhebi (Lebanon), Marie Chantal Koffi (Cote D'Ivoire), Riffat Inam Butt (Pakistan), Ibrahim El-Ghazawi (Egypt), and Timothy Meyer (United States).



Humphrey Fellows prepare to address colleagues at the Humphrey Fellowship Welcome Reception on September 23, 2009 (above)

Contributors in 2009

INSTITUTIONS

- Facing History & Ourselves
- Ford Foundation
- Gill Foundation
- Institute for Advanced Studies
- Institute of International Education
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation
- Northwest Suburban Integration School District
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Robina Foundation
- Sigrid Rausing Trust

Heins Human Rights and Public Interest Fellowship

The Human Rights Center is deeply grateful to Samuel Heins for his generous endowment gift of \$100,000 to establish the Heins Human Rights and Public Interest Fellowship Fund. Mr. Heins is a longtime human rights defender and supporter of the Human Rights Center. The new Endowment will support University of Minnesota Law Students to embark on career-building opportunities for aspiring human rights lawyers for years to come.

INDIVIDUALS

- Deena Anders
- Troy Bermel & Jeff Gundvaldson
- Charles Denny
- Bill Drake
- Arvonne and Don Fraser
- Jon Kevin Gossett
- Maureen and Mike Harms/3M Foundation Matching
- Alfred & Ingrid Lenz Harrison
- Ric Hartman
- Lucy Hartwell
- Samuel Heins & Stacey Mills
- Dev & Alya Kayal
- Muria Kruger & David Amos
- Jerry Lee & Don Ofstedal
- Dianne Legg & Claire Selkurt
- Darwin Lookinsbill
- Marty Martin
- Freddie O'Brien (c/o Julie O'Brien)
- James Quinn
- Charlie Rounds & Mark Hiemenz
- Allen and Linda Saeks
- Renate Maria Sharp
- John Sullivan
- Bill Tilton

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