

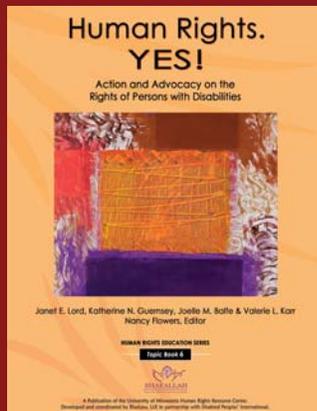


# HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center ([www.hrcenter.umn.edu](http://www.hrcenter.umn.edu)) works locally, nationally, and internationally to provide training, educational materials, and assistance to professionals, students, and volunteers working to promote and protect human rights. The Human Rights Center is a research, education, and training institute that was inaugurated in December 1988 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Center has five primary programs:

- (1) **Applied Human Rights Research** — including a project to assist the defense of Guantánamo detainees from prosecution;
- (2) **Educational Tools** — including the Human Rights Education Series and human rights passports;
- (3) **Field and Training Opportunities** — through the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program and the Humphrey Fellowship Program;
- (4) **Human Rights Online** — through the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library, Human Rights Resource Center, and *This is My Home*, a K-12 Human Rights Education Initiative and Curriculum; and
- (5) **Learning Communities and Partnerships** — through our Human Rights Center Film and Speakers Series.

*An overview of the Center's initiatives and accomplishments for 2007 may be found throughout this report.*



See page 12 for more information on the Human Rights Center's latest publication, *Human Rights. YES! — Action and Advocacy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

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The online **University of Minnesota Human Rights Library** carries one of the largest collections in the world of more than 85,000 core human rights documents, including several hundred human rights treaties and other primary international human rights instruments. The site also provides more than 4,000 links and a unique search device for multiple human rights sites. Documents are available in 9 languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

In 2007, the Human Rights Library has seen major expansion of its contents and usership. It continues to be one of the most comprehensive and updated sources of human rights information in the world. This year, users of the Library have logged over 3 million individual user sessions, making over 15 million hits. On December 10, Human Rights Day, the Human Rights Center launched its latest addition, the **Korean Human Rights Library**.

We have added a new archive entitled **United States Military Medicine in War on Terror Prisons**, which contains well over 60,000 pages of documents and is accessible at [www.umn.edu/humanrts/OathBetrayed](http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/OathBetrayed). The purpose of this website is to promote scholarship of medical activities, ethics, and policies pertaining to detention facilities in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantánamo Bay that are managed by the United States Department of Defense and its intelligence agencies. Assembled and organized by Dr. Steven Miles, Professor of Bioethics here at the U of M, this massive collection of U.S. government documents is broken down into various indexes, including: Large Investigations, Policies and Directives, Medcom [Medical Command], Deaths, Interrogations, Health Care & Neglect, and Witness & Silence. Thanks to this site, activists, advocates, and lawyers working on human rights and war-on-terror detentions can readily and easily access government documents in the course of their research.

We have also expanded our **Resources for Researching Country Conditions** tool, located at [www.umn.edu/humanrts/research](http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/research). This tool allows users to quickly and easily find human rights documentation on specific countries. We have developed several more successful models for country resources, including Ethiopia, India, North Korea, South Korea, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and there are more on the way. As we continue to develop this resource to be more and more comprehensive, we are confident that it will eventually become one of our best reference tools.

The **Arabic Human Rights Library** has made considerable progress in 2007. Still the World Wide Web's largest collection of core human rights documents in Arabic, the Arabic Human Rights Library has seen the addition of hundreds of new documents during 2007, including many core human rights treaties and over 120 new country reports from UN treaty bodies. In addition to its contents, the Arabic Library's popularity has grown steadily in the past year, with over 563,620 individual user sessions in the past year, compared to 533,885 in the previous year. We are also happy to report that we have met one of our long-standing goals of establishing a Mirror Site in the Middle East, which is hosted by the nongovernmental organization, Women's Forum for Research and Training ([www.wfirt.org](http://www.wfirt.org)) in Taiz, Yemen.

We have continued to develop and expand the **Chinese Human Rights Library** over the last year, adding over 60 new treaties and other core human rights instruments. The Human Rights Center's work has focused on three main areas: adding new material, making existing material available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese formats for use in different Chinese-speaking communities, and ensuring the consistency and accuracy of the materials. New additions include materials related to bioethics and human rights, human rights guidelines for business, the rights of non-citizens, and economic rights. Use of the Chinese Library has grown significantly as well, with over 125,703 individual user sessions in the past year, compared to 69,374 in the previous year.

The **Russian Human Rights Library** has experienced excellent growth in both resources and usership. In the course of the last year, over 100 new documents have been added to the collection, including country reports, thematic reports of special rapporteurs appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, government reports and replies to recommendations by UN human rights treaty bodies, alternative reports of non-governmental organizations, and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in relation to Russia. Alternative reports of non-governmental organizations to the UN treaty bodies were also added to the website. The Russian Library's statistics reveal 301,372 user sessions in the past year, compared with 276,902 in the preceding year. The Human Rights Center has appreciated working with the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights in Moscow to expand and develop our Russian archive.

## Applied Human Rights Research

### The Right to a Fair Trial in Military Commission Proceedings

This year, the Human Rights Center was awarded a grant from the JEHT Foundation to provide legal assistance to the Defense Counsel of the Office of Military Commissions. At stake are the human rights of "war on terror" detainees, chiefly those concerning the right to a fair trial and other rights implicated by the upcoming Military Commission proceedings. The project formalizes and expands on the work that we have already undertaken; the Human Rights Center initially connected with the Military Defense Counsel when they requested the preparation of a memo on how they might use international fair trial rights to defend the Guantánamo detainees.

As it currently stands, military defense attorneys are at a major disadvantage relative to the prosecution, suffering chiefly from a lack of financial and staffing resources. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense has retained many lawyers and investigators, with ample resources, to prepare prosecutions. To help mitigate these disadvantages and ensure that the rights of "war on terror" detainees are upheld, the project team, consisting of supervising staff members and research interns, will create a brief bank in order to provide the Defense Counsel with legal arguments and frameworks to which they would otherwise not have adequate access. In the long-term, we hope that our efforts will work toward restoring the credibility and integrity of the U.S. justice system in the eyes of the international community, as well as ensuring the fair trial rights of anyone who falls under U.S. jurisdiction.

### FLACSO-Mexico and the University of Minnesota: Innovative Approaches to Collaboration

The Human Rights Center is proud to be a partner in the new initiative, FLACSO-Mexico and the University of Minnesota: Innovative Approaches to Collaboration, bringing together the Mexico campus of Facultad Latino-Americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) with the University of Minnesota in a bold and innovative interdisciplinary collaboration focusing on education, immigration, and human rights.

In February, Human Rights Center Co-Director Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, along with Human Rights Program Director Barbara Frey, traveled to FLACSO-Mexico's campus to deliver presentations and inaugurate FLACSO's new Human Rights and Democracy Master's Degree Program. In October, the University of Minnesota partners hosted a FLACSO delegation on campus to formalize a collaborative research, training, and learning plan. As part of this visit, the Human Rights Center hosted a joint University of Minnesota and FLACSO faculty for a **Symposium on Human Rights Education: Common Issues Facing Minnesota and Mexico** on October 4, 2007. The event brought together community and university leaders on the topics of immigration and indigenous rights issues.



*FLACSO-UMN delegation meet with Minnesota Senator Patricia Torres Ray at the State Capitol*

# International Fellowship Programs

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

This year, the University of Minnesota is hosting 16 Humphrey Fellows from 15 different countries, from such diverse backgrounds as anti-trust, child protection, community organizing, human rights advocacy, human trafficking, immigration, and law enforcement.

The University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey (HHH) Fellowship Program is a joint venture between the HHH Institute of Public Affairs, Human Rights Center, and the Law School. Initiated in 1978, this program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development and related academic study and cultural exchange. The University of Minnesota has hosted the program since 1981, attracting 337 Fellows from 98 countries around the world.

Fellowships are granted competitively to professional candidates with a commitment to public service. The program is sponsored by the US Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education. Fellows are assigned to a host university based on their interests and needs. This year's program includes 173 Fellows from over 85 countries, being hosted by 15 universities throughout the United States.

### 2007-2008 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows

Amal Al-Hakimi, <i>Yemen</i>	Abraham Korir Sing'Oei, <i>Kenya</i>
Prabath Aluthge, <i>Sri Lanka</i>	Munir Ahmed Shaikh, <i>Pakistan</i>
Wasantha Bandara, <i>Sri Lanka</i>	Eliana Sousa Silva, <i>Brazil</i>
Bhanu Bhaskar, <i>India</i>	Zoran Todorov, <i>Republic of Macedonia</i>
Zarina Juraeva, <i>Tajikistan</i>	Unurtsetseg Tsedev, <i>Mongolia</i>
Gela Kvashilava, <i>Georgia</i>	Nay Win, <i>Myanmar (Burma)</i>
Byung Geon Lee, <i>South Korea</i>	
Rana Merza, <i>Iraq</i>	
Christina Popivanova, <i>Bulgaria</i>	
Ricardo Muñoz Portugal, <i>Peru</i>	



## Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship Program www.humanrightsfellowship.org

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. The fellowship placement should provide both training for the individual and assistance to the host organization, as well as foster links between communities in the Upper Midwest and human rights and social justice organizations around the world. 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.

We had another wonderfully successful Fellowship Program in 2007, which marked the Program's 18th year. The Center supported 30 Fellows as they engaged in human rights and social justice work in Minnesota, the United States, and abroad. Our Fellows came from a variety of backgrounds, including undergraduate students, graduate students, law students, a psychotherapist, a theater arts administrator, a public health student, an indigenous rights activist, a school teacher, and an environmental education specialist. They carried out important work on a variety of issues, including asylum and immigration, civil and political rights, community organizing, development and micro-finance, education, genocide and reconciliation, health and human rights, homelessness, human rights and theater,

human rights monitoring, human trafficking, indigenous rights, public health, public interest, the environment, the use of tasers by police, torture, and transitional justice.

Our Fellows traveled and worked throughout the world, in such places as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, and places in the United States, such as Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin.

### 2007 Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows



*This Fellowship Program is made possible with the support of Lucy Hartwell, Samuel Heins and Stacy Mills, Mark Hiemenz and Charlie Rounds, the Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, Allen and Linda Saeks, and Bill Tilton.*

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Birhanemeskel Abebe</b><br><i>Pan Africa Legal Aid (PALA)</i><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota                        | <b>Sylvia González-Castro</b><br><i>Emiliano Zapata Elementary School</i><br>Oaxaca, Mexico                                | <b>Alyssa Macy</b><br><i>International Indian Treaty Council</i><br>Milwaukee, Wisconsin                        | <b>Pamela Rojas</b><br><i>University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center</i><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota                |
| <b>Mahima Achuthan</b><br><i>Amnesty International USA</i><br>New York City, New York                             | <b>Amanda Grafstorm</b><br><i>Special Court for Sierra Leone</i><br>Freetown, Sierra Leone                                 | <b>Kelly McDermott</b><br><i>International Leadership Institute</i><br>Kigali, Rwanda                           | <b>Jared Shepherd</b><br><i>Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights</i><br>Harare, Zimbabwe                                       |
| <b>Jaquilyn Waddell Boie</b><br><i>Hope International</i><br>Zaporozhye, Ukraine                                  | <b>Nicole Gurgel</b><br><i>zAmya Theater Project</i><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota   | <b>Jessica Nault</b><br><i>Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota</i><br>St. Paul, Minnesota                         | <b>José Suárez</b><br><i>Fundación Cimas del Ecuador</i><br>Quito, Ecuador  |
| <b>Dan Brutlag</b><br><i>Arakan Oil Watch</i><br>Thailand   | <b>Kara Hadley</b><br><i>National/Global Association for Thrift and Humanitarian Aid</i><br>St. Cloud, Minnesota and Kenya | <b>Seyon Nyanwleh</b><br><i>Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights</i><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota                  | <b>Joseph M. Towle</b><br><i>Centro de Derechos Human Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas</i><br>San Cristóbal de Las Casas, México |
| <b>Vuth Chhunn</b><br><i>Cambodian Center for Human Rights</i><br>Phnom Penh, Cambodia                            | <b>Emily Hedin</b><br><i>La Comité de Derechos Humanos de Villa El Salvador</i><br>Lima, Peru                              | <b>Stela Osmancevic</b><br><i>International Organization for Migrants</i><br>Sarajevo, Bosnia                   | <b>Eissa Villaseñor</b><br><i>Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights</i><br>Harare, Zimbabwe                                     |
| <b>Yi Deng</b><br><i>Pangea World Theater; Immigration Law Center of Minnesota</i><br>Twin Cities, Minnesota      | <b>Andre Heuer</b><br><i>Center for Victims of Torture</i><br>Minneapolis, Minnesota and Liberia                           | <b>Michael Otremba</b><br><i>Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children</i><br>Bumwalukani, Uganda | <b>Mark Wagner</b><br><i>International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda</i><br>Arusha, Tanzania                                 |
| <b>Joshua T. Gardner</b><br><i>The Centre for Housing Rights and Evictions</i><br>Twin Cities, Minnesota          | <b>Mitchell King</b><br><i>International Leadership Institute</i><br>Kigali, Rwanda  | <b>Elizabeth Post</b><br><i>American Nicaraguan Foundation</i><br>Managua, Nicaragua                            | <b>Alycia Wright</b><br><i>National Service of Gacaca Courts</i><br>Kigali, Rwanda  |
| <b>Sonia Gill</b><br><i>Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR); Law Society of Zimbabwe</i><br>Harare, Zimbabwe | <b>Eve Alexandra Lotter</b><br><i>American Refugee Committee International</i><br>Monrovia, Liberia                        |   |   |

# This is My Home: A Minnesota Human Rights Education Experience



[www.thisismyhome.org](http://www.thisismyhome.org)

- 2,580 program registrants since Nov 2005
- Over 1,800 *This is My Home* Toolkits have been distributed to MN educators
- 8 training sessions conducted in various parts of Minnesota in 2007
- Registrants from 124 countries and 48 states

***This is My Home: A Minnesota Human Rights Education Experience*** is a multi-faceted, web-based Human Rights Education (HRE) resource for pre-service and in-service teachers, school administrators, community educators, parents, and students. It features a comprehensive, state-wide pre-K-12 Human Rights Education curriculum, which integrates local education standards and international human rights standards.

The project is unique in providing a multidisciplinary approach to Human Rights Education, and offering resources in multiple educational formats. These include comprehensive curriculum units, lesson-planning tools, online student and community action tools, and training opportunities online. *This is My Home* Toolkits are currently being distributed statewide to Minnesota schools and community members, such as Human Rights commissioners, and globally via the Internet, free of charge.

## Educators can use the Toolkit to:

- Address school or community human rights issues (e.g., bullying, discrimination, hate crimes) through the human rights framework;
- Teach about local and global human rights issues while meeting Minnesota educational standards;
- Promote the value and practice of Human Rights Education, equality, and social justice by teaching about local and international human rights standards;
- Integrate human rights issues into any school subject or the entire school curriculum;
- Foster a culture of human rights and responsibility through school and community-wide surveys, films, and other activities;
- Establish and maintain partnership between schools and community members.

Since November 2005, the Human Rights Center has registered more than 2,580 individuals on the *This is My Home* website. The Human Rights Center has also distributed

over 1,800 *This is My Home* Toolkits to educators throughout Minnesota.

The Center conducted 8 training sessions for teachers and community educators during 2007, including a four day Human Rights Curriculum Writing Academy. In 2006-2007, Minnesota teachers participated in a pilot set of *This is My Home* workshops designed for educators from 6 communities (Grand Rapids, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Rochester, St. Cloud, and St. Paul) with a grant from the Education Minnesota Foundation. The goal was to expose educators to relevant knowledge, skills, and attitudes that could foster a positive and dynamic classroom and school climate, as well as to help them implement *This is My Home* and create connections with students and the larger community. These face-to-face exchanges were also meant to be a forum for sharing effective practices by documenting and evaluating ways in which teachers are integrating cultural competency and HRE activities into the curriculum and school. In the course of the academy, 16 educators developed 15 new Human Rights Education curriculum units, ranging in grades from kindergarten to 12th grades and including both in class and after-school lessons. Topics range from school bullying to discrimination and genocide.

The new units are available online at [www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/processmodel2/samples.php](http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/processmodel2/samples.php)

While working with pilot communities, the Human Rights Center was able to test various HRE teacher training and professional development models collecting and applying participants' feedback. As a result, the Center came up with a 4-day Human Rights Curriculum Writing Academy, implemented in cooperation with the Northwest Suburban Integration School District, as one of the most successful HRE training models. The academy allows teachers to first learn about human rights and human rights language, and then apply their knowledge in developing human rights curriculum units for their classrooms. The Center is now promoting this model to other communities and partners.

We have also established successful partnership with local schools to promote and test out various Human Rights Education tools. Due to a successful partnership with a local school principal, Len Rothlisberger, the Human Rights Temperature questionnaire is now being used district-wide in Grand Rapids. This tool has also been further adjusted for the use in elementary school. A long-term partner, St. Paul teacher, Lynn Schultz, is field-testing the new version in her classroom at J.J. Hill Montessori School. The new version can be downloaded here: [www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/temp.shtml](http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/temp.shtml)



Natela Jordan, Education Coordinator at the Human Rights Center, presenting at the Education Minnesota conference in October.

*This is My Home* was also offered as one of the sessions at the Education Minnesota Professional conference as a part of the Minnesota Global Education Network (MNGEN) presentation. Along with resources from partner organizations, *This is My Home* was presented as one of successful strategies to teach respect and responsibility in Minnesota Schools. The session drew over 70 people, and, according to the feedback from participants, was very successful.

We are also working to translate some of our tools into Spanish and other languages. Please check our News & Action section often to stay updated on *This is My Home* and other local and international human rights education efforts: [www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/newsandaction.shtml](http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/project/newsandaction.shtml)

International Women's Rights Action Watch  
[www.iwraw.net](http://www.iwraw.net)

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) is an independent organization based at the University of Minnesota and affiliated with the Human Rights Center. IWRAP was organized in 1985 at the World Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya, to promote recognition of women's human rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention). IWRAP now is the primary international resource for using international human rights treaties to promote women's human rights in the family, the community, the nation, and the globe. Human rights treaties carry a continuing legal obligation and thus countries that ratify the CEDAW Convention agree to take all appropriate measures to improve the status of women and to change customs and laws that impede women's advancement.

IWRAP was founded on the belief that the human rights of women and girls are essential to development, and that governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can be encouraged to understand and apply human rights principles to achieve equality. IWRAP operates as an international resource and communications center that serves activists, scholars, and organizations throughout the world.

IWRAP is working with other US-based organizations to promote the CEDAW Convention ratification. Ratification is essential to rebuilding the stature of the United States as a global citizen as well as to increasing accountability of the U.S. government to its own citizens. The United States is the only industrialized country—and one of only eight countries in the world—that has not ratified the CEDAW Convention. IWRAP's manual on reporting under the CEDAW Convention, *Assessing the Status of Women*, is available in all six UN languages: <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/iwraw/publications.htm>

IWRAP provides information resources for navigating through the United Nations system and using the UN to increase effective advocacy. In addition, IWRAP has designed the *Equality and Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Guide to Implementation and Monitoring under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, to assist NGOs in using this Covenant. On May 17th, IWRAP, in collaboration with the Urban Justice Center and Center for Reproductive Rights, hosted a reception honoring members of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

# 2007 Events and Milestones

## Human Rights Center Film Series

Through screenings and panel discussions, the Human Rights Center brings experts and community members together to raise awareness, promote discussion, and take action on issues affecting the human rights community in Minnesota, the U.S., and the world. The Human Rights Center Film Series consists of film screening and panel discussion events during the academic year. In addition to its own film series, the Human Rights Center has been working with local Minnesota Human Rights Commissions to run similar Human Rights Film Series in their local communities and on cable access stations.

**February 8, 2007 – *On the Objection Front*.** Film that explores the controversy in Israel over soldiers who refuse to serve in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

**March 29, 2007 – *Betrayal of Democracy: Ethiopia*.** Documentary that depicts the brutal repression of human rights in Ethiopia, focusing on the 2003 massacre of the Anuak in the Gambella region.

**September 25, 2007 – *Encounter Point*.** Film focusing on Israeli and Palestinian grassroots efforts to promote nonviolence and partnership to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**October 24, 2007 – *The Devil Came on Horseback*.** Documentary on an ex-U.S. marine captain who served as a cease fire observer in Sudan and became witness to the unfolding genocide in Darfur.

**December 3, 2007 – *Divided We Fall*.** Film that deftly explores race, religion, and identity in times of national crisis in the post 9-11 United States.

## Human Rights Center Speaker Series

As part of its efforts to bring global human rights concerns to the Upper Midwest community, the Human Rights Center organizes the Human Rights Speaker Series. The Speaker Series provides both Upper Midwest and Humphrey Fellows, as well as other human rights experts, with the opportunity to speak about their human rights work. Our 2007 Human Rights Speaker Series events included:

**January 31, 2007 – *Global Experiences, Local Applications*.** Upper Midwest Fellow Andrea Templeton speaking on her work with Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, and her reporting on the U.S. appearance before the UN Human Rights Committee during Summer 2006.

**February 9, 2007 – *Torture and the Law*.** Featuring Gabor Rona, International Legal Director of Human Rights First, speaking on the use of torture and ill treatment by U.S. forces against detainees in the context of the war on terror.

**February 15, 2007 – *Community Legal Empowerment and Extra-judicial Killings in the Philippines*.** Humphrey Fellow (2006-07) Kaka Bag-ao, Executive Director of Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Mindanaw (BALAOD Mindanaw), speaking on community-based paralegal education and the use of the law for conflict resolution and peace building.

**March 21, 2007 – *Palestinian Human Rights: Between Abbas and Hamas*.** Featuring 2006 Upper Midwest Fellow Jeffrey Morency speaking on intra-Palestinian political violence and his Fellowship with the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group.

**March 23, 2007 – *Migrant Farm Workers Struggle for Human Rights*.** Romeo Ramirez, Farm Worker activist and staff member of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, speaking on human rights and labor standards violations, as well as his work on CIW's anti-slavery campaign.

**September 21, 2007 – *Organ Harvesting in China, Human Rights, and Issues of Extraterritorial Legislation*.** Featuring David Matas, Canadian Human Rights Lawyer, speaking on the results of an investigation into involuntary organ harvesting in China and how extraterritorial legislation can be asserted to combat it.

**October 18, 2007 – *Human Rights Fellowship Program Information Session and Presentation*.** Upper Midwest Fellow Mahima Achuthan presenting on her Fellowship experience with Amnesty International U.S.A., where she worked on taser use, housing, and domestic violence in the United States.

**October 25, 2007 – *The Fall of Great Zimbabwe: Human Rights Law in Zimbabwe*.** Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellows Sonia Gill, Jared Shepherd, and Eissa Villaseñor speaking on their work with Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights on issues relevant to the current political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe, such as freedom of expression and Zimbabwe's compliance with international human rights law.

**November 1, 2007 – *Human Rights Fellowships and Transitional Justice*.** Featuring Upper Midwest Fellows Mark Wagner and Alycia Wright, speaking on their work with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the National Service of Gacaca Courts, respectively.

## HRC Collaborative and Learning Initiatives

The Human Rights Center has also been fortunate to collaborate with numerous university and community-based organization partners in organizing, hosting, or co-sponsoring many other events throughout 2007, including:

**January 14, 2007 – *The Land of 10,000 Homeless: An Artistic Portrayal of Homelessness in Minnesota*.** Performance and visual art event aimed at raising awareness of homelessness and encouraging activism.

**April 11, 2007 – *Bringing Economic and Social Rights Home*.** Panel discussion event focusing on domestic advocacy strategies for housing rights using international human rights norms.

**July 6-7, 2007 – *International Somali Ogaden Convention 2007*.** Annual conference highlighting the conflict and humanitarian crisis in the Ogaden (Somali) region of Ethiopia.

**July 26, 2007 – *Conflict in East Africa and the Current Human Rights Situation*.** Conference addressing issues of armed and political conflict in Ethiopia and Somalia, as well as the resulting humanitarian crises. Featured speakers included:

- Obang Metho, Director of International Advocacy, Anuak Justice Council
- Firehiwot Samuel, Former Chairman of the Ethiopian Government Inquiry Commission on Specific Human Rights Violations after the 2005 Elections
- Dr. Negasso Gidada, Former Ethiopian President and current Member of Ethiopian Parliament

**October 1, 2007 – *Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark*.** Gala performance of Ariel Dorfman's play, *Speak Truth to Power*, featuring Megan Byrne, Pat Miles, Alan Page, Gloria Reuben, Martin Sheen, Bradley Whitford, with master of ceremonies Aaron Brown, and others. The play is based on the book by Kerry Kennedy. This performance honored defenders Stephen Bradberry, Bruce Harris, and Maria Theresa Tula. Connected to the gala performance, Ethel Kennedy received a special award at an invitational dinner on Sunday, September 30th.

**October 3, 2007 – *Film Screening: The Secret Life of Words*.** Film depicting a young torture survivor making her way after unspeakable trauma.

**October 4, 2007 – *Symposium on Human Rights Education: Common Issues Facing Minnesota & Mexico*.** Event on Human Rights Education strategies and methods in Minnesota and Mexico. Presentations and panels focused on common issues of immigration and Indigenous Peoples' human rights.

**November 5, 2007 – *National Forum on the Human Right to Housing*.** Video-conference event connecting advocates of housing rights from cities across the United States, including Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C.

**November 11, 2007 – *Peace and Violence in Our Non-Abrahamic Traditions: An Afternoon of Convergence*.** Event aimed at interfaith understanding and dialogue, featuring a panel discussion, breakout sessions, and experiential exploration focusing on the ways in which several non-Abrahamic spiritual traditions aspire to achieve peace in a violent world.

**December 3, 2007 – *Human Rights Day Conference: Voices From Silence: September 11 and the Impact on Refugees, Immigrants and Religious Minorities*.** Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights' annual Human Rights Day Conference, this year focusing on the impact of 9/11 on refugees, immigrants and religious minorities.

## Human Rights and Peace Store [www.humanrightsandpeacestore.org](http://www.humanrightsandpeacestore.org)

The Human Rights and Peace Store is a joint venture of the Human Rights Resource 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 2007, the Human Rights and Peace Store offered over 1,600 different resources to activists, advocates, educators, lawyers, students, and others. The Store was present at over 100 conferences throughout Minnesota, including the annual Education Minnesota teachers' conference in October, which draws hundreds of teachers and community educators from across the state. The Store was also present at Minnesota's annual Human Rights Day Conference on December 7th, which hosts a multitude of human rights advocates and organization representatives.

Among many of the Human Rights and Peace Store's popular items is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) passport-style booklet. In 2007, the Store distributed over 20,000 UDHR booklets nationwide, as well as over 2,000 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child booklets.

**The "New Breed" of African Leaders and the Future of Human Rights and Democracy in Africa**

On April 6, 2007, the Human Rights Center, in conjunction with the Humphrey Institute and the Law School, organized and coordinated a conference on Africa, Democracy, Human Rights, and U.S. Foreign Policy. Framed in the context of the phrase "the new breed of African leaders," coined by U.S. President Bill Clinton, the discussion critically examined the challenges and obstacles to democratization and respect for human rights that persist in African countries.

Featured speakers included prominent Africa experts and Humphrey Fellows, including:

- Michael Clough** - Former Director, Africa Advocacy, Human Rights Watch
- Christopher Fomunyoh** - Senior Associate and Regional Director, National Democratic Institute
- Alemayehu G. Mariam** - Professor, Department of Political Science, California State University - San Bernardino
- Peter Takirambudde** - Executive Director, Sub-Saharan Africa Program Human Rights Watch
- Birhanemeskel Abebe Segni** - Former Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations Headquarters in New York
- Arnold Tsunga** - Humphrey Fellow and Executive Director, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
- Ann Ishaku** - Humphrey Fellow and Director of Public Prosecutions, Kaduna State, Nigeria
- Evelyn Jifon** - Humphrey Fellow and Coordinator, Sistershare and Nsobahti Women's Associations, Cameroon
- Aboubakary Moumouni Moussa** - Humphrey Fellow and Senior Advisor, Educational and Social Activities, GERED-ONG, Benin



African Leaders Conference speakers and organizers

**2007 Milestones for Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights**

The year 2007 has seen significant developments in the realm of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. On September 13, 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples after over three decades of debate.



On April 21 and 22, the Human Rights Center hosted the second annual North American Preparatory Session for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Indigenous leaders from across North America came together to discuss important issues, such as food security, territories, land, natural resources, and the Millennium Development Goals. These topics were discussed for consideration at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 6th Session, which took place in May 2007, at UN in New York.

In April, and again in November, Human Rights Center staff and International Humphrey Fellows met with members of the Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe in order to learn more about the history of the Band, as well as current issues they are facing. Bill Means, Board Member of the International Indian Treaty Council, along with University of Minnesota Professor David Wilkins and Visiting Faculty Member Roxanne Ornelas, presented on current indigenous issues and the new Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and discussed it with Humphrey Fellows and other community members on October 4 and again on November 28.

Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellow Alyssa Macy presented her handbook on CERD mechanisms at the International Indian Treaty Council's workshop on "Using the United Nations to Hold the U.S. Accountable for Racism Towards Indigenous Peoples," in September 2007.

Robert T. Coulter, Executive Director of the Indian Law Resource Center, presented on the new Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as part of the U of M Law School's International Human Rights class on November 30. He spoke about the Declaration's drafting process, as well as on how it can be used in advocacy efforts.

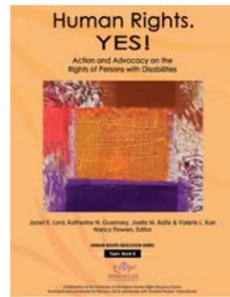
## Human Rights Center and Colleague Publications in 2007

It has been a successful year for the Human Rights Center and our colleagues for publications and publishing. Here are some highlights:

### BOOKS

#### Human Rights. YES! Action and Advocacy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Topic Book 6 in the Human Rights Education Series



by Janet E. Lord, Katherine N. Guernsey, Joelle M. Balfe and Valerie L. Karr.  
Edited by Nancy Flowers

[www.humanrightsyes.org](http://www.humanrightsyes.org)

The Human Rights Center is proud to announce the publication of **Human Rights. YES!** This important new resource focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities and the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Designed for human rights educators and activists, it applies a participatory learning approach to the new UN Convention and addresses principal areas of advocacy, such as:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Accessibility
- The right to participation in political and public life
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- The right to life and protection in situations of risk
- Freedom from torture and other forms of abuse
- Privacy, integrity, home and the family
- The right to health
- The right to habilitation and rehabilitation
- The right to work
- Living independently and with dignity in the community
- Access to justice
- The right to education
- The right to participation in sport and culture

**Human Rights. YES!** also focuses on advocacy for the rights of particular populations with disabilities, such as children, women, and others facing multiple forms of discrimination

due to their minority status. **Human Rights. YES!** was written by experts in the fields of disability rights, international human rights law, human rights education, and grassroots advocacy. It was developed by BlueLaw, LLP, Advocating Change Together, Disabled Peoples' International, and the Harvard Law School Project on Disability. The project was generously funded by the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs in Doha, Qatar.



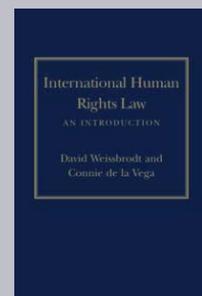
*Human Rights. YES!* was launched at the United Nations (New York) on December 3rd, the UN International Day of Disabled Persons.

The text of **Human Rights. YES!** will be available on disk and online gratis in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic at [www.humanrightsyes.org](http://www.humanrightsyes.org).

#### International Human Rights Law: An Introduction

by David Weissbrodt and Connie de la Vega  
University of Pennsylvania Press

[www.upenn.edu/pennpress](http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress)



For more than half a century, the world community has sought to codify a series of fundamental precepts intended to prevent such abuses of human rights as torture, discrimination, starvation, and forced eviction. The United

Nations, other international organizations, regional institutions, and governments have developed various procedures for protecting against and providing remedies for human rights violations.

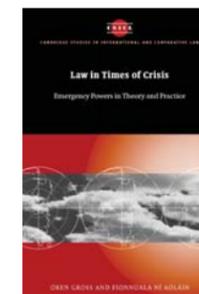
International Human Rights Law is a comprehensive introductory treatise, intended for all concerned about this critical area of international law, including students, lawyers, other advocates, teachers, and academics. The book comprises three sections: an overview of the development of human rights as a domain of international law; a collection of brief summaries of each of the rights specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other critical human rights instruments; and a review of the national, regional, and international procedures for implementing human rights precepts.

The overview traces the history of human rights, from early philosophical and religious ideas and theories of natural law to modern formulations. The second section contains concise summaries of the substantive principles of and practices relevant to self-determination, equality, life, slavery, torture, fair trial, detention, privacy, health, food, housing, and clothing, as well as emerging rights such as sustainable development, environmental health, peace, and security from terrorism. A final section describes UN human rights procedures (both Charter-based and treaty-based); criminal procedures; African, European, inter-American, and other regional systems; national institutions and processes, truth and reconciliation commissions, and nongovernmental organizations. Throughout, example cases are cited, and each chapter concludes with a list of the most useful print and web resources.

#### Law in Times of Crisis: Emergency Powers in Theory and Practice

By Oren Gross and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin  
Cambridge University Press

[www.cambridge.org/catalogue](http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue)



The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the ensuing 'war on terror' have focused attention on issues that have previously lurked in a dark corner at the edge of the legal universe. This book presents a systematic and comprehensive attempt by legal scholars to conceptualize the theory of emergency powers, combining post-September 11 developments with more general theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives. The authors examine the interface between law and violent crises through history and across jurisdictions, bringing together insights gleaned from the Roman republic and Jewish law through to the initial responses to the July 2005 attacks in London. Three models of emergency powers are used to offer a conceptualization of emergency regimes, giving a coherent insight into law's interface with and regulation of crisis and a distinctive means to evaluate the legal options open to states for dealing with crises.

- Presents three key conceptual models within which emergency powers can be classified and understood, which allows for a complex and diverse legal field to be more readily understood by lawyers and non-lawyers alike
- Provides a combination of both domestic and international law analysis concerning emergency powers, making it of great usefulness to academics, policy makers and teachers
- Examines highly contentious legal and policy issues in a systematic and novel way. By setting out a structured conceptual framework within which these issues can be addressed, readers are given an invaluable tool for evaluating legal and political debates about crisis

### ARTICLES

David Weissbrodt and Amy Bergquist, *Extraordinary Rendition and the Humanitarian Law of War and Occupation*, 47 Va. J. Int'l L. 295 (2007)

David Weissbrodt, *The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Implementing Human Rights*, 139 (Rikke Frank Jørgensen & Klaus Slavensky eds., 2007)

David Weissbrodt, *The Protection of Non-Citizens in International Human Rights Law in International Migration Law: Developing Paradigms and Key Challenges*, 221 (Ryszard Cholewinski, Richard Perruchoud, & Euan MacDonald eds., 2007)

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