

Human Rights Brief

Volume 5 | Issue 2

Article 9

1998

Center News

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Recommended Citation

Human Rights Brief. "Center News." Human Rights Brief 5, no. 2 (1998): 22-23.

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CENTER NEWS

The 1998 academic year began with a lecture series sponsored by the School of Communication and the Kay Spiritual Life Center on January 29th with **Zazi Sadou**, a journalist and women's rights activist in Algeria, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As a founder of the Algerian Assembly of Democratic Women, Zazi Sadou has affirmatively defended the rights of women against acts of terror including rape and mutilation. In early February, WCL sponsored a discussion with **Kirk Childress**, a Senior Staff attorney with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund. The discussion focused on the case of Timothy McVeigh, a sailor, who had an America On Line (AOL) user profile which identified his marital status as gay. Consequently the Navy accessed McVeigh's AOL account and discharged McVeigh for homosexuality. The discussion centered on Federal District Court Judge Stanley Sporkin's enjoinder of the Navy's discharge of McVeigh and the issue of electronic privacy.

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law continued the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the **Asia-Pacific** conference on January 30th & 31st which was co-sponsored by the Asia Pacific Center for

Justice and Peace. The two day Conference explored the ongoing debate of the universality of human rights in the Asia Pacific context. Prominent human rights expert Professor Yash Gai, the keynote speaker from the University of Hong Kong addressed current issues in the Asia Pacific region and the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The conference included panelists from NGO's such as the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation, Bread for the World, and Amnesty International who held workshops that focused on socio-economic development, the right to free expression, and statehood and self-determination. WCL Professor Daniel Bradlow and Professor Herman Schwartz participated in the different panel discussions.

On February 27, 1998, WCL sponsored a panel discussion entitled **Is the Experience of the Landmines Campaign Unique or is it a Model for International Lawmaking?** The informal round table brought together practitioners from various fields to discuss whether and how the international landmines campaign experience could be translated into a model for international treaty-making and policies in other areas such as human rights, the environment, development, and arms control. Panelists included WCL Associate Professor Kenneth Anderson, WCL Professor Daniel Bradlow, Steve Goose, Program Director



Victoria Corpuz, left, Tebtebba Foundation Inc. Indigenous Peoples International Center for Policy Research and Education, Philippines. Xiaorong Li, right, Institute of Philosophy and Public Policy, University of Maryland

for Human Rights Watch Arms Division, David Hunter from the Center for International Environmental Law, Patricia Irvin from Cooper, Liebowitz, Royster & Wright, Charlotte Ku from the American Society of International Law, Bob Lawson from Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Charles Maynes, President of the Eurasia Foundation, Ann Peters, Director of the Open Society Institute Landmines Project, David Rieff, journalist, and Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

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joined in their efforts by filing a government-to-government request, which included a solicitation for any information the U.S. government might have regarding Father Carney's case. In analyzing the documents declassified by the U.S. government since Father Carney's disappearance, the authors raise critical questions about gaps in information, as well as inconsistencies in the facts that the U.S. government has provided. They conclude that "[t]he paucity of documents and the abundance of black ink belies the U.S. government's clear reluctance to release human rights information on the case of Father Carney." The remaining question is: "Why is there so much resistance to providing this information to Honduran authorities and to the U.S. public?"

In Search of Hidden Truths concludes with reflections on the efforts the Human Rights Commissioner, the Pub-

lic Ministry, the family of Father Carney, and others have made to uncover the dirty truths behind the disappearance of 184 people in Honduras during the 1980s, and the roles played by the Argentine military forces and the U.S. government in these disappearances. The authors conclude: "While there is no doubt that the CIA, the Pentagon, and other U.S. agencies have numerous classified records relating to Honduran intelligence operations and the human rights violations that were committed, the most important of these documents have not been provided." While *In Search of Hidden Truths* provides the reader with a glimpse of the arduous job the Human Rights Commissioner has undertaken and the frustrations encountered in the process, the authors express in the conclusion their fervent and optimistic hope that the Clinton Administration will honor its commitment to fully support and assist the

Commissioner's investigative work, emphasizing the importance of full access to U.S. government documents to "the search for truth and justice."

Dr. Valladares has garnered the attention and support of many members of Congress, who have joined in his battle for the truth. In October of 1997, members of Congress introduced "The Human Rights Information Act," which seeks to assure prompt and complete declassification of documents pertaining to human rights abuses in both Honduras and Guatemala. ☪

**In Search of Hidden Truths is available in English and Spanish from the National Security Archives, in Washington, D.C.*

***For more information on "The Human Rights Information Act," please contact the offices of Senator Dodd (D-CT), Congressman Lantos (D-CA) or the Latin America Working Group (lawg@igc.apc.org).*

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Daniel Bradlow, Professor of Law and Director of the International Legal Studies Program at WCL spoke on "Sustainable Development and the Challenge for Legal Education" at the Fifth World Bank Conference on Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development in October 1997. In January he spoke at the Third Annual Conference of the Asia Pacific Center for Justice and Peace, discussing "Human Rights and Development." In commemoration of Martin Luther King Day, he appeared on "African Journal" to discuss resolution of the ethnic conflict in Africa. Bradlow organized lawyers from over 30 countries to urge the Executive Directors of the World Bank to protect the independence and integrity of the World Bank Inspection Panel.

Robert Goldman, Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Center and Vice-President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, along with his work to provide greater protection to Internally Displaced Persons (see article on front page) provided legal analysis of allegations of presidential misconduct in interviews with both Columbian TV and ECO TV.

Claudio Grossman, Dean, Co-Director of the Center and member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will chair a panel on *The Future of the Inter-American System in the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights* at the American Society of International Law 92nd Annual Meeting in April 1998. He gave the keynote address at the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal in February. In January, Dean Grossman moderated a panel entitled "Discrimination Against Us All" designed to reaffirm the law school's policy against any type of discrimination and, specifically, discrimination based on sexual orientation by the military, sat on a panel on *El Futuro del Sistema Interamericano de Proteccion de los*

Derechos Humanos y los Poderes Judiciales at a conference arranged by the Organization of the Supreme Court of the Americas in Panama, co-chaired a panel on *The Future of the Inter-American System in the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights* for the International Conference on Human Rights at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. As the Special Rapporteur on women's rights for the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Dean Grossman convened a women experts meeting for the Commission project on the promotion and protection of the rights of women. More than twenty experts from NGOs and academic institutions met to discuss governmental reports on the status of women from thirteen countries in the hemisphere.

Nicholas Kittrie, Professor of Law, is involved in planning a multi-organization conference to mark the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Convention against Genocide which will be held at WCL. As Chair of the Interest Group on the Status of Minorities and Other Communities, Dr. Kittrie will seek to have a special panel and possibly a regional meeting of ASIL to deal with the methods and means for safeguarding minorities and other communities in the upcoming millenium. Kittrie is also the Vice-Chair of the Alliance of United Nations NGOs for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which consists of such diverse NGOs as Amnesty International, the Red Cross, the International Prison Fellowship and the International Association of Penal Law.

Nell Newton, Professor of Law, published an article entitled "American Indians in the United States Criminal Justice System" with Diane Welsh, a WCL student, in *Pena y Estado-A* Guatemalan journal. Currently Professor Newton is advising the attorneys representing the estate of Crazy Horse to prevent the use of his name without consent for the marketing of malt liquor. Additionally, she is work-

ing with the Lummi Tribe to help formulate legislative proposals and protect the Indians' right to self-determination.

Diane Orentlicher, Professor of Law and Director of War Crimes Research Office, has been busy interviewing on war crimes issues with the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, National Public Radio, BBC News and CNN. She has published an article discussing an international response to ethno-seperatist movements in the Yale Journal of International Law. She presented a paper on the legal duties of NATO forces in Bosnia relating to the apprehension of suspects indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in Siracusa, Italy. She is advising the UN Special Rapporteur on Systematic Rape and Sexual Slavery in Armed Conflict. In March she will be presenting a paper relating to accountability for human rights abuses that arise during peace negotiations at a meeting convened by the UN's Department for Political Affairs.

Herman Schwartz, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center, was in Armenia in January, advising the Constitutional Court and the government on proposals to enhance legislation and Constitutional amendments in order to promote human rights. In March, Schwartz travels to Budapest for a conference on human rights and economic transition for Constitutional Court Judges in Central Asia.

Rick Wilson, Professor of Law and Director of WCL's International Human Rights Clinic, appeared on the Columbian News program (*Hora Zero*) to discuss the State Department's Annual Report on Human Rights in Columbia, and was interviewed by *Que Pasa*, a Chilean magazine, about the U.S. role in the Spanish litigation against Augusto Pinochet, a case in which the Human Rights Clinic has been involved. ☉

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An upcoming conference, cosponsored by the Center's War Crimes Research Office and the American Society of International Law, and supported by the Open Society Institute, is the **War Crimes Tribunals: The Record and the Prospects**. The conference, to be held at WCL on March 31st & April 1st, will assess The International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia

(ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR), evaluating their track record and the importance of their contributions to international humanitarian law. Panelists and commentators will include Judge Gabrielle Kirk MacDonald, President of the ICTY, Louise Arbour, Chief Prosecutor for the ICTY and ICTR, as well as prosecutors, defense counsel, international law professors, journalists, legal experts

and government officials. These participants will discuss both the tribunals' work and the implications of the tribunals' experience for the successful establishment and operation of the proposed international criminal court, whose draft statute is to be finalized at a diplomatic conference in Rome this summer. ☉