

1-1-2009

Immigration Legal Research

Billie Jo Kaufman

American University Washington College of Law, bkaufman@wcl.american.edu

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IMMIGRATION LEGAL RESEARCH

Billie Jo Kaufman
Associate Dean for Library & Information
Resources
Professor of Law

February - 2008

THEN & NOW

Before 9/11 –

- Department of Justice
(**Immigration & Naturalization Service** – INS)
- Department of the Treasury
(United States **Customs Service** – USCS)

After 9/11 –

- Department of Homeland Security – **United States Customs and Immigration Service** (USCIS) – performs administrative functions
- Department of Homeland Security – **Immigration & Customs Enforcement** (ICE) – performs enforcement functions
- Department of Homeland Security – **Customs and Border Protection** (CBP) – enforces/protects borders
- Department of Justice – **Executive Office for Immigration Review** (EOIR) – administration of immigration law

Applicable Statutes

- Immigration and Nationality Act, Pub. L. No. 82-214, 66 Stat. 163, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. (2000).
 - United States Code—Title 8
 - <http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/index.htm>
 - LexisNexis: Library: IMMIG; File: USCS (USC Titles 8, 18, 29, 42).
 - Westlaw: Databases: FIM-USCA (USC Immigration Titles); FIM-INA (Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended).
- <http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/index.htm>

Researching Pending Legislation

- [Thomas](#)
- **CRS Reports** ([LexisNexis Congressional](#))
 - Use Advanced Search; Choose CRS Reports and enter Search Terms: Immigration Reform
- **Bill tracking services**
 - *Bender's Immigration Bulletin*. Albany, N.Y.: Matthew Bender, 1996—. (LEXIS: IMMIG; IMMBUL) [KF4802 .B46](#)
 - *Immigration Law Today*. Washington, D.C.: American Immigration Lawyers Association, 1982—.
 - *Interpreter Releases*. Washington, D.C.: Thomson/West, 1923—. (Westlaw: INTERREL)
- **LexisNexis/Westlaw**
 - LexisNexis: Immigration Legislation Updates (IMRFRM); Immigration State Laws Pending (IMSLP)
 - Westlaw: IM-CURRENT; FIM-BILLTXT

Applicable Regulations

- *Department of Homeland Security Regulations*—8 C.F.R., ch. I
- *Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), within the Department of Justice*—8 C.F.R. ch. V.
- *Justice Department Regulations*
 - Unfair Immigration employment Practices 28 C.F.R. pt. 44
 - Practice and procedure for administrative hearings 28 C.F.R. pt. 68
 - Administrative Regulations for INS 28 C.F. R. pt. 0, subpart S
- *Labor Department Regulations*—20 C.F.R. 655 656; 29 C.F.R. 500 & 501
- *Public Health Service, Alien Medical Examination Regulations*—42 C.F.R. pt. 34
- *State Department Regulations*—
 - Visas 20 C.F.R. pt. 40-42
 - Nationality & Passports 22 C.F.R. pt. 50-51
 - Board of Appellate Review Procedures 22 C.F.R. pt. 7
 - Nonimmigrant exchange visitor programs 22 C.F.R. pt. 62-65

Researching Regulations

- *Bender's Immigration Regulation Service*. Albany, N.Y.: Matthew Bender, 1989—. [KF4807 .B46](#)
LexisNexis: BIRGEES
- *Benders Immigration Bulletin*. New York, N.Y.: Matthew Bender, 1996—. [KF4802 .B46](#) LexisNexis: IMMBUL
- *Federal Register*.
 - Government Printing Office: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>
 - LexisNexis: Library: IMMIG; File: FEDREG
 - Westlaw: FIM-FR

Applicable Federal Agencies

- Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov
- United States Customs and Immigration Service
<http://uscis.gov/>
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement
<http://www.ice.gov>
- <http://www.cbp.gov>
- United States Department of State
<http://www.state.gov/>
- Department of Justice Executive Office of
Immigration Review <http://www.doj.gov/eoir/>



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From the Press Room

[Immigration and Border Security Action Directive Issued](#)
[Ivan K. Fong to Be Nominated as Homeland Security General Counsel](#)
[Action Directives Issued on First Responders, Hurricane Katrina](#)
[Action Directives Issued on FEMA State & Local Integration, National Planning](#)
[Jane Holl Lute Nominated as Deputy Secretary](#)

Leadership Journal

January 30, [First Week](#), Secretary Janet Napolitano

Homeland Security Topics



Information For

Citizens, First Responders, Business, Government, Job Seekers



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Airport Security, Border Security, Critical Infrastructure, Cybersecurity, National Infrastructure Protection Plan...



Preparedness & Response

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★ BENEFITS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL ★

INFOPASS Schedule an Appointment

E-Verify

Protecting America We are USCIS

WHAT'S NEW:

[USCIS Delays Rule Changing List of Documents Acceptable to Verify Employment Eligibility Reopens Public Comment Period for 30 days](#)

January 30, 2009 - USCIS announced today it has delayed until April 3, 2009, the implementation of an interim final rule entitled "Documents Acceptable for Employment Eligibility Verification" published in the Federal Register on Dec. 17, 2008. The rule streamlines the Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9) process.

[Delay for Federal Acquisition Regulation Policy Requiring Federal Contractors to Use E-Verify System](#)

January 29, 2009 - Implementation of the final rule requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to begin using USCIS' E-Verify system has been delayed until 5/21/09. An amendment providing notice of this postponement will publish in the Federal Register on Friday, 01/30/09. The final rule will be legally final and effective on 01/19/09, but Federal contracting officers will not begin to insert the new E-Verify clause into federal contracts and solicitations until 5/21/09.

[USCIS Announces Change in Filing Location for EB-5 Related Items](#)

January 12, 2009 - USCIS announced that petitions and applications related to the Alien Entrepreneur (EB-5) program, including Regional Center Proposals, must be filed at the California Service Center, effective January 26, 2009.

[More News](#)

Have you filed with USCIS?

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Three-day joint operation results in more than \$1.1 million worth of counterfeit goods seized.

ICE tackles counterfeit goods at Super Bowl

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Secure Communities



Headline News...

1/30/2009 - Mesa - New ICE program sparks arrest, prosecution of previously deported gang associate in Phoenix area... [READ MORE](#)

1/30/2009 - Denver - Colorado ICE Fugitive Operations Teams arrest 45 aliens during 3-day initiative... [READ MORE](#)

1/29/2009 - Tampa - ICE tackles counterfeit goods at Super Bowl... [READ MORE](#)

In Focus



ICE Most Wanted



Detention Facility Standards 2000 Detention Standards



Intellectual Property Rights



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CBP NEWS: The Soft Underbelly Up North - (01/29/2009 - The Washington Times)

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CBP Field Operations Officers at JFK Seize Antique Fabergé Ornaments Valued at \$250K
01/21/2009



Latest Information on Border Document Requirements
01/12/2009



CBP Officers Sniff Out Counterfeit Perfume at Newark Seaport
01/29/2009

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http://travel.state.gov/

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U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

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Monday February 2, 2009

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Country Specific Information

ESTA Electronic System for Travel Authorization
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

International Travel for U.S. Citizens

- Avian Influenza Fact Sheet
- Emergency Assistance to American Citizens Abroad
- Registration with Embassies
- Tips for Traveling Abroad
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Passports for U.S. Citizens

- Checking the Status of Your Application
- Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
- Applications and Forms
- Lost or Stolen Passports
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- Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery Instructions
- Temporary Visitors to the U.S.
- Travel Without a Visa
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- Family Issues
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United States Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review



[Immigration Court Practice Manual](#)
[Immigration Court Closures](#)
[New Phone Numbers for Elizabeth Immigration Court Effective January 5, 2009](#)

What's New at EOIR

- [Asylum and Withholding CAT Protections \(01/22/09\)](#)
- [EOIR Implements Regulation to Enhance Attorney Discipline Program \(01/06/09\)](#)
- [BIA to Begin Providing Courtesy Copy of Decisions to Represented Aliens \(12/19/08\)](#)
- [New BIA Members Sworn in by AG Mukasey \(12/16/08\)](#)
- [AG Appoints David Neal as Vice Chairman of the BIA \(12/10/08\)](#)

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Court proceedings, Appellate Reviews & Administrative Hearings

- **BIA** – reviews individual cases
- **OCIJ** – oversees all immigration courts and their proceedings
- **OCAHO** – adjudicates cases concerning employer sanctions, document fraud, and immigration-related employment discrimination
- **BALCA** – unfair employment practice
- **OIL** – civil immigration litigation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Executive Office for Immigration Review



Board of Immigration Appeals



The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA or Board) is the highest administrative body for interpreting and applying immigration laws. It is authorized up to 15 Board Members, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman who share responsibility for Board management. The Board is located at EOIR headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia. Generally, the Board does not conduct courtroom proceedings - it decides appeals by conducting a "paper review" of cases. On rare occasions, however, the Board does hear oral arguments of appealed cases, predominately at headquarters.

The Board has been given nationwide jurisdiction to hear appeals from certain decisions rendered by Immigration Judges and by District Directors of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a wide variety of proceedings in which the Government of the United States is one party and the other party is either an alien, a citizen, or a business firm. In addition, the Board is responsible for the recognition of organizations and accreditation of representatives requesting permission to practice before DHS, the Immigration Courts, and the Board.

Decisions of the Board are binding on all DHS officers and Immigration Judges unless modified or overruled by the Attorney General or a Federal court. All Board decisions are subject to judicial review in the Federal courts. The majority of appeals reaching the Board involve orders of removal and applications for relief from removal. Other cases before the Board include the exclusion of aliens applying for admission to the United States, petitions to classify the status of alien relatives for the issuance of preference immigrant visas, fines imposed upon carriers for the violation of immigration laws, and motions for reopening and reconsideration of decisions previously rendered.

The Board is directed to exercise its independent judgment in hearing appeals for the Attorney General. Board decisions designated for publication are printed in bound volumes entitled *Administrative Decisions Under Immigration and Nationality Laws of the United States*.



[Biographical Information - Board of Immigration Appeals](#)

Streamlining Procedures at the Board of Immigration Appeals:

[Attorney General Issues Final Rule Reforming Board of Immigration Appeals Procedures](#)

Board of Immigration Appeals Decisions

- Attorney General & BIA Precedent Decisions, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1962—. [DOJ site](#) (previous slide)
- Lexis: Library: IMMIG; File: BIA (1940—).
- Westlaw: Database: FIM-BIA (1940—).
- Hein's Interim Decision Service. Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 1983—.
 - [Cumulative Index to Interim Decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals](#)
- Bender's Immigration Case Reporter. New York, N.Y.: Matthew Bender, 1985—.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

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Office of Administrative Law Judges

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Note: Docket search only covers ALJ decisions from the fall of 2000 forward. For older ALJ decisions and ARB decisions use [full-text search](#) or browse the library collection case lists.

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Newsletters and Recent Postings

Office Move - December 3, 2008

- The Pittsburgh District Office has moved to:

Office of Administrative Law Judges
United States Department of Labor
William S. Moorhead Federal Office Building
1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1800
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-644-5754
Fax: 412-644-5005

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Executive Office for Immigration Review



Office of the Chief Immigration Judge



The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ) provides overall program direction, articulates policies and procedures, and establishes priorities for more than 200 Immigration Judges located in more than 50 [Immigration Courts throughout the Nation](#). The Chief Immigration Judge carries out these responsibilities with Deputy and Assistant Chief Immigration Judges, a Chief Clerk's Office, a Language Services Unit, and other functions that coordinate management and operation of the Immigration Courts.

In removal proceedings, Immigration Judges determine whether an individual from a foreign country (an alien) should be allowed to enter or remain in the United States or should be removed. Immigration Judges are responsible for conducting formal court proceedings and act independently in deciding the matters before them. Their decisions are administratively final unless appealed or certified to the Board. They also have jurisdiction to consider various forms of relief from removal. In a typical removal proceeding, the Immigration Judge may decide whether an alien is removable (formerly called "deportable") or inadmissible under the law, then may consider whether that alien may avoid removal by accepting voluntary departure or by qualifying for asylum, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture, or other forms of relief.

Many removal proceedings are conducted in prisons and jails as part of an initiative called the Criminal Alien Program. In coordination with DHS and correctional authorities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, selected municipalities, and Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities, Immigration Judges conduct on-site hearings to adjudicate the immigration status of alien inmates while they are serving sentences for criminal convictions.



[Biographical Information - Office of the Chief Immigration Judge](#)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Executive Office for Immigration Review



Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer



The Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) is headed by a Chief Administrative Hearing Officer who is responsible for the general supervision and management of Administrative Law Judges who preside at hearings which are mandated by provisions of law enacted in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 ([IRCA](#)) and the [Immigration Act of 1990](#). These acts, among others, amended the Immigration and Nationality Act Of 1952 ([INA](#)).

Administrative Law Judges hear cases and adjudicate issues arising under the provisions of the INA relating to (1) knowingly hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee or the continued employment of unauthorized aliens, and failure to comply with employment verification requirements in violation of section 274A of the INA (employer sanctions); (2) immigration-related unfair employment practices in violation of section 274B of the INA; (3) immigration-related document fraud in violation of 274C of the INA; and (4) failure to comply with the information dissemination provisions for international match making organizations in violation of 8 U.S.C. 1375. Complaints are brought by the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices in the Department of Justice, or private individuals as prescribed by statute.

Hearings are conducted under applicable laws and regulations, as well as the general requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. Employer sanctions and document fraud cases are subject to administrative review by the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer. All final agency decisions are subject to review in Federal courts.

[Additional information regarding OCAHO decisions, applicable laws and regulations, and general information, is also available.](#)



[Biographical Information - Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer](#)

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BALCA & OALJ Decisions

- OALJ – Office of Administrative Law Judges, Department of Labor
 - <http://www.oalj.dol.gov/libina.htm>
- Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA) Decisions
 - Office of Administrative Law Judges Website
 - <http://www.oalj.dol.gov/libina.htm>
 - LexisNexis: BALCA (1987—)
 - Westlaw: FIM-BALCA (1987—)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Executive Office for Immigration Review



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[Biographical Information - Office of the Chief Immigration Judge](#)

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Office of Immigration Litigation

- Approximately 250 attorneys and 100 support staff are employed by the Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL).
- Attorneys and Non-Attorneys are divided into two sections: OIL 1 and the District Court Section.
- The Office of Immigration Litigation has jurisdiction over all civil immigration litigation, and is responsible for the nationwide coordination of immigration matters before the federal district courts and circuit courts of appeals.

Civil Division

APPELLATE STAFF

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OFFICE OF CONSUMER LITIGATION

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

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OIL 1

District Court Section

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THE ABA LAUNCHES THE IMMIGRATION JUSTICE PROJECT (IJP) OF SAN DIEGO

The American Bar Association (ABA) is launching an innovative pro bono immigration pilot project in San Diego, California pursuant to a seed grant from the ABA Enterprise Fund. The mission of the IJP is to promote due process and access to justice at all levels of the immigration and appellate court system, through the provision of high-quality pro bono legal services for those in immigration proceedings in San Diego. Partnering in the project are several ABA entities,* the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), the federal courts, Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the private bar. The IJP will serve both detained and non-detained individuals, and will recruit, train, and mentor volunteer attorneys and law students representing clients. Through funding from the EOIR, the IJP will also implement a Legal Orientation Program for adult immigration detainees. During the first two years of the project, a study will be conducted by ISIM to evaluate its impact on the immigration court and appellate process.

*ABA entity partners are: Commission on Immigration, Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements, Section of Litigation, Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, Judicial Division

FIND LEGAL HELP

For a Directory of low-cost immigration legal service providers in your state, click [here](#).

WHAT'S NEW!

The ABA recently issued recommendations to Congress and the new administration on ensuring due process in immigration proceedings. To view the recommendations, go to:
http://www.abanet.org/poladv/transition/2008dec_immigra

To view the ABA's press release in response to Attorney General Mukasey's decision in *Matter of Compean*, go to:
http://www.abanet.org/abanet/media/statement/statement_released=514

Launch of the Immigration Advocates Network ("IAN")

<http://www.immigrationadvocates.org>
Immigration Advocates Network (IAN) is a



The American Immigration Law Foundation

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The important work of the Foundation is funded through generous donations from individuals and corporations who care about understanding and preserving our heritage as a nation of immigrants. [Your support for AILF](#) will allow us to continue our increasingly vital mission and to expand the important work of our *Immigration Policy Center*, *Legal Action Center*, *Curriculum Center*, and *Exchange Visitor Program*.

What's New at AILF

- ▶ **[Litigation Clearinghouse Newsletter Vol. 4, No. 2](#)**, February 2, 2009
This issue of AILF's Litigation Clearinghouse Newsletter covers the Supreme Court's decision to hear a fraud offense case, important developments in the *Duran-Gonzales* and surviving spouse class actions, updates on the *Orozco* and *Matter of Silva-Trevino* decisions, and outreach and resources related to the AG's ineffective assistance of counsel decision *Matter of Compean*.
- ▶ **[Ineffective Assistance of Counsel](#)**
This litigation issue page provides information related to *Matter of Compean*, 24 I & N Dec. 710 (A.G. 2009), the AG decision overturning *Matter of Lozada*. AILF will update this issue page with guidance for practitioners as we continue to analyze and respond to the AG's decision.
- ▶ **[Summary of Matter of Compean -- Attorney General Decision on Claims Regarding Counsel in Removal Proceedings](#)**
The following is AILF's summary of Attorney General Michael Mukasey's decision in *Matter of Compean*, 24 I & N Dec. 710 (A.G. 2009), the decision overruling *Matter of Lozada*, 19 I & N Dec. 637 (BIA 1988) and *Matter of Assaad*, 23 I & N Dec. 553 (BIA 2003).
- ▶ **[Litigation Clearinghouse Volume 4, Issue 1](#)**, January 9, 2009
This issue of AILF's Litigation Clearinghouse Newsletter covers a challenge to the new E-Verify rule; the Attorney General's decision overturning *Matter of Lozada*; a Supreme Court update; regulatory developments in removal cases; and the Attorney General's decision on CIMTs and the categorical approach.
- ▶ **[AILF Condemns Attorney General's Last Minute Blow to Immigrants' Legal Rights](#)**
On January 7, 2009, in the waning hours of the departing Bush Administration, Attorney General Michael Mukasey attempted to unravel decades of legal precedent guaranteeing due process to people facing life-

In Memoriam



The American Immigration Law Foundation honors its Fallen Heroes

2008 has marked the passing of some extraordinary members of the immigration bar. Our revered friends and colleagues, they were champions for justice and equality under the law for immigrants and other non-citizens. Distinguished public servants, tireless volunteers, prestigious award winners, AILF leaders; the American Immigration Law Foundation salutes our fallen heroes for their endless dedication and persistence to increasing public understanding of the value of immigration to American society and to advancing fundamental fairness for immigrants.

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AILF was established to promote public understanding of immigration law and policy through education, policy analysis, and support to litigators.

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Just Posted

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[MPI/PRB Pocket Guide on Best Sources for Immigration Data](#)
[EOIR Announces 12 New Legal Orientation Program Sites](#)
[EOIR Fact Sheet on FOIA Request Filings](#)
[CIS Ombudsman Announces Upcoming Teleconference on Biological Relationship Testing](#)

Additional Recent Postings

AILA's Latest Podcast Is "The Material Support to Terrorism Bar to Admissibility"



AILA's latest podcast, "[The Sleeping Giant: The Material Support to Terrorism Bar to Admissibility](#)" covers the law, policy memoranda, and changes in the pipeline for the material support to terrorism bar to admissibility. Hear strategies to challenge the material support bar and agency application of the bar in adjustment of status cases.

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Highlights

Latino Voting in the 2008 Election: Part of a Broader Electoral Movement

By James G. Gimpel

The 2008 presidential election provided yet another opportunity to assess stability and change in the basic partisan commitments of voters. For almost 10 years now, leading GOP strategists have suggested that the party is on its way to making lasting inroads with Latino voters. Unfortunately, the 2008 results indicate that the party is no closer to this goal now than it was when it started. [Read More...](#)

Why We Need Secure Driver Licenses: Educational Video Series Release

By Janice Kephart and Bryan Griffith

The Center has produced a two-part educational video series narrated by Janice Kephart. These videos are the first in a series on border policy. [Read More...](#)

Immigration Blog

Uncommon Knowledge

By Mark Krikorian, February 2, 2009

All this week, I discuss my book, *The New Case Against Immigration, Both Legal and Illegal*, on the web-based interview show "Uncommon Knowledge." The interview will be posted in five segments, one each day, and then the full interview will be posted [here](#).

» [Mark Krikorian's blog](#)

Morning News, 2/2/09

By Bryan Griffith, February 2, 2009

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1. New NY Senator wavering
2. Issue a low priority among Latinos
3. Houston candidates condemn enforcement
4. Children of deportees sue
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The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR): - Internet Explorer provided by Dell

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Open-Borders Amnesty Lobby Disappointed With Gillibrand Appointment

Last week's confirmation of Senator Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State created a vacancy in the United States Senate. Even before Governor David Paterson (D-NY) could officially announce the appointment, the open-borders lobby came out in full force in opposition to the Governor's choice.

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The New York Times

That Was the Year That Was: A look back at the top immigration stories of the year as seen through the lens of the New York Times editorial page.
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Backlash at the polls: The immigrant and Latino vote provided new context for the immigration reform debate and new hope for change.
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Blog Headlines [FAIR Blames Florida's Budget Woes on Immigrants and Children](#)

Press Room

Tripping Over Immigration Reform... Again

January 27, 2009
Until A Strategy For Reform Is In Place, Congress Will Continue To Stumble Over Immigration And Immigrants On Every Bill Washington, DC - This week, Congress considers reauthorization of the State ...

Over Twelve-Hundred Pro-Immigrant Groups Sign Letter to New

Policy News

Congress Returns

January 15, 2009
The 111th Congress is now in session. In the Senate, the first thing on the agenda has been nomination hearings for President-Elect Obama's cabinet picks. These are taking place in the respective ...

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January 15, 2009
As President Bush and his administration ...

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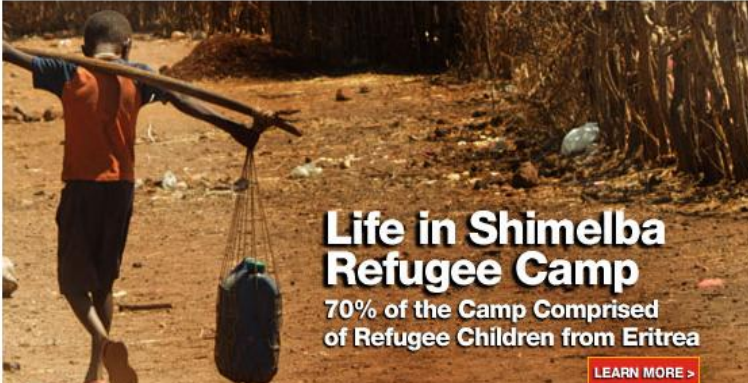
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- ▶ [THE ABC'S OF IMMIGRATION: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT E-VERIFY](#)
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- ▶ [SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2008 FINAL NO-MATCH RULE & AUGUST 2007 ENJOINED FINAL RULE, SUMMARY BY GREG SISKIND](#)

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▶ [The ABCs of Immigration: B Visas, Visa Waivers, & ESTA - What Visitors Need to Know for 2009](#)

What's New @ Siskind Susser

- ▶ [21 January 2009](#) - The Newest Issue of Siskind's Immigration Bulletin is Now Online.
- ▶ [19 January 2009](#) - We've Posted the State Department Visa Bulletin for February 2009.
- ▶ [31 December 2008](#) - The Newest Issue of Siskind's Immigration Bulletin is Now Online.
- ▶ [more updates...](#)

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Siskind Susser is one of the largest immigration law firms in North America and its attorneys have experience handling all aspects of American and Canadian immigration and nationality law. [more...](#)

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Treatises and More

- *Immigration Law & Business*. Deerfield, Ill.: Clark Boardman Callaghan, 1983—. [KF4819 .F7 1983](#)
Westlaw: (IMLB)
- *Immigration Law & Procedure*. New York, NY: Matthew Bender, 1966—. [KF4819 .G6](#)
- *Immigration Law Service*. St. Paul, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2004—. Westlaw: ([IMMLS2D](#))
- *Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook*. Washington, DC: American Immigration Law Foundation, 2008—. [KF4819.85 .K87 2008](#)

Treatises and More

- *Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook*. Washington, DC: American Immigration Lawyers Association, c1991—. [KF4819.A2 A415](#)
- *Immigration Fundamentals: A Guide to Law and Practice*. New York, NY: Practising Law Institute, 1996. [KF4819 .F73 1996](#). Westlaw: [PLIREF-IMMIG](#)
- *Immigration Law and Defense*. New York, N.Y.: C. Boardman, 1987—. [KF8925.E4 I46 1987](#) Westlaw: [IMLD](#)
- *Immigration Law & Health: Patients and Providers*. Deerfield, IL : Clark Boardman Callaghan, c1993—. [KF4819 .L68 1993](#) Westlaw: [IMLHTH](#)

Treatises and More

- *Immigration Legislation Handbook*. Thomson/West, 1999—. Westlaw: [IMLH](#)
- *Immigration Procedures Handbook*. Westlaw: [IMPH](#)
- *Steel on Immigration Law*. Thomson/West, Westlaw: [\(STEEL\)](#)
- *Immigration Law & Procedure in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co., 2005. [KF4819.85 .W4 2005](#)
- *Immigration Law and Crimes*. Westlaw: [IMLC](#)

Law Journals

- *Georgetown Immigration Law Journal*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown Univ. Law Ctr., 1985—. LexisNexis: GILAWJ
- *Immigration and Nationality Law Review*. Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 1976—.
- *Immigration Business News and Comment*. St. Paul, MN: West Group, 1999—. (Former Title: Immigration Law Report).
- *Bender's Immigration Bulletin*. New York, NY: Matthew Bender, 1996—.
- *Workplace Immigration Report*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of National Affairs.

Miscellaneous

- Forms – [USCIS Website](#) – USCIS.gov
- Statistics –
 - [Facts and Figures](#), from TRAC Immigration Project at Syracuse University
 - [Report of the Visa Office](#). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs. 1967—.
 - [Statistical Yearbook](#). U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review. 2000—.
 - Yearbook of Immigration Statistics. U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics. Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 2002—.

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- Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families
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ACF Spotlight

February 3, 2009



AdoptUsKids Places 10,000 Foster Children

More than 10,000 foster children have been adopted by families since the 2002 launch of the AdoptUsKids Web site which shares pictures and stories of children needing permanent homes. Learn more at <http://www.adoptuskids.org/>.

Press Releases:

- [January 16, 2009](#)
[Adoption Web site Helps 10,000 Foster Children Find Permanent Families](#)
- [January 6, 2009](#)
[\\$600 Million in Disaster and Social Services Assistance Released](#)
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WHAT IS THE BUREAU'S ROLE?

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) provides aid and sustainable solutions for refugees, victims of conflict and stateless people around the world, through repatriation, local integration, and resettlement in the United States. PRM is also advancing the United States' population and migration policies.


WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is a person who has been forced from his home and crossed an international border for safety. He or she must have a well-founded fear of persecution in his/her native country, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

HOW DOES THE BUREAU DELIVER ASSISTANCE?



JUST RELEASED



-United States Humanitarian Support to Palestinians

-State Department Contributes \$125 Million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

-FY2009 Funding Opportunity Announcement for NGO Programs benefiting refugees in Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic (CAR) Proposal submission deadline:

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HUMAN RIGHTS

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices are submitted annually by the U.S. Department of State to the U.S. Congress in compliance with sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, and section 504 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. The law provides that the Secretary of State shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, by February 25 "a full and complete report regarding the status of internationally recognized human rights, within the meaning of subsection (A) in countries that receive assistance under this part, and (B) in all other foreign countries which are members of the United Nations and which are not otherwise the subject of a human rights report under this Act." Reports on several countries are included that do not fall into the categories established by these statutes and that thus are not covered by the congressional requirement.

The reports cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as set forth in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).



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The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) provides aid and sustainable solutions for refugees, victims of conflict and stateless people around the world, through repatriation, local integration, and resettlement in the United States. PRM is also advancing the United States' population and migration policies.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is a person who has been forced from his home and crossed an international border for safety. He or she must have a well-founded fear of persecution in his/her native country, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

HOW DOES THE BUREAU DELIVER ASSISTANCE?

Assistance is given chiefly through the multilateral system in order to deliver aid with greater effectiveness and more cost-efficiency. Our major partners include the United



JUST RELEASED



-United States Humanitarian Support to Palestinians

-State Department Contributes \$125 Million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

-FY2009 Funding Opportunity Announcement for NGO Programs benefiting refugees in Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic (CAR) Proposal submission deadline: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. (EST).

-FY2009 PRM Funding Opportunity



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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

The Secretary of State submits the annual "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report" to Congress. This report covers "severe forms of trafficking in persons" defined as:

"(a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or (b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery."



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LIBRARY

This website contains news; features; actions; video and audio; information about countries, campaigns and issues. Amnesty International also produces hundreds of reports, press releases, appeals for action and newsletters each year and these are available in the Library.

HIGHLIGHTED RESEARCH



Human rights violations go unpunished in Chad

30 January 2009

One year after the battle between government and armed opposition forces in N'Djaména, Chad, serious human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces are continuing with no one being held accountable.



Dissent violently repressed in Cameroon

29 January 2009

Cameroon's government has routinely used killings and torture to repress political dissent, according to a new Amnesty International report.



Thai security forces systematically torture in southern counter-insurgency

13 January 2009

People are being brutally beaten, burnt with candles, buried up to their necks in the ground, subjected to electric shocks and exposed to intense heat or cold, according to a new Amnesty International report.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2008

The state of the world's human rights

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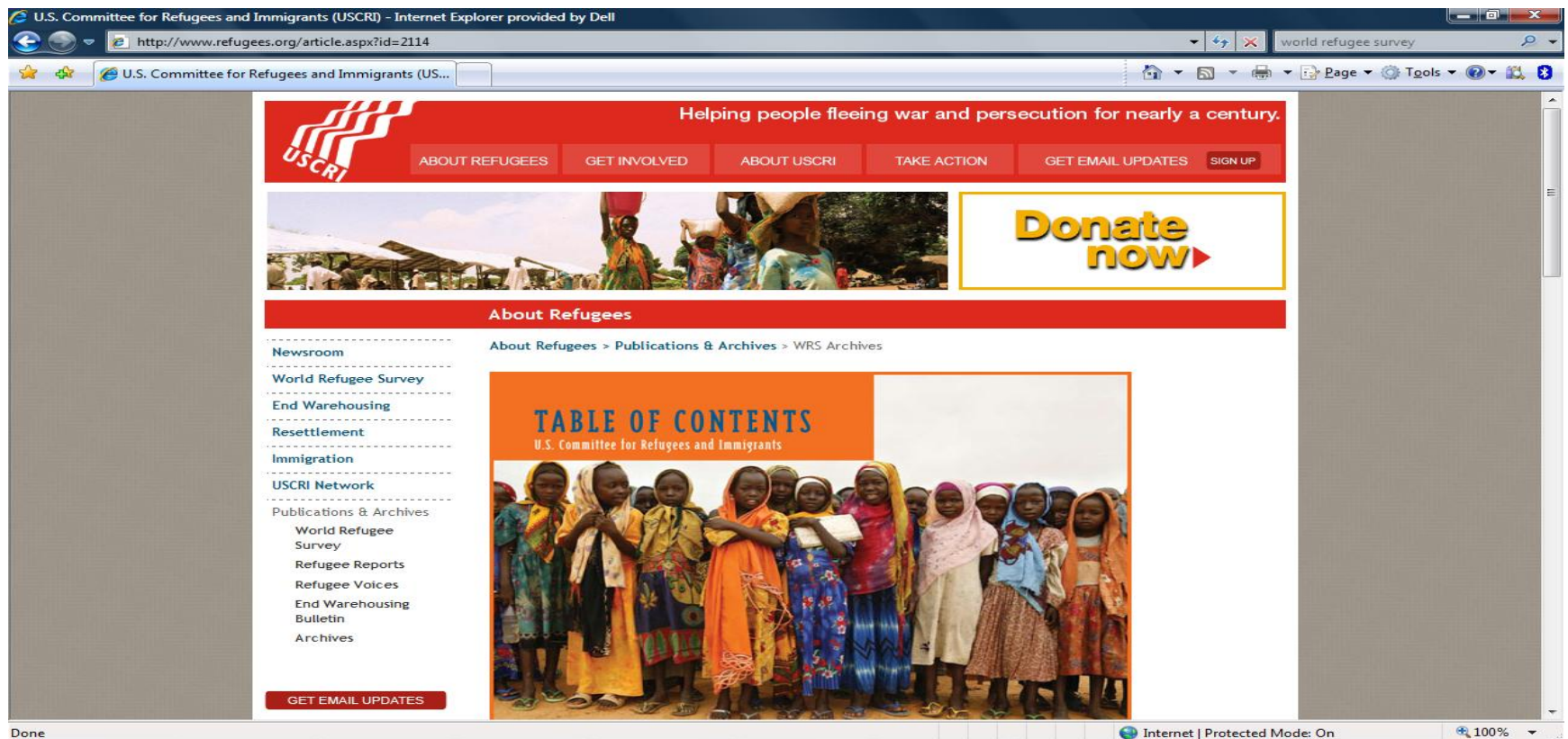
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World Refugee Survey



- Issued Annually
- Contains Statistics, Articles, Refugee Rights Report Cards and Country Reports

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Refugee Caselaw Site

Discussion Area ?
This part of the site is for discussion, questions and answers, and the exchange of ideas about refugee law.
Enter Discussion | Read More

Nearly 150 countries have agreed to apply the same legal definition of a "refugee" to decide who is entitled to their protection. This site is designed to assist judges, advocates, and policymakers around the world to access leading court decisions that interpret the refugee definition set by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Our Current Collection

Our core collection contains cases from the highest national courts of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These cases have been selected and summarized by the Director of the Refugee Caselaw Site, [Professor James Hathaway](#), Dean of the University of Melbourne Law School. The collection is managed by the Assistant Director of the Refugee Caselaw Site at the [University of Michigan Law School](#).

Since 2004, the collection has been incrementally expanded to include decisions from 28 other asylum countries, as well as the most important decisions of lower courts and tribunals in the core collection states. These cases are selected and indexed by teams of leading experts and members of the [International Association of Refugee Law Judges](#) from around the world.

[Read more ...](#)

Cases are included in this database only because of their topical relevance. Users should not rely on any case as a current, correct, or complete statement of the law without further research into its subsequent history and treatment.

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Asylum Washington Post - [Activist Group Calls for Deportation of Obama's Aunt](#) powered by Google™

Information for Asylum-Seekers

[Asylum seekers start here](#): You can find information about seeking asylum, including finding an agency or lawyer to help you, in 35 countries around the world.

Sexual Minorities/HIV Status

In partnership with the National Immigrant Justice Center and the National Asylum Partnership on Sexual Minorities, we've posted an extensive collection of documents relating to the persecution of sexual minorities and HIV+ people. [Find them here](#)

Case Support

(Evidence re Countries of Origin) --select a country/theme -- Go

Our users have identified over 4,000 documents used to support asylum claims. Select a country or theme from the pull-down list.

Legal Tools

(Law and Training re Countries of Refuge) --select a country/theme -- Go

To find information about the law and process of asylum in a particular country, choose a country from the menu above. Registered users can also access the [U.S. Immigration Judge database](#).

- >> [Immigration Court Operating Procedures Effective June 1, 2008](#)
- >> [Download NIJC's Updated Asylum Manual](#)
- >> [Download NIJC's most recent asylum training presentation](#)
- >> [Download NIJC's Seventh Circuit Training Manual](#)

Registration

Join our international community of 10,000 attorneys and advocates who use this site to prepare the best asylum cases they can. Registration is fast, free, and confidential. [Click here to register](#). Once approved, you will have access to special content, including a [database of knowledgeable attorneys](#) with over 4,000 entries. These attorneys have collectively represented over 100,000 asylum seekers from virtually every country in the world.

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The Leader in Refugee Decision Support



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UNHCR's Refworld

Refworld is the leading source of information necessary for taking quality decisions on refugee status. Refworld contains a vast collection of reports relating to situations in countries of origin, policy documents and positions, and documents relating to international and national legal frameworks. The information has been carefully selected and compiled from UNHCR's global network of field offices, Governments, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and judicial bodies.

Latest Refworld Updates

3 February 2009

- SA and IA (Undocumented Kurds) Syria v. Secretary of State for the Home Department
- Map of Somalia: Displacements in 2008, from 1 January to 31 December, 2008
- Map of Somalia, as of January 2009
- Anti-government protests burn two TV stations
- TV correspondents, cameraman detained

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Special Features

Refugee Status Determination

The refugee status determination process is highlighted with the

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http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/origin_e.htm

Country of Origin Research Documents

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada Commission de l'immigration et du statut de réfugié du Canada

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Country of Origin Research

ISSUE PAPERS, EXTENDED RESPONSES and COUNTRY FACT SHEETS

Issue Papers and Extended Responses provide in-depth research on issues relevant to the refugee determination process. Issue Papers dating back to 1995 and Extended Responses dating back to 1999 are available. Country Fact Sheets contain political, socio-economic and other fact-based information about a country. [More](#)

RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

RIRs respond to focused queries or Requests for Information that are submitted to the Research Directorate in the course of the refugee protection determination process. The database contains RIRs in French and English since 2003. Earlier responses may be found in the UNHCR's Refworld CD-ROM, as well as on their Website at <http://www.refworld.org>. [More](#)

RECENT RESEARCH

Recently released research products are available on the [Recent Research page](#).

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"I'm not an expert in international affairs or diplomacy, but it doesn't take that to see tremendous suffering here."

Ben Affleck Associated Press

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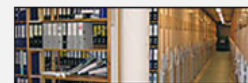
A Rwandan refugee in Cape Town, discusses the drawing he did for the UNHCR study on children and violence.

© UNHCR/J Redden

The refugee world has become highly complex. UNHCR currently cares for 20.8 million people in all corners of the world and in all types of situations. It pursues many roles including providing material aid for civilians who may number just a handful or many hundreds of thousands in any given exodus. It is involved in highly technical legal work

assisting asylum seekers, helping governments establish refugee regimes and helping to shape international humanitarian law. To help it fulfil these various roles, the agency is involved in many research, analysis and evaluation projects.

Refworld
The Leader in Refugee Decision Support



UNHCR Archives

Records are kept to facilitate the ongoing work of the UNHCR mission, to enable a highly mobile staff streamlined access to timely information, to facilitate the organization's response to external review of UNHCR activities by donors or international courts, and to preserve the institutional memory of the organization for research.



UNHCR Library & Visitors' Centre

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REFUGEE
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welcome

Forced Migration Online (FMO) provides instant access to a wide variety of online resources dealing with the situation of forced migrants worldwide. Designed for use by practitioners, policy makers, researchers, students or anyone interested in the field, FMO aims to give comprehensive information in an impartial environment and to promote increased awareness of human displacement issues to an international community of users. We have prepared an [introductory guide](#) to forced migration for visitors who are new to the subject.

FMO is coordinated by a team based at the [Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development](#) (ODID), [University of Oxford](#). FMO and the Digital Library Project were funded by the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) and the [European Commission](#) between 1997 and 2004. Since January 2005, FMO has been funded by the [Department for International Development](#) (DFID).



Research Guide on Local Integration

This research guide provides an in-depth examination of local integration as a durable solution and focuses on key developments within research, policy and practice. This includes an examination of protracted refugee situations, self-settled refugees and livelihood strategies.

[Research Guide](#)



Palestinians Register: Laying Foundations and Setting Directions

The Palestinian Register provides a unique record of contemporary Palestinian civic and political voices. Carried out by Palestinian refugees and exiles and implemented by activists and local leaders, the report of the Civitas collective research project is now available online.

[Report](#)

Digital Library and Journals sections relaunched

The [Digital Library](#) and [Journals](#) sections of this website were relaunched in December 2008, with substantial modifications and upgrades including moving the content to new servers (for better long term preservation) and a more precise search facility. This work was undertaken as part of the [JISC funded QARS project](#), the aim of which was to improve the management of the underlying Digital Library content and make it more open and accessible to external systems such as Google. The FMO team welcomes [feedback](#) from our users.



Iraq Podcast, Video & Resources

The Iraq resources now include a podcast which was recorded recently in Jordan, it includes interviews with a number of Iraqis from a range of backgrounds and current situations. Since 2003 at least 2 million Iraqis have left Iraq and there are now an estimated 750,000 Iraqis seeking refuge in Jordan.

[Podcast](#) | [Video](#) | [Resource Summary](#) | [Research Guide](#)



Research Guide on 'Reparations, Reconciliation and Forced Migration'

This research guide provides an overview of issues around reparations and reconciliation in the context of armed conflict and forced migration. It reviews types and mechanisms of reparations, legal provisions and the role they play wider peace processes.

[Research Guide](#)

Discussion List

[Witchcraft and Human Rights Network](#)

[Eurasylum's Monthly Interview](#)

Forced Migration Online: Blog

[Forced Migration Review: Islam, human rights and displacement](#)

Current Awareness Blog

[Publications: IDPs/South Africa, Protracted Displacement/Europe, Reception/EU, Refugees/UK, Resettlement Self-Study](#)

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[The Exclusionary Politics of Asylum](#)
[Do Our Citizenship Requirements Impede the Protection of Political Asylum Seekers?: A Comparative Analysis of European Practices](#)

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This family of historical collections contains books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, government documents and ephemera printed in America over three centuries.

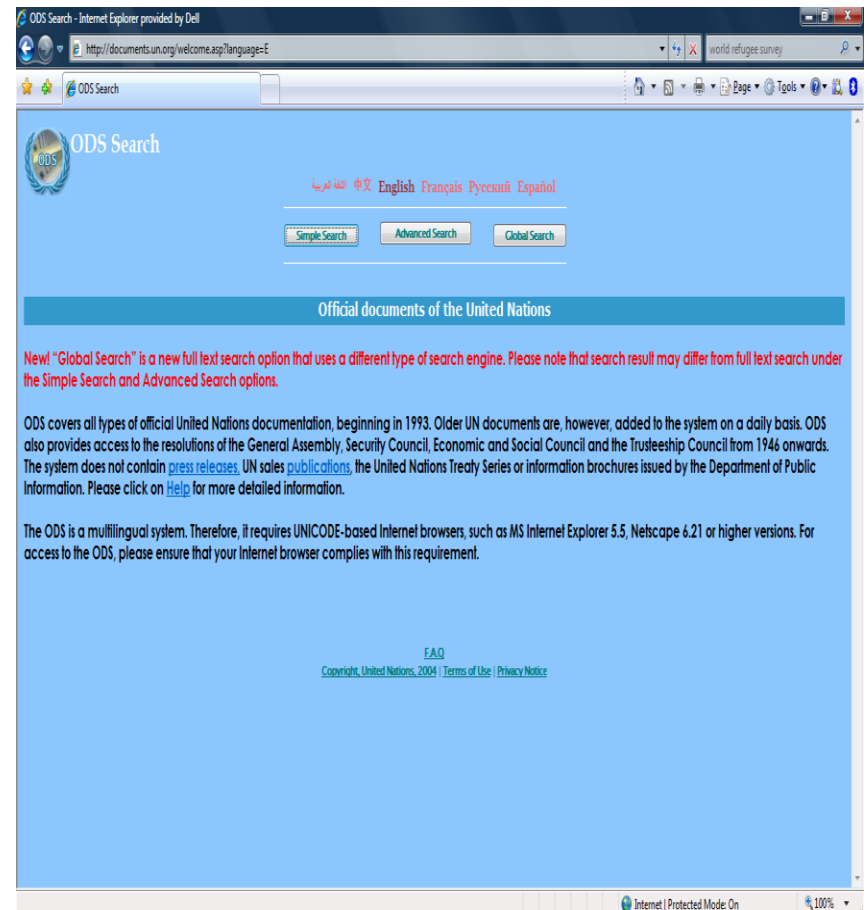
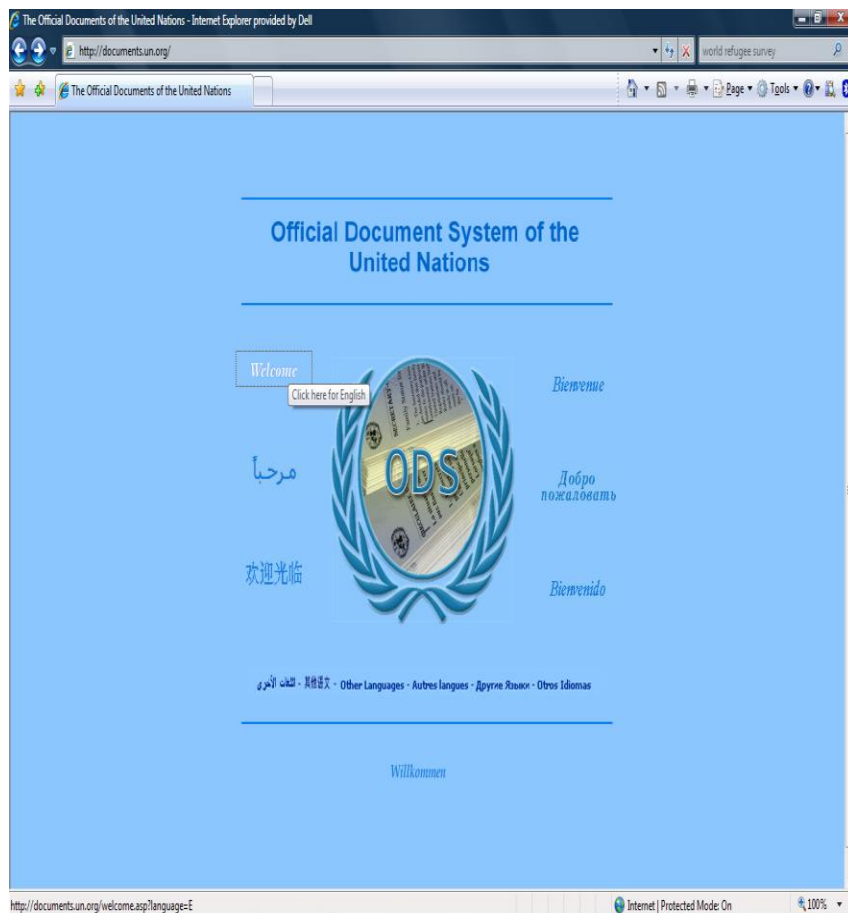
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- [America's Historical Newspapers](#)
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- [Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800](#)
Books, pamphlets, broadsides and other imprints listed in the renowned bibliography by Charles Evans
- [Early American Imprints, Series II: Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819](#)
Books, pamphlets, broadsides and other imprints listed in the distinguished bibliography by Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker

[AccessUN \(1945-2008\)](#)

The premier index to United Nations documents including Official Records, masthead documents, draft resolutions, meeting records, UN Sales Publications, and the UN Treaty Series citations. Also included is the full-text of several thousand UN documents.

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Human Rights Council and International Criminal Court: *The New Challenges for Human Rights Communications*

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HURIDOCs is a global **capacity-building network** of organisations that use documentation techniques, monitoring methods, information management systems and technologies in the defence of human rights and the prevention of abuses.

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Latest trainings: **Nepal - May 2008, Kenya - April 2008, Bangladesh - March 2008, Geneva - January 2008, Zimbabwe - December 2007**

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Asylum Research - Treatises

- *The law of Asylum in the United States*. 3d ed. Boston, Mass: Refugee Law Ctr., 1999—. [KF4836 .A953 1999](#)
- *AILA's Asylum Primer: A Practical Guide to U.S. Asylum Law and Procedure*. 5th ed. Washington, D.C. American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2007. [KF4836 .G47 2005](#)
- *Winning Asylum Cases*. San Francisco, CA: Immigrant Legal Resource Center, 2004.
- *Asylum Law Sourcebook*. St. Paul, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2007. Westlaw: ASYLUMCL
- *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status*, 1992—. Available on the UNCHR Website.

Asylum Research - Journals

- International Journal of Refugee Law. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1989—

Human Rights Resources

- [Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Services](#)
- [Board of Immigration Appeals](#)
- [Council of Europe, Human Rights Directorate](#)
- [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#)
- [American Society of International Law \(ASIL\)](#)

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http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchar= world refugee survey

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Immigration Forms

Welcome to the online information center on Immigration benefit applications and petitions. This channel of www.USCIS.gov provides you with access to all of our public use forms.

Prior to downloading your form, please note the following:

- Fees should be made payable to **Department of Homeland Security** or **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**.
- Please take the time to read our General Directions on Immigration Forms, as well as Fee and Fee Waiver Information. You may find both of these pages at the Related Links area to the right.
- **Signature Requirements:** Authorized Representatives, including attorneys, should see the information about signature requirements which can be found in the Related Links.
- Where instructed, you must pay a \$80 biometric fee for electronically capturing fingerprints. This is in addition to the base fee.
- Some forms may be available for **electronic filing**. Please see the Electronic Filing channel link to the left.
- Most of our forms are fillable on your computer. You will need the latest version of the free Adobe Reader to use these forms (the latest version is 8). You may download the Reader from the Related Link on this page.
- **The forms below are not in normal numerical order**, please look carefully for the form you require. Please note: I-9 and I-90 are near the bottom of the list.
- When a USCIS form is due to expire, the form and any changes must be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If a form expires while it is being reviewed at OMB, the form may still be used. Once a new edition is available, the USCIS website will be updated to ensure all useable editions are listed.

Related Links:

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Executive Office for Immigration Review



Board of Immigration Appeals



The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA or Board) is the highest administrative body for interpreting and applying immigration laws. It is authorized up to 15 Board Members, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman who share responsibility for Board management. The Board is located at EOIR headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia. Generally, the Board does not conduct courtroom proceedings - it decides appeals by conducting a "paper review" of cases. On rare occasions, however, the Board does hear oral arguments of appealed cases, predominately at headquarters.

The Board has been given nationwide jurisdiction to hear appeals from certain decisions rendered by Immigration Judges and by District Directors of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a wide variety of proceedings in which the Government of the United States is one party and the other party is either an alien, a citizen, or a business firm. In addition, the Board is responsible for the recognition of organizations and accreditation of representatives requesting permission to practice before DHS, the Immigration Courts, and the Board.

Decisions of the Board are binding on all DHS officers and Immigration Judges unless modified or overruled by the Attorney General or a Federal court. All Board decisions are subject to judicial review in the Federal courts. The majority of appeals reaching the Board involve orders of removal and applications for relief from removal. Other cases before the Board include the exclusion of aliens applying for admission to the United States, petitions to classify the status of alien relatives for the issuance of preference immigrant visas, fines imposed upon carriers for the violation of immigration laws, and motions for reopening and reconsideration of decisions previously rendered.

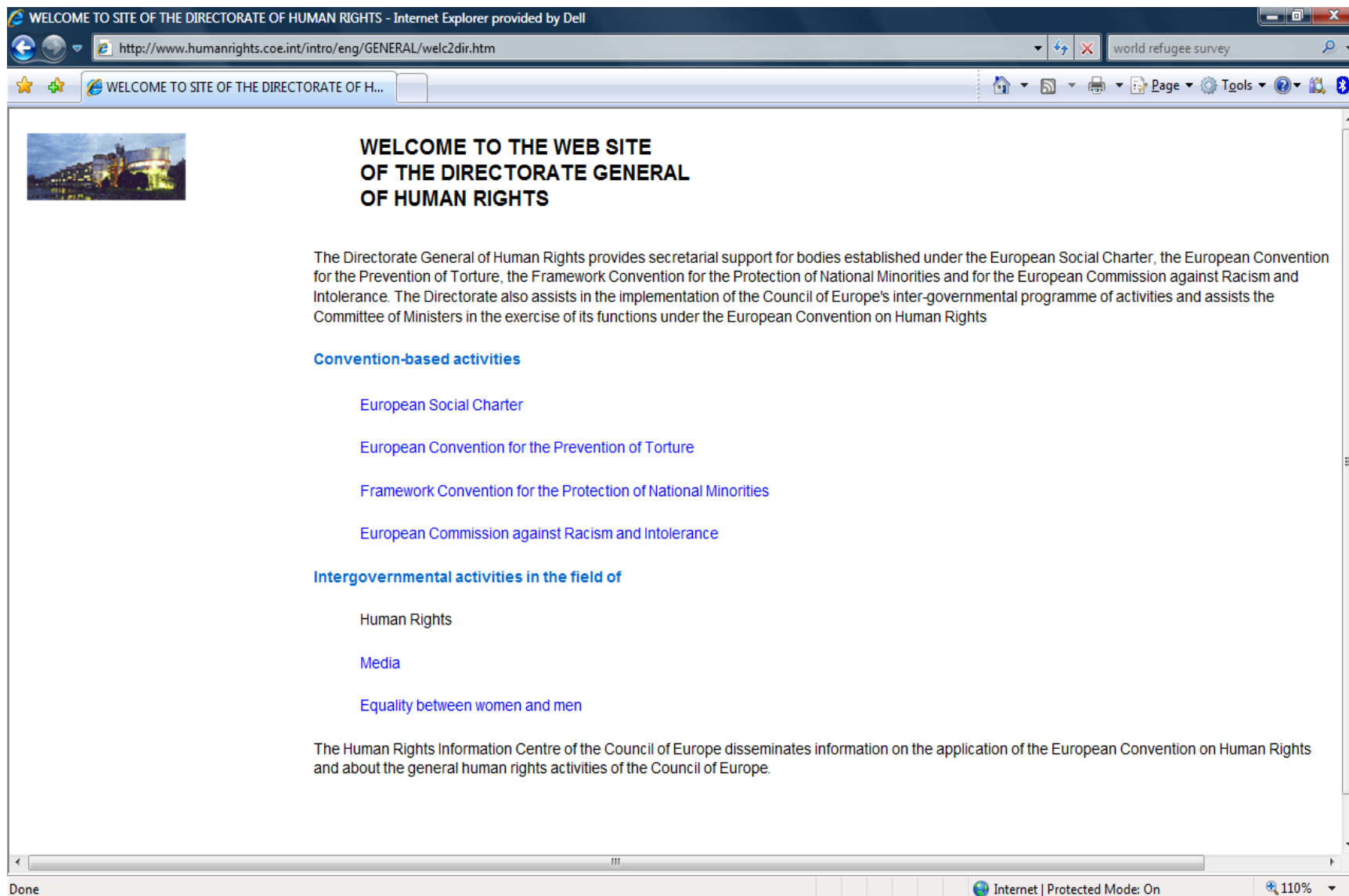
The Board is directed to exercise its independent judgment in hearing appeals for the Attorney General. Board decisions designated for publication are printed in bound volumes entitled *Administrative Decisions Under Immigration and Nationality Laws of the United States*.



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- *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. New York, NY: Columbia Univ., 1985—.
- *Harvard Human Rights Journal*. Boston, Mass.: Harvard Univ., 1990—.
- *Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal*. New Haven, Conn. : Yale Law School, 1998—. [Hein Online](#)
- *African Humans Rights Journal*. Lansdowne [South Africa] : Juta Law, 2001—. [Hein Online](#)
- *Human Rights Law Review*. Nottingham, U.K. : Nottingham University Press, 2001—. [Hein Online](#)
- *The International Journal of Human Rights*. London : Frank Cass & Co. Ltd, 1997—.

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Commissioner Hammarberg calls for a more child-friendly solution to juvenile justice



[02/02/09 10:30] "Children should not be treated as criminals. Young offenders are children first and foremost and should be protected by all the agreed relevant human rights standards" says the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, in his latest Viewpoint. Analysing the "disturbing trend in Europe to lock up more children at an earlier age" the Commissioner underlines the need to find alternative solutions to children's imprisonment and to reinforce preventive measures. "Time has come to move the argument away from fixing an arbitrary age for criminal responsibility. Governments should now look for a holistic solution to juvenile offending".

- Read the Viewpoint
- Read in Russian (PDF)



Russian Federation: Commissioner Hammarberg welcomes the court decision on the case of "Memorial"

[22/01/09 12:15] Commissioner Hammarberg welcomes the judgment passed by the

Dzherzhinsky district court of St Petersburg on 20 January 2009 in the case of the Scientific Information Center "Memorial". The Office of Memorial information center was searched by personnel from the Investigative Committee of the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation in St Petersburg on 4 December 2008. The search, which was carried out without the presence of a lawyer, resulted in the seizure of 11 hard discs of computers, containing unique historical research on political repression during the Soviet era. ([more...](#))



Commissioner asks European countries to help Obama close Guantanamo

[19/01/09 11:45] While the United States has created the Guantanamo problem and has the primary responsibility for correcting the injustices, there are strong arguments for European assistance in closing Guantanamo Bay, writes Commissioner Hammarberg in his latest

Equal justice

ON THE COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA

► **10-14/02/09**
Special mission to Georgia/Abkhazia (to be confirmed)

► **16/02/09**
Viewpoint on Cabaret artiste work /prostitution

► **16/02/09**
Geneva (meetings with UN agencies)

► **23-28/02/09**
Visit to North Ossetia, Ingushetia and Moscow (to be confirmed)

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Ten years of the "new"
Court

News



Opening of the judicial year

02/02/2009

The judicial year of the Court opened on 30 January 2009, officially marking the start of the Strasbourg Court's 50th anniversary year. One hundred and fifty eminent figures from the European judicial scene attended a seminar organised for the occasion. [Press Release](#), [Speech of President Costa](#), [Speech of Dame Rosalyn Higgins](#), [Watch the ceremony](#)

Other News

Press conference

30/01/2009



At the annual press conference of the Court, President Costa, said that on the occasion of the Court's 50th anniversary

this year a very positive assessment could be made of the Court's impact over the last fifty years. The Court also issued some statistical information at the press conference. [Press Release](#), [Annual Report](#), [Table of violations 2008](#), Webcast : [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#).

Applications concerning hostilities in
South Ossetia

19/01/2009

A Chamber of the Court has decided to give priority to seven applications against Georgia concerning hostilities which broke out in South Ossetia at the beginning of August 2008. The applications were lodged by six inhabitants of South Ossetia and a member of the Russian Armed Forces attached to the peace keeping

Decision

Admissibility decision

30/01/2009

A Chamber of the Court has declared partly admissible the application in the case of *OAO NEFTYANAYA KOMPANIYA YUKOS v. Russia* (no. 14902/04) and has decided that a hearing should be held in this case. The text of the decision and the date of the hearing will be made public and published on the Court's Internet site in the coming weeks.

Hearings

Hearing in February 2009

03/02/2009



The Court will be holding a Grand Chamber hearing in the cases of *Depalle v. France* and *Brosset-Triboulet and Others v. France* on Wednesday 11 February 2009. The cases concern injunctions issued against the applicants, ordering them, at their own cost and without compensation, to demolish their homes, which were built on



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[Section 3, Part II](#) -

Report on Sessions

First Session, Oct. 3 to 28, 1960

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Second Session, Apr. 10 to 26, 1961

[Citation/Full Text](#)

Third Session, Oct. 2 to Nov. 4, 1961

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Fourth Session, Apr. 2 to 27, 1962

[Citation/Full Text](#)

Fifth Session, Sept. 24 to Oct. 26, 1962

[Citation/Full Text](#)

First Special, Jan 3 to 23, 1963

[Citation/Full Text](#)

Sixth Session, Apr. 16 to May 8, 1963

[Citation/Full Text](#)

Seventh Session, Oct. 7 to 25, 1963

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Eighth Session, Apr. 6 to 20, 1964

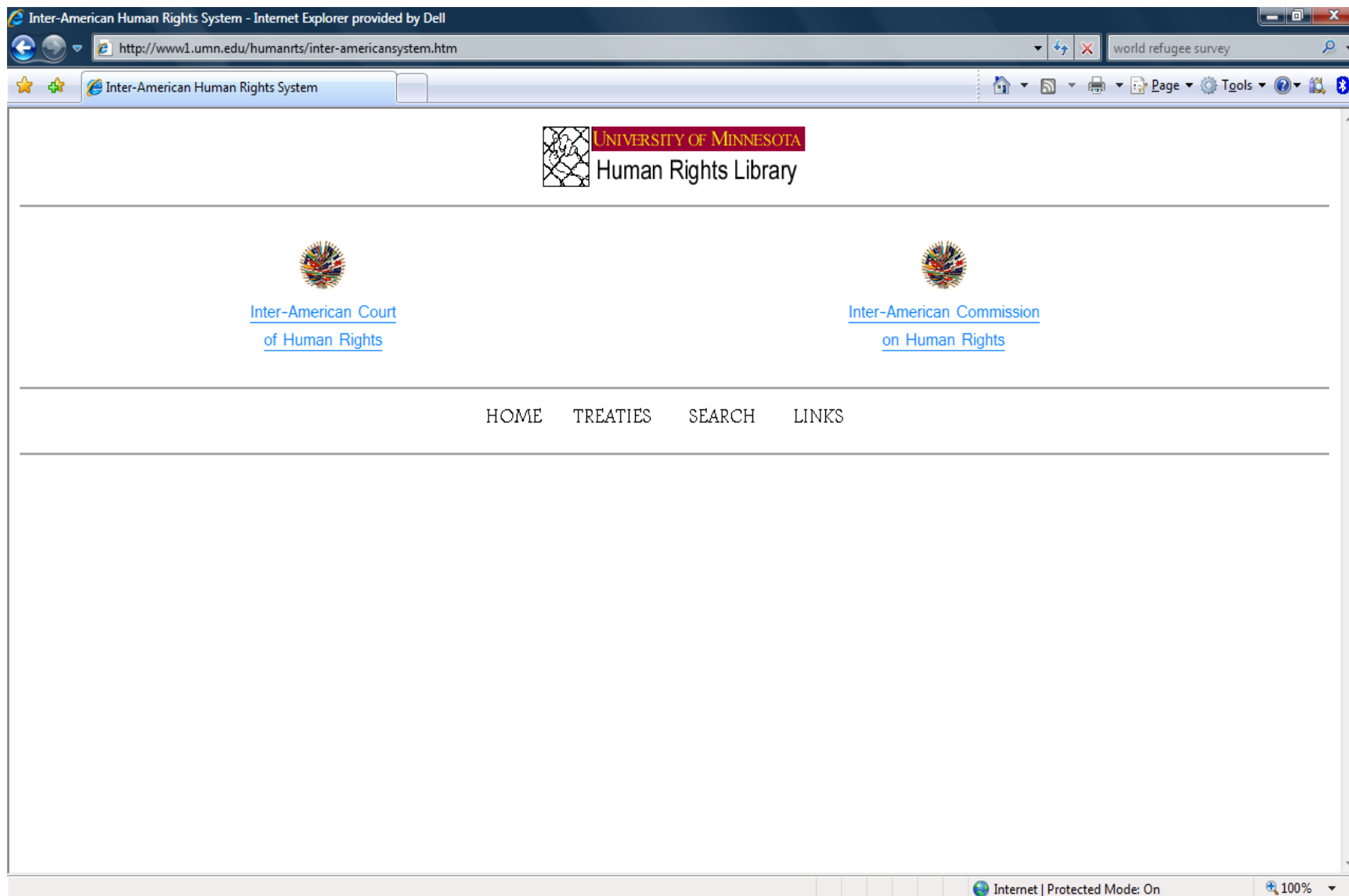
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Ninth Session, Oct. 5 to 16, 1964

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Tenth Session, Mar. 15 to 26, 1965

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Discussion Area ?
This part of the site is for discussion, questions and answers, and the exchange of ideas about refugee law.
Enter Discussion | Read More

Nearly 150 countries have agreed to apply the same legal definition of a "refugee" to decide who is entitled to their protection. This site is designed to assist judges, advocates, and policymakers around the world to access leading court decisions that interpret the refugee definition set by the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Our Current Collection

Our core collection contains cases from the highest national courts of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These cases have been selected and summarized by the Director of the Refugee Caselaw Site, [Professor James Hathaway](#), Dean of the University of Melbourne Law School. The collection is managed by the Assistant Director of the Refugee Caselaw Site at the [University of Michigan Law School](#).

Since 2004, the collection has been incrementally expanded to include decisions from 28 other asylum countries, as well as the most important decisions of lower courts and tribunals in the core collection states. These cases are selected and indexed by teams of leading experts and members of the [International Association of Refugee Law Judges](#) from around the world.

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Cases are included in this database only because of their topical relevance. Users should not rely on any case as a current, correct, or complete statement of the law without further research into its subsequent history and treatment.

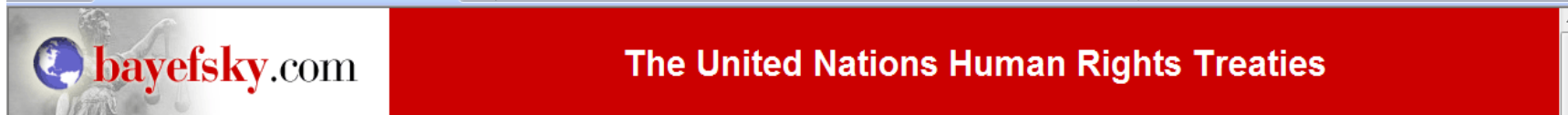
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Research on Torture

- State Reports for the Convention Against Torture (CAT)
- Physicians for Human Rights
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- UN Committee Against Torture – Dean Grossman



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February 2, 2009

Lift of Global Gag Rule Signifies End of Ideologically Driven AIDS Agenda

January 23, 2009

PHR Praises President Obama's Executive Orders Ending Illegal US Detention and Interrogation Program; Accountability for Perpetrators of Torture Still Needed

January 22, 2009

PHR Calls "Confessions" in Trial of

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IN FOCUS

Updated: Widespread mental trauma in Gaza must be addressed
In a statement submitted to the 9th emergency session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the IRCT calls for extensive and long-term efforts to be undertaken to address the urgent health needs of Gaza's civilian population. [Read more](#)

LATEST NEWS FROM THE IRCT

Assisting survivors of state-inflicted violence
An internship under the IRCT Exchange Programme offered neurologist Natalia Dzhirikova and psychiatric nurse Anastasia Cherenkova the opportunity to acquire new therapeutic skills to deliver comprehensive, patient-centred care to elderly survivors of torture from Stalin's repression and Nazi camps in Russia. [Read more](#)

Centre calls for lasting solution to problem of torture in Nigeria
Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), an IRCT member centre in Nigeria, recently hosted a four-day conference on torture documentation and redress that

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RCT Documentation Centre

The Documentation Centre (DC) of the Denmark-based Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT), established in 1987, is the world's largest library dedicated specifically to the subject of torture, prevention of torture, and the rehabilitation of torture victims. The DC collects and disseminates materials on all aspects of torture, in both electronic and printed formats with a special focus on scientific literature relating to the medical aspects of torture.

[Search the RCT Documentation Centre database](#)

The Documentation Centre's collection consists of more than 40,000 items, comprising books, journals, articles, reports, picture materials and CD-ROMs. The DC provides services free of charge to organisations and individuals worldwide, including rehabilitation centres, governments, refugee organisations, human rights organisations, lawyers working with cases related to torture, the media, and students - particularly those in the health professions.

The RCT Documentation Centre collects and catalogues scientific literature, picture materials and other information resources on torture, the sequelae of torture and on the treatment and rehabilitation of torture victims, from anywhere in the world and in all forms and languages available.

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Committee against Torture



Monitoring the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The Committee Against Torture (CAT) is the body of 10 independent experts that monitors implementation of the [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) by its State parties.

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially one year after acceding to the Convention and then every four years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

In addition to the reporting procedure, the Convention establishes three other mechanisms through which the Committee performs its monitoring functions: the Committee may also, under certain circumstances, consider [individual complaints](#) or communications from individuals claiming that their rights under the Convention have been violated, undertake [inquiries](#), and consider [inter-state complaints](#).

The [Optional Protocol](#) to the Convention, which entered into force in June 2006, creates the [Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture \(SPT\)](#). The SPT has a mandate to visit places where persons are deprived of their liberty in the States parties. Under the Optional Protocol, States parties shall establish a independent national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture at the domestic level which has also a mandate to inspect places of detention.



The CAT meets in Geneva and normally holds two sessions per year consisting of a three week session in April/May and another three week session in November.

The Committee also publishes its interpretation of the content of the provisions of the Convention, known as [general comments](#) on thematic issues

Forthcoming Events

CAT, 42nd session to be held in Geneva: 27 April - 15 May 2009

Recent Developments and Events

Report of CAT to the General Assembly 63rd

NEW!

3-21 November 2008: 41st session of CAT meets in Geneva

General Comment on article 2

Report on the Inquiry Mission to Brazil - Article 20

Recent Ratifications

Kazakhstan, on 21/2/2008, was the 64th State to recognize the competence of the Committee to deal with individual complaints

Note: CAT and OPCAT entry into force occurs on the 30th day after date of deposit of instrument of ratification or accession. Dates given are for entry into force.

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- [Immigration Law - A Comparative Approach: Guide to Immigration Law of Australia, Canada and the United States](#) (GlobaLex)
- [Guide to International Refugee Law Resources on the Web](#) (LLRX)
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