

HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMER INVESTIGATIONS PRODUCE FALL ACTION

War Crimes Tribunal

On August 22nd, MAHR volunteer attorney, Peter Thompson, visited den Haag, Netherlands, and the "International Tribunal for the Persecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia Since 1991." The name of the Tribunal is as long as it is unique; not since the Nuremburg and Tokyo trials has an international forum been convened to address war crimes.

This Tribunal is unique in other aspects as well in that it has been established by Security Council resolution, it is the first to be impaneled by the UN, and it is the first to undertake prosecutions of defendants who are not just on the losing side of the conflict.

MAHR had compiled, through the volunteer efforts of numerous attorneys, paralegals and other volunteers, a comprehensive database of media reports of suspected war crimes from the beginning of the conflict in 1991 until June, 1993. This
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Mexico Massacre

"We want justice." "That those responsible be punished." Simple, compelling and to date, unfulfilled. Such are the demands of those witnesses and survivors interviewed by Minnesota Advocates regarding the June 28, 1995 massacre of seventeen *campesinos* near Aguas Blancas, Guerrero, in southwestern Mexico.

At about 10:30 a.m. on June 28, 1995, dozens of state police officers waited for members of the Peasant Organization of the Southern Sierra (known by its Spanish acronym, OCSS) as they headed towards an announced protest. On that day the OCSS, an independent organization affiliated with no political party, and aggressive in pressing its demands, had planned to demonstrate in Atoyac de Alvarez, Guerrero. The OCSS had intended to demand governmental compliance with an agricultural accord reached earlier with the state's governor, Rubén Figueroa. In addition the OCSS planned to demand the appearance of one of their missing *compañeros*, Gilberto Romero Vázquez, who had
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Rape in Haiti

Three Minnesota Advocates delegates heard vivid testimony about the use of rape as a weapon of political terror in their July 1995 visit to Haiti. According to a UN/OAS special investigator, "You look through any ten of these rape cases and you can clearly see the *m.o.* is the same. You can practically hear the commanding officer's voice." The primary objectives of the two week visit by Elizabeth Bruch, Madeleine Maceno Avignon and Neil Elliott were to investigate violence against women, particularly during the Cedras coup regime, and to evaluate the mechanisms which have been established to respond to those human rights violations. The delegates met with women's groups, representatives from the Ministries of Justice and of the Status and Rights of Women, representatives of the Commission of Truth and Justice, UN/OAS Civilian Mission staff, local women and other interested individuals.

The delegation concluded that gross violations of women's human rights, including the deliberate and
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Director's Desk

From the Director's Desk

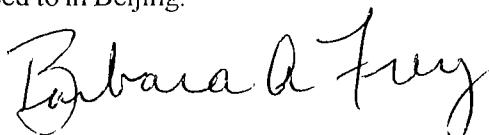
The small group huddled around the television in the conference room watching their Polish colleague deliver a statement to the plenary session of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The 15 women were NGOs from former Soviet bloc countries. The speech represented long hours of consensus building among NGOs from these "countries in transition," each of which had its own priority issues. Watching the speech, members of caucus felt united and strong.

Some of the most important work of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights at the Women's Conference was to roll up our sleeves and hammer out language with the members of the "East-East Caucus". We knew many of these NGO leaders from our two and a half years of work documenting domestic violence in Albania, Bulgaria and Romania. They have seen firsthand the effects on women in their region of the transition from communism to a more free market economic system. While from the outside this transition appeared to be a positive and relatively peaceful one, women have felt the brunt of the change: They have been the first fired, have lost significant access to higher education, and are often subjected to a free-wheeling and sexist employment environment in which the likelihood of finding a job rests as much on physical appearance as it does on job skills.

For most of these women's experts, the Beijing Conference was their first experience lobbying at the U.N. level. In Beijing, the NGO reps urged and cajoled their governments on issues they were concerned about in the Platform for Action. At the top of the NGO list were issues of violence against women.

In addition to the rise in overall discrimination against women in Eastern Europe, victims of domestic violence receive almost no legal or social support. Our contacts with government representatives at the conference made it clear that there is little sense of public responsibility for addressing the epidemic of violence in the home. We hope our interaction with them will help to send the message of accountability home.

The speech delivered by the eloquent Polish representative of the East-East Caucus marked a high point in the journey of the Eastern European women. It was an inspiration to us to join with them in that experience. Now the real work begins. During the next year we will continue to document the existence of domestic violence in these and other countries and use our findings to pressure governments to live up to the obligations they agreed to in Beijing.



CLE Credits

The Minnesota Advocates course, "Documentation of Ethiopian Asylum Applications," held on August 17, 1995, has been approved for 1.75 CLE credit hours by the Minnesota Board of Continuing Legal Education.

The Human Rights Observer is published ten times a year by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

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Mary Johnson, Secretary

Development:

Curt N. Peterson, CFRE, Consultant

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights:

400 Second Avenue South
Suite 1050

Minneapolis, MN 55401 USA

612-341-3302, Phone

612-341-2971, Fax

mnadvocates@igc.apc.org

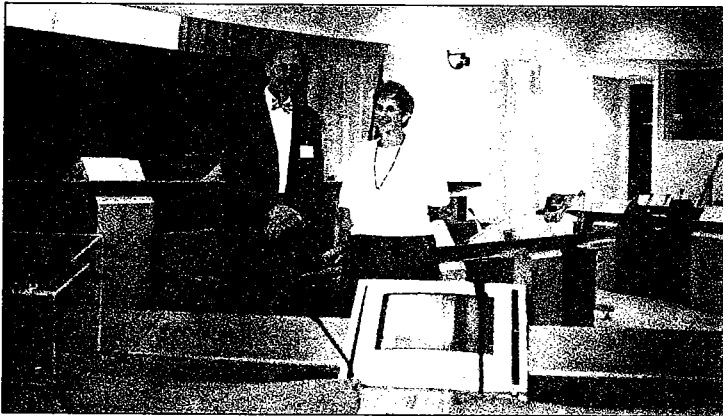
War Crimes Tribunal

War Crimes Tribunal

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database has been in use by the Tribunal for some period of time and Deputy Prosecutor, Graham Blewitt, requested the MAHR hard copies of the database for use as evidence. Peter, with the assistance of his wife, Ricki, transported the 150 pounds of hard copies to the Hague; the hard copies were gratefully accepted and the Tribunal prosecutors indicate the database has been most helpful in their preparation of indictments.

To date, the Tribunal has indicted approximately 25 officials of the Bosnian-Serb administration, military and paramilitary. Many of the crimes charged relate to grave breaches of the Geneva Convention, violations of the laws or customs of war (Hague Convention of 1907) and crimes against humanity (as partially defined at Nuremberg) focusing in large part on the concentration camps operated in early 1992 in the northwestern part of Bosnia. This time and area were also the focus of much of the MAHR work in compiling the database and drafting a template Indictment which was forwarded to the Tribunal in 1994.



MAHR Attorney, Peter Thompson, meets with Minna Scharg, senior trial attorney in the war crimes tribunal courtroom.

Justice Goldstone, Chief Prosecutor, also has indicted Radovan Karadzic, President of the self-styled Bosnian Republic, and General Ratko Mladic, General of the Bosnian-Serb Forces, for control and command responsibility for the crimes mentioned above and for genocide. These prosecutions of high-ranking officials for genocide are, of course, precedent setting.

At this point in time, only one defendant, Dusko Tadic, a guard at the Omarska Detention Camp is in custody. His case is proving to be a sounding board for new jurisprudence being established. On August 10, 1995, the Tribunal Trial Chamber denied Tadic's Motion attacking the jurisdiction of the Tribunal in a lengthy opinion and also granted in part and denied in part the Prosecutor's Motion for Protective Measures for Victims and Witnesses in a two-to-one decision. Both decisions have been appealed from the Trial Chamber to the Appellate Chamber.

Mr. Thompson met with Justice Goldstone and Mr. Blewitt and later had informal meetings with two of the three senior trial attorneys of the Tribunal, Minna Scharg of the United States and Eric Ostberg of Sweden. They anticipate the trial of Tadic in November. Minna Scharg, a partner in New York's Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelson law firm, was doing securities fraud and white collar criminal defense before she was requested by the State Department to join the prosecution team. She is a former Assistant United States Attorney from the Southern District of New York. Her appointment was highlighted in the American Lawyer in April, 1995. ■

Letter Writing: Prof. Ding

Minnesota Advocates used its presence at the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) to bring attention to the case of Professor Ding Zilin, a Chinese human rights activist detained by Chinese authorities just prior to the conference. A professor at the People's University of China, Ms. Ding is an outspoken organizer of the families of victims of the 1989 massacre at Tiananmen Square. Professor Ding's 17-year old son was killed by Chinese government troops in Tiananmen.

Professor Ding was a visible organizer of an "open letter" from the families of 27 of the victims demanding the establishment of a special fact-finding commission to investigate the Tiananmen massacre. The letter called for an accounting of each victim, the establishment of his/her cause of death and an explanation to the family.

In late August 1995, days before the Women's Conference was scheduled to begin in Beijing, Professor Ding and her husband were arrested in Jiangsu Province. It is believed that their arrest, which authorities claim is based on charges of an economic nature, was timed to prevent contact between Professor Ding and the international attendees to the FWCW.

Minnesota Advocates, in collaboration with the organizations Human Rights in China and International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), circulated a petition requesting Professor Ding's release for signature by conference participants. The signed petition was presented to the Chinese delegation on the last day of the FWCW.

Professor Ding remains in custody. Please write a letter requesting her release and a response to the request for an independent fact-finding investigation into the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre to:

Jiang Zemin, President
State Council
Beijing, PRC 100801
Fax: 011-8610-467-7351

Li Peng, Premier
Guowuyuan, 9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie
Beijing, PRC 100032
Fax: 011-8610-512-5810

Refugee & Asylum Project

Update On Asylum Processing

Newly announced changes at the Asylum Office, Immigration Court and BIA will greatly speed up the entire asylum process. The whole process, including filing an application, referral to the court, asylum hearing before the court, appeal to the BIA and decision on the appeal, could be completed in 6-8 months.

Asylum Office

Two asylum officers will be coming to Minnesota every two months to conduct asylum interviews. They are next scheduled to be in Minnesota the week of October 16-20. The current plan is to have the same two officers, David Funke and Greg Gukenberger, come on a regular basis.

Applicants must appear in person to receive a decision on their application. At the time of the interview clients will be given a date, approximately 10 days later, at which they must report to the INS office in Bloomington to receive the decision on their case. Those clients not granted asylum by the asylum officer will be referred to the Immigration court for a hearing by an immigration judge.

The Chicago Asylum Office has moved. The new address is:
INS Office of Asylum
401 South LaSalle, 8th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Practice Tips

It is particularly important in countries where there is generalized violence, such as Liberia, Rwanda or Somalia, to establish that the client's fear of persecution is on account of one or more of the five grounds for asylum, and to distinguish this from the fear of generalized violence and civil war. This distinction is not usually clear in

clients' minds. The client's inclusion under one of the five grounds must be made clear to the asylum officer.

Asylum officer David Funke has suggested that attorneys presenting country condition information keep the following in mind in order to make it more useful:

1. Provide an abstract of articles with excerpts of the most important parts;
2. Use highlighting to emphasize particularly important parts of articles;
3. Or provide a brief summarizing the country condition reports which are attached.

Gender Guidelines

The INS has issued guidelines addressing the cases of women having asylum claims based wholly or in part on their gender. Copies of the INS Asylum Gender Guidelines are available from Minnesota Advocates.

Immigrations Court

At a recent meeting with attorneys Immigration Judge Vinikoor outlined several changes taking place in the Executive Office for Immigration Review (Immigration Court).

The Justice Department plans to establish a permanent office of the Immigration Court in Minnesota during the coming fiscal year. It would be staffed by one full time immigration judge and support staff. Currently, Judge Vinikoor and other judges from Chicago or Texas travel to Minnesota for 20 weeks of hearings during the year. Placement of a full time judge in Minnesota will greatly shorten the time for people to receive a Master Calendar Hearing, and the time between the Master Calendar Hearing and the Individual Hearing, which currently is

approximately nine months.

Asylum cases are generally placed on a fast track before the Immigration Court. Newly filed cases which are referred by the asylum office to the court receive Master Calendar Hearings within 2-4 weeks of the referral, and the Individual Hearing will be scheduled in the next available time slot, which should be within 1-2 months. The judges have cleared space on their calendars in order to schedule prompt hearings on asylum cases. Defensive asylum applications which are filed for the first time before the Immigration Court will also be scheduled for expedited hearings on the merits. Attorneys who need more time to file a complete asylum application and prepare for trial may ask for a later filing date, but if the delay is granted it will stop the clock on the 180 day time period required for work authorization.

The Board of Immigration Appeals is also switching to a new Last In First Out (LIFO) system to speed up the processing of appeals. It is anticipated that with the expansion of the BIA, added staffing and a LIFO system, appeals to the BIA may be decided within 30-60 days. Previously, decisions from the BIA could routinely take 3-5 years.

Immigration Court Information

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (Immigration Court) has established a toll-free service to obtain information about the status of deportation and exclusion cases pending before the court. The number for the Immigration Court Information System is 800-898-7180. Callers may access information by means of an alien registration number (A-number). Information provided includes the date of future hearings, filing deadlines and appellate information. ■

Refugee & Asylum Project

Reports of Human Rights Violations in Ethiopia Continue

Members of Minnesota Advocates met recently with Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam, Chairman of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), a non-governmental human rights organization which promotes and monitors human rights in Ethiopia. Professor Mesfin detailed the findings EHRCO recently published in their Eighth Report on Human Rights.

EHRCO's Eighth Report catalogues many human rights offenses occurring under the Transitional Government of Ethiopia (TGE). Incidents of torture continue to be documented, including a torture method in which the victim's arms are tied tightly together in a functional tourniquet. This is left for indefinite periods of time, causing atrophy to the arms until, in some cases, the victim's arms must be amputated. Disappearances and extra-judicial killings are also occurring. EHRCO has the names of more than 8,000 people who are being held unlawfully. Victims are blindfolded, moved frequently, tortured, and then either held in prison or released only after all bodily wounds have healed.

Political dissenters and the press are being targeted. Elders, people of influence in the various communities, and members of ethnic opposition groups are being harassed and detained. Journalists have been beaten and imprisoned. As a result, out of the many magazines and papers that began publishing upon the TGE's inauguration, only one magazine remains in public print. Those who have attempted to produce or distribute opposition papers were harassed by the TGE. Government workers caught reading opposition papers were fired.

The TGE's attack on any opposition led them to freeze EHRCO's bank

account upon publication of EHRCO's book, Rhetoric and Practice, and to inform foreign embassies that assistance to EHRCO would be considered an "unfriendly act".

Copies of EHRCO's Eighth Report on Human Rights may be obtained from Angela Moore at Minnesota Advocates. ■

Salvadorans under "ABC"

The INS recently sent out notices to Salvadorans who had "temporary protected status" stating that the deadline to submit asylum applications under the American Baptist Churches, et. al. v. Thornburgh (ABC) settlement has been extended to **January 31, 1996**. All Salvadorans who had TPS are entitled to new asylum interviews and another asylum determination even if they previously were denied asylum.

The INS has published "Special Filing Instructions for ABC Class Members" which may be obtained at the Bloomington INS office or by calling 1-800-755-0777. If an applicant already has a complete asylum application on file with the INS or immigration court, there is no need to fill out a new application. Applicants under ABC are entitled to work authorization while their case is pending.

The INS also issued a four month extension of work authorization for all Salvadorans registered in the Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) program. Thus, work authorizations which state an expiration date of December 31, 1994, will be deemed valid through January 31, 1996. The INS will not issue new documents. Any attorneys, employers, or Salvadorans who have questions or problems related to the DED program or the extension should call 1-800-255-7688. ■

Asylum Project Funding Cut

The nationally-recognized Refugee and Asylum Project was recently notified of the termination of funds from the Lawyers Trust Account Board and the Legal Services Advisory Committee. Future funding for this project is now uncertain.

The Refugee and Asylum Project recruits and trains pro bono attorneys to represent clients in Minnesota who fear persecution if forced to return to their home countries. Currently, 331 individuals are represented in 211 asylum and humanitarian parole cases from 33 countries. During this coming year, the Project expects to handle new case requests from approximately 200 individuals. Over 190 pro bono attorneys donate more than \$600,000 worth of legal time on this Project.

A special appeal is being made to the legal community for any assistance in securing new funding. ■

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

announces the formation of the Planned Giving Partners Program for contributors who have included Minnesota Advocates in a bequest or other future gift.

Through thoughtful financial planning, you can conserve and maximize personal resources while ensuring the future of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

If you have already made a planned gift to Minnesota Advocates, included Minnesota Advocates in your will, or would like more information about Minnesota Advocates Planned Giving Partners, please let us know by calling Curt Peterson, CFRE, at 1-612-341-3302

Conference on Women

A Report on the Work of Minnesota Advocates at U. N. Conference on Women

After years of preparation and anticipation, more than thirty thousand people gathered in China in September for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the parallel NGO (Non Governmental Organization) Forum. Minnesota Advocates was represented by twenty people who participated in both the NGO Forum and the official government Conference. Minnesota Advocates' goals in participating in these events were to share its experience in domestic violence as a human rights abuse, to assist in integrating Eastern European women into the Conference and to participate in lobbying for strong language on human rights and violence against women in the Platform for Action.

At the NGO Forum in Huairou, participants from all over the world held workshops on issues ranging from environmental justice to the widespread problem of violence against women. Minnesota Advocates conducted two workshops. The first was a panel discussion of methods of public education for domestic violence issues. The panel discussed methods used by human rights organizations, schools and community organizations to educate people about the problems of domestic violence as well as the services available to victims. The second workshop, "Comparing Women's Journeys through Legal Systems," was an overview of international legal protections against domestic violence and a comparison of the experiences of women victims in different countries who have tried to prosecute their abusers. Both workshops provided an opportunity for women from many countries to discuss issues domestic violence.

At the Government Meeting,

delegations from the 185 United Nations member states (except Saudi Arabia which refused to attend) met to adopt a Platform for Action to set the agenda for the advancement of women over the next decade. The Platform establishes 12 Critical Areas of Concern that need to be addressed to achieve political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all people. These areas include poverty, education, health care, the girl-child, violence against women, effects of armed conflict on women, women's human rights, and access to and sharing of power in policy and decision-making.

Minnesota Advocates was accredited as an NGO participant to the Government Conference. This accreditation allowed delegates access to the Conference site and many of the government working group meetings. Minnesota Advocates monitored the progress of the Platform for Action and worked with the Human Rights Caucus to develop strategies for lobbying the government delegations to ensure that the language in the Platform in regards to violence against women was as strong as possible.

Some of the most intensely debated sections of the Platform involved the universality of human rights, equal inheritance, sexual and reproductive rights and discrimination based on sexual orientation. The final Platform proclaims women's rights as human rights, reaffirms the universality of human rights and provides for equal rights to inheritance. The final Platform also includes protection for the right to reproductive self-determination. The final document, however, does not include an express denunciation of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Overall, the Platform for Action is a strong statement in support

of the human rights of women. It provides both a commitment to general principles of women's rights and a specific agenda for action to implement those principles.

As part of its commitment to women's human rights in Eastern Europe, Minnesota Advocates provided financial assistance to women from Romania and Bulgaria to attend the Conference. Members of the delegation also worked with women from Eastern Europe in the East-East Caucus to develop a lobbying strategy to present to the government delegates the issues important to their region. This is the first time women from independent NGOs in the former Soviet bloc countries have been able to freely participate in an international women's conference. They successfully learned the system and were effective participants in the Conference. In addition to their lobbying efforts, the East-East Caucus made a speech to the Plenary session outlining its concerns about the Platform for Action and held a press conference to discuss these concerns in more detail.

In preparing to travel to Beijing, Minnesota Advocates articulated a mission for its participation in the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum. The delegation conducted workshops, worked closely with women from Eastern Europe and lobbied governments to include strong language in support of women's human rights in the Platform for Action. Although the press concentrated on the logistical hurdles and difficult circumstances facing Conference participants, the Minnesota Advocates delegation had a very positive experience and returned to Minnesota confident that it had achieved its goals. ■

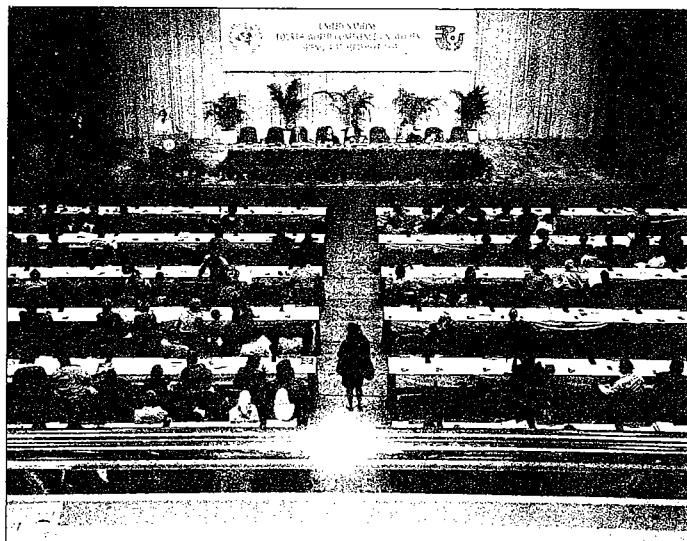
Conference on Women

Platform for Action: Twelve Critical Areas of Concern

- The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
- Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
- Violence against Women
- The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation
- Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources
- Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women
- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media
- Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment
- Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child



Aviva Breen, Director of Minnesota's Commission on the Economic Status of Women, chaired MAHR's workshop on public education and domestic violence at the NGO Forum in Huairou.



A view of the plenary session of the Government Conference in Beijing.



Members of Minnesota Advocates' delegation met daily for briefings on developments at the conference.

Reports

Mexico Massacre

(Continued from Page 1)

“disappeared” on May 24 in Atoyac de Alvarez under suspicious circumstances. The OCSS placed responsibility for Romero Vázquez’s disappearance on the state government and as well on Atoyac de Alvarez’s municipal president, María de la Luz Núñez Ramos., a member of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD).

Two trucks filled to capacity were transporting OCSS members to Atoyac. But not only OCSS members were on board. The trucks also carried individuals who were not heading to the protest, but rather who simply were on their way to Coyuca de Benítez to conduct routine chores. A blend of state judicial and preventive (and perhaps anti-riot) police stopped the first truck and ordered its passengers off for inspection. The second vehicle, a blue pickup, approached minutes later, with at least 50 passengers crammed inside its bed, cab, and riding on a tarp placed high over its bed. The police ordered the truck to halt. As it pulled to a stop, two individuals jumped from the tarp, the second with machete in hand. A shot rang out. Another. Then a barrage of shots erupted and continued, aimed at the pickup truck filled with passengers.

Seventeen *campesinos* died in the assault; more than twenty others were shot but survived. Two police were slightly injured, neither from weapons fire.

The Guerrero state government responded quickly. First, it sealed the scene, preventing the press, family members and others from getting too close. Then it fabricated evidence by planting weapons on the dead. Forensic technicians then performed investigations that Mexico’s National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) would describe as “deficient,

insufficient or false.” Ten low-level police agents were rapidly jailed, and a special prosecutor’s office was created. The special prosecutor effectively stalled investigations, and the state pressed its claim that the police defended themselves from armed attack. And then, widows created by the massacre and individuals injured in the assault received lump sum payments. At the same time, they were warned “not to get involved with any parties,” referring apparently to non-PRI-aligned groups. The CNDH, to its credit, issued in August a relatively hard-hitting report, calling for an investigation into the state’s high-level law enforcement officials. To date, however, real advances in the case are lacking, and the administration of President Ernesto Zedillo has refused to get involved.

Minnesota Advocates was the first international human rights monitoring organization to visit the scene. We interviewed numerous witnesses, survivors, relatives of the dead, and collected valuable other evidence in Guerrero and Mexico City. Minnesota Advocates will continue to press Mexico to meet its international human rights obligations to investigate this case thoroughly, prosecute and punish those responsible, and indemnify the victims. That is, Minnesota Advocates shall strive to ensure that the calls for justice from the people of Guerrero are heeded. ■

Rape in Haiti

(Continue from Page 1)

widespread use of rape, were perpetrated and condoned by the coup regime during its three-year reign. Although the systematic campaign of rape and other violence has largely ended, the trauma and effects for women, their families, and their communities continue. However, for a variety of reasons, the Haitian justice

system is not being used effectively by victims or their advocates to address human rights violations under the de facto military government. Many Haitians lack access to and confidence in the justice system. Moreover, prosecution for rape in Haiti is very difficult and extremely rare. For example, there has not been a single rape trial and judgment in Port-au-Prince since at least 1985.

Most of the work on behalf of women who were victims of violence during the coup regime is being done by the Ministry on the Status and Rights of Women. Unfortunately, much of this work is still at a planning stage or at the very beginning of implementation. The focus of the Ministry is on meeting the immediate needs of individual women or providing general social, psychological and medical assistance, rather than on seeking legal redress. Further, the Ministry is handicapped in its work by a lack of resources, its relatively new status, and a lack of cooperation from other ministries.

A Commission on Truth and Justice was established by the Aristide government; however, the substantive work of the Commission is just beginning. Many important decisions about confidentiality, standards of evidence and other aspects of policy and procedure have not yet been made by the Commission and may not be made until their “investigation” is complete or their report is issued. There is a perception by the Haitian government, and elsewhere, that providing accountability for the massive human rights violations is primarily the responsibility of the Commission. However, the Commission has limited resources, an indefinite mandate, and the authority only to make recommendations.

Minnesota Advocates plans to release a report of the delegation’s conclusions and recommendations in October. ■

Partners Project

Training Sessions Scheduled for Interested Team Volunteers

The Partners in Human Rights Education Project is a grassroots education initiative that was established by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center in 1992. Designed to introduce international human rights and responsibilities to elementary and secondary school students, the Partners Project uses the frame work of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* to help students understand and appreciate common human values. Each fall the Partners Project trains three-person teams of volunteer teachers, lawyers, and community resource people to go into the K-12 classrooms and use interactive teaching methods to foster connections between learning about human rights an practicing human responsibilities.

In 1995-96, the Partners Project is holding training sessions throughout Minnesota, including the Twin Cities, St. Cloud, Bemidji, and Grand Rapids. For the first time, Partners is also expanding beyond Minnesota to Madison, Wisconsin. **(See schedule below. The cost of attending a training session is \$15.00 to cover lunch/dinner and materials.)** The teaching model offered through Partners is unique in the United States, and the Human Rights Center receives calls weekly from people all over the United States who are interested in replicating the project in their own communities. Further expansion looks promising!

Along with getting into the classroom, the Partners Project also offers fellowship opportunities to its volunteers, allowing them to work in human rights organizations locally and around the world. In 1995-96, the Fellowship Program will award grants to 8-10 Partners volunteers, enabling them to learn more about human rights while obtaining practical human rights experience.

For more information about the Partners Project, its training sessions, or the Fellowship Program, please contact Johanna Allayne Ronnei at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center at (612) 626-0041. ■

Schedule for Fall 1995 Introductory Trainings

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
First Round Training for 1995-96 Participants			
Saturday, September 23, 1995	St. Cloud	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Court House
Thursday, September 28, 1995	Bemidji	5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	New Library
Saturday, September 30, 1995	Minneapolis	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Law School
Saturday, October 14, 1995	Grand Rapids	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Blandin Foundation
Thursday, October 19, 1995	Minneapolis	5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	Law School
Saturday, October 21, 1995	Madison	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Undecided

Second Round Training for 1994-95 Participants

Saturday, September 30, 1995	Minneapolis	12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Law School
Saturday, October 14, 1995	Grand Rapids	10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Blandin Foundation

Schedule for 1995-96 Follow-Up Workshops

Wednesday, November 15, 1995	St. Cloud	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Court House
Wednesday, November 29, 1995	Minneapolis	4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Law School
Wednesday, January 24, 1996	Minneapolis	4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	Law School
Wednesday, March 20, 1996	St. Cloud	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Court House

Schedule for 1995 Internship/Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 1995	Minneapolis	4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Law School
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Schedule for 1996 Human Rights Fair/Recognition Event

Friday, May 10, 1996	St. Paul	4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Como Park Pavillion
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B.I.A.S. Project

Two New Curriculum Guides on Immigration and Refugee Issues Published

The B.I.A.S. Project (**B**uilding **I**mmigrant **A**wareness and **S**upport) has recently published two exciting curriculum guides that focus on immigration and refugee issues. One is designed for students in early elementary school, while the other is appropriate for middle school and high school and adult education.

The Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America (video and curriculum), a 100-page curriculum guide and accompanying video introduces middle and high school students and adults to immigration basics, equipping them with knowledge to develop an informed analysis of immigration issues. This flexible guide contains easy-to-read charts, tables, graphs, and maps that convey who comes to the United States, why they come, the process by which they are allowed in, where they settle, who migrates globally, and the "nuts and bolts" of U.S. immigration policy. Students will also examine immigration within a historical context and through firsthand accounts and role-playing activities. The accompanying video features five local Minnesota immigrants. Purchase price for the full set (including curriculum and video) is \$35. (See Page 11).

Partners in Human Rights Education and the B.I.A.S. Project also released The Immigrant and Refugee Experience: Who are the Newcomers?, a 31-page curriculum guide written for students in Preschool through Grade 3. Five 30-minute lessons deal with basic global education issues. Through role-play, cooperative games, and communication activities, children will gain empathy for newcomers by learning why people move, by understanding the complexities of coping with new situations, and by gaining insight into the perspective of "an outsider." One section introduces children to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The guide contains background material for teachers, a glossary of refugee- and immigration-related terms, and a list of recommended children's books. Curriculum guides can be purchased at \$5 per copy.

Also available from The B.I.A.S. Project is an annotated bibliography that describes youth education materials on refugee and immigration issues. It includes curriculum guides, videos, and general resource materials on human rights. Each listing in this 20-page document contains a description of the materials, grade levels, related classroom subjects, and activity components. This valuable resource also includes necessary information for ordering these materials. Purchase price is \$5 per copy.

To order these resources or to find out more about The B.I.A.S. Project, contact Therese Gales at the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights office at (612) 341-3302. ■

Workshop for St. Paul Academy Students

Ninety-four St. Paul Academy sophomores and their teachers attended a B.I.A.S. Project (**B**uilding **I**mmigrant **A**wareness and **S**upport) workshop on immigration and refugee issues at Camp St. Croix in Wisconsin on September 22, 1995. The students learned about U.S. immigration and asylum law; they also discovered what it is like to be a refugee through a role-playing activity called "Fleeing for Your Life." Katayoun Mohammed-Zadeh and Chong Neng Thao discussed their experiences in coming to this country as an immigrant from Iran and a refugee from Laos.

The students also examined current myths about immigration, and learned important facts to help them form educated opinions on a very complicated topic. In addition, they learned about historical and current immigrant flows to Minnesota. The students also discussed actions (such as teaching ESL classes or tutoring a refugee student) that they can take, both individually and as a class, to make a difference. Students were provided with packets of materials, including fact sheets and newspaper articles, and encouraged to read and discuss further the issues raised at the workshop. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights would like to extend thanks to all the speakers, teachers, and students who participated in the workshop.

The B.I.A.S. Project is committed to providing the public with accurate information about refugees and immigrants in the U.S. - an issue which is currently at the center of national debate. If your school or organization would like to hold a workshop on refugees and immigrants, please contact Nancy Arnison at Minnesota Advocates. ■

Death Penalty Update

(as of 8/31/95)

- Number of inmates on death row in the United States: **3,028**
- Number of executions since reinstatement of capital punishment in 1976: **295**
- Number of juvenile offenders executed since 1976: **9**
- Number of states with capital punishment statutes: **38**
- New Virginia Initiative: The State of Virginia announced on September 19, 1995, a plan to execute one individual every ten days for the rest of the year.

To volunteer to do legal, educational, or administrative work for Minnesota Advocates' Death Penalty Defense Project, please call Sara Gurwitsch at 612-341-3302.

**The Energy of a Nation:
Immigrants in America**
VIDEO AND CURRICULUM

The Energy of a Nation: Immigrants in America, an exciting new video and curriculum set, addresses one of the major issues of our era — immigration. At a time when immigration debates make headlines daily, students need accurate and accessible information in order to develop an informed analysis of this complex topic. *Who comes to the United States? How many? Why? What is the impact of immigration on the U.S. economy, labor market and culture? What should future immigration policies look like?* The materials address:

- Economic impact
- History of immigration
- Current trends
- Global perspective
- Legal and illegal immigration
- Family and employment immigration
- Refugees
- Government policies

This Video and Curriculum can be used with students in middle school or high school and with adults. It can be adapted for classes on current events, civics, economics, geography, history, law, and social studies. The curriculum materials are designed to be flexible (1-4 weeks). Materials include:

- Charts
- Graphs
- Maps
- Role-playing
- Research
- Personal profiles
- Video featuring 5 Minnesota Immigrants

Produced by award-winning Media Productions, Inc. and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, August 1995. Telephone: (612) 341-3302; Fax: (612) 341-2971.

Purchase price \$35.00 for the full set (includes video and curriculum).

PURCHASE ORDER: THE ENERGY OF A NATION: IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA (Video and Curriculum)

Date:	_____	Date Needed:	_____
Name:	_____	Institution:	_____
Address:	_____	Phone:	_____
City/State:	_____	Zip:	_____

Purchase price \$35.00 for the full set (includes video and curriculum).

Quantity _____ at \$35.00 each (includes video and curriculum) for a total cost of _____ (Enclosed)

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to Business Economics Education Foundation (BEEF), 123 North Third Street, Suite 504; Minneapolis, MN 55401. Telephone: (612) 337-5252

THIS SET AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLY.

Calendar

Monday, October 16: "Hindu-Muslim Conflict in India, Prospects for Harmony." Asghar Ali Engineer, a prominent human rights advocate in India, will offer a free lecture from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the West Bank Union Auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by the Institute for International Studies and Programs, the Human Rights Center, South Asian Studies, and others. The public is invited to attend.

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