

Malukus in crisis

According to the Indonesian Red Cross, the number of IDPs in Indonesia driven from their homes by ethnic and religious conflicts and separatist struggles has exceeded one million. Indonesia is now in the top five of the list of countries experiencing displacement crises. While there are IDPs in every province of the vast archipelago, the greatest single number comes not from East Timor but from the much less publicized crisis in the Malukus. Indonesia's National Board of Social Welfare estimates that some 220,000 people have been displaced within the Malukus. In a recent report, the US Committee for Refugees estimates that at least 350,000 have been displaced within the Malukus while a significant unknown number have sought refuge elsewhere in Indonesia.

Formerly known as the Spice Islands, the Malukus are a group of some 1,000 islands in the Indonesian provinces of Maluku and North Maluku. Prior to the outbreak of conflict in early 1999, the population of about two million was evenly divided between Christians and Muslims. Simmering conflict between the two communities has been exacerbated by the presence since April 2000 of 3,000 heavily armed Islamic militants of the Java-based Laskar Jihad. The inability of the Indonesian government to prevent what the Christian communities see as 'religious cleansing' points to the involvement of elements of the armed forces in fuelling the devastating communal conflict. Powerful civil, military and economic forces continue to use religion to sow distrust and fear between the two communities.

Catholic and Protestant leaders in the Malukus have pleaded for UN assistance. Indonesia's embattled President Wahid has acknowledged the severity of the crisis in the Malukus and accepted international aid but has adamantly

rejected the possibility of a foreign peacekeeping force to quell the violence. The security situation in the Malukus has hindered efforts to get assistance to the displaced and has caused some international agencies to suspend operations. The outgoing UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata has said she is "very frightened" at the prospects of further massive destabilization and displacement in the Malukus and elsewhere in Indonesia.

For further information, see the report of the US Committee for Refugees at www.refugees.org/world/articles/indonesia_rr00_10.htm.

Damning report

The World Commission on Dams was established in 1997 after the World Bank convened a meeting of governments, the private sector, international financial institutions, environmentalists and representatives of dam-induced IDPs. The Commission's report, recently introduced by Nelson Mandela at a London conference, pulls no punches: most of the 45,000 large dams in the world have cost too much, were late, damaged the poor and have failed to provide all the electricity and water for irrigation claimed by their planners. While Western construction companies have gained billions of pounds worth of business paid for by aid agencies, construction of dams has greatly added to the debt of some of the poorest countries. The report debunks the argument that hydropower is necessarily 'green'; because of decaying vegetation, many dams produce as much greenhouse gas as generating electricity with fossil fuels.

While recognizing that many dams have produced benefits, the Commission found that "in too many cases an unacceptable and often unnecessary price has been paid to secure those benefits, especially in social and environmental terms, by people displaced, by communities downstream, by taxpayers and by the natural environment".

The Commission estimates that the number of people displaced by dams is between 40 million and 80 million, most of them in China and India. The report urges export credit guarantee departments not to support any further dam projects before obtaining prior consent of those affected and reaching agreement on compensation schemes.

The full report (with summaries in several languages) is available at www.damsreport.org. Further information on dams is at www.dams.org and www.irn.org

International community neglects unfolding emergency in Afghanistan

By the end of the 1980s, conflict in Afghanistan had produced the world's largest ever single refugee caseload, at times as high as 6.2 million persons. More than a decade after repatriation to Afghanistan began, there are still some 2.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Huge numbers of people displaced by recent Taliban military successes and the unprecedented drought afflicting Afghanistan are trying to flee the country at a time when Afghanistan's neighbours are bitterly resentful at having to share the huge refugee burden without sufficient support from the international community.

UNHCR puts the total number of Afghan refugees in Iran at 1.4 million. Iranian public opinion, fuelled by media representations of Afghans as criminals and smugglers, is increasingly hostile to their presence. In September 1999, the Iranian parliament passed legislation ordering their complete removal from the country by March 2001. More than 150,000 Afghan refugees have been sent home from Iran since April 2000 under a 'voluntary repatriation programme' jointly implemented by the Iranian government and UNHCR. 70 per cent of them have been ethnic Tajiks.



Iran's repatriation programme is controversial. A desperate shortage of funds caused by donor neglect has forced UNHCR to cut the repatriation grant from US\$40 to US\$20 per family. Some refugee groups have condemned the programme as 'ethnic cleansing' and 'forcible deportations'. Young women who have been able to access education in Iran fear for their future in Afghanistan where female education has ceased under Taliban rule. Médecins sans Frontières has stated that "Afghan refugees cannot return home in safety and dignity" because of the drought, on-going fighting in Afghanistan, the massive level of internal displacement and outbreaks of disease.

UNHCR's estimate that there are 1.2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan is disputed by the Pakistani government which cites a figure of 2 million. UNHCR's relations with Pakistan have been strained by Pakistan's decision in early November to close the Afghan-Pakistan border. The Pakistani move came in response to the arrival at its border of thousands of families from Afghanistan's non-Pashtun minorities fleeing recent fighting in north-eastern Afghanistan. Pakistan has denied charges that its actions are ethnically motivated and that it is surreptitiously allowing Pashtun speakers to continue to cross the border. UN Coordinator for Afghanistan Erick de Mul has expressed concern about the minorities who might be denied their right to asylum as a result of the closure.

Tajikistan, although a signatory (unlike Pakistan) to the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees, has also closed its border in order to block the entry of an estimated 200,000 IDPs either camped along its frontier or attempting to reach it.

UNHCR, the anti-Taliban alliance and Human Rights Watch are among those urging Pakistan and Tajikistan to reopen borders amidst concerns that the closures will exacerbate the suffering of the victims of the conflict in the midst of winter and the worst drought in memory.

On a visit to the region in October, outgoing UNHCR head Sadako Ogata sympathized with Iranian and Pakistani resentment at having to bear the consequences of hosting a refugee population increasingly neglected by the international community. Ogata could do little except commiserate as international donations to Afghan refugees have virtually dried up. Pakistani calls for UNHCR to resettle refugees in camps inside Afghanistan and Taliban demands for urgent UN assistance come against a backdrop of a niggardly international response to the crisis. The World Food Programme estimates that between half and three-quarters of the country's 22 million people are suffering the effects of drought and that up to one million Afghans could starve to death unless emergency steps are taken. UNHCR sought \$43m for its year 2000 programmes in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran but has so far received only half the money. For every \$200 donated for each refugee in the Balkans, just \$20 is given for each Afghan refugee.

For online information, see our extensive set of Afghanistan links at www.fmreview.org/3links/Displace.htm#afgh

Reangs

35,000 members of the Reang tribal group from the north-eastern Indian state of Mizoram have been languishing in miserable conditions in camps in the neighbouring state of Tripura since being displaced in October 1997. Supplies of food and medical assistance are inadequate. 500 Reang died of cholera in the Tripura camps in 1998.

Conflict came to a head when the Reangs, an indigenous and predominantly Hindu community of some 85,000 people, started campaigning for the creation of an Autonomous District Council (ADC). Leaders of the militant Bru National Union point out that smaller tribal groups in Mizoram have ADCs of their own and that the Reangs, by virtue of their status as a 'backward' tribal group, have a constitutional right to rule themselves.

Reang demands for autonomy are opposed by the Mizos, an educated and predominantly Christian community, who have ruled the state of Mizoram since its creation in 1986. The Mizos have sought to maintain their dominance of the small state they fought hard to establish and fear that allowing the Reangs an ADC would ultimately lead to the fragmentation of the state of Mizoram. Mizo authorities routinely brand Reang and other minority tribal groups as outsiders and delegitimize their claims by deletion of names from the voters' list and questioning of census records. Mizoram authorities deny supporting the Mizo student extremists whose violent retaliation after the death of a Mizo forest guard created the climate of fear which drove the Reangs from their homes in 1997.

For three years the Mizoram authorities have not acted upon demands by both the central government and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to allow the return of displaced Reangs to their homes. The NHRC, the state governments of Mizoram and Tripura and the central government have agreed a timetable for the complete repatriation of Reangs by the end of 2000. It remains to be seen whether there is sufficient political will to end the suffering of the Reangs.

UN adopts resolution on the detention of asylum seekers

by Bret Thiele

A number of States, particularly in North America, Western Europe and Australia, have imposed policies whereby persons seeking asylum are detained, often indefinitely. These policies are ostensibly for the purpose of controlling the movement of asylum seekers; however, they may also inhibit persons from lodging or pursuing their asylum claims, or induce them to abandon their claims, particularly if detention is prolonged and conditions poor. Furthermore, detention policies may actually be designed to discourage asylum seekers from seeking refuge in certain countries.



Regardless of the true purpose of such policies, the detention of asylum seekers raises a number of serious human rights concerns.

At its 52nd session, in August 2000, the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights expressed its concern that "certain detention practices and policies may violate international human rights principles, standards, and norms." In considering resolution 2000/21 on the detention of asylum seekers (UN Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/RES/2000/21), which it later adopted, the Sub-Commission discussed the role of the UNHCR Guidelines on applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers which were adopted in 1999. The Guidelines offer a clear articulation of the minimum standards regarding the detention of asylum seekers that States must follow in order to comply with their respective international legal obligations. Fortunately, support for the Guidelines ultimately found its way into the resolution, in which the Sub-Commission "strenuously urged States that have not already done so to abide by the Guidelines" and other international standards.

As the UNHCR Guidelines state, under international law, detention of asylum seekers should be used only in exceptional and strictly limited circumstances, and even then only on a case-by-case basis. If detention is deemed appropriate and in accordance with the Guidelines and international law, it must be under humane conditions and separate from those facilities used to incarcerate persons convicted of criminal offences. Alternatives to detention are available and should be utilized. These include various monitoring mechanisms such as regular reporting, the provision of a guarantor or surety, release on reasonable bail, and the use of 'open centres' where asylum seekers are housed but allowed to leave during the day. These alternatives must be made part of any asylum process in order to ensure that detention complies with international

law by being utilized only in exceptional and limited circumstances.

Furthermore, States must try to avoid detaining vulnerable persons such as children, torture victims, elderly persons and persons with disabilities. In the event that such persons must be detained, they should be held in circumstances in which their particular needs are respected. In addition, family members should not be separated during detention. If asylum seekers must be detained, they must be allowed adequate opportunities to communicate with and receive visits by legal counsel and family members, access to necessary legal and related forms and documents, and information in a language they understand.

The adoption of resolution 2000/21 by the Sub-Commission highlights the value and necessity of the UNHCR Guidelines on applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers. The text of the Guidelines can be viewed at: www.unhcr.ch/issues/asy-lum/guidasyl.htm

Bret Thiele is Legal Officer with the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions and a human rights consultant. Email: Bret_Thiele@yahoo.com.

Appointment of the UN Special Coordinator of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed in 2000 that there should be increased efforts by all concerned agencies and governments to bring about concrete improvements in the delivery of assistance and protection to internally displaced populations at the field level. To this end, the IASC agreed that a Senior Inter-Agency Network would be established to carry out reviews of selected countries and to make proposals for an improved inter-agency response to their needs. Dennis McNamara has been appointed as UN Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement within OCHA in order to head this inter-agency review process for an initial period.

In addition to the involvement of UN humanitarian and human rights organizations and the special role within the Network of the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs (Francis Deng), the Special Coordinator will liaise closely with the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and the large number of NGOs, both international and local, who are involved with this issue. He will undertake regular briefings of governments throughout the process; host States - and in some cases, non-State actors - will also be closely consulted, not least regarding their primary responsibility for the protection and assistance needs of displaced populations within their territories.

The main objectives of the country reviews are: firstly, to assess - with the UN country team - current efforts to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced populations and to identify any areas where the current response may not be adequate, what might be done to address such gaps, and who might do it; and, secondly, to make longer-term recommendations for follow-up arrangements, as well as proposals for revised inter-agency approaches to strengthen the future response.

Priority countries proposed to be reviewed include Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Indonesia. The first of these missions, to Eritrea and Ethiopia, was undertaken in October 2000. A mission to Burundi is scheduled for late December 2000. The review missions will maintain a highly operational focus and will assess the situation within the overall framework provided by the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The protection of IDPs, including particular categories such as women and children, will receive as much attention as the provision of assistance.

For more details, Mr McNamara's office can be contacted at: +41 22 917 3111.





David Turton retires

David Turton retires as Director of the Refugee Studies Centre at the end of December 2000. He will be returning to his anthropological research and writing on the Mursi of south western Ethiopia and spending more time with his family. In the immediate future (January and February 2001), he will be in Ethiopia to make a film on the Mursi, dealing, among other things, with the trade in small arms. The film will be shown in the UK's Channel 4 series 'True Stories' in May 2001.



Forced Migration discussion list

The Forced Migration discussion list aims to encourage greater exchange of information and to promote discussion on issues surrounding refugees and internal displacement. It currently has 470 members, from some 40 different countries. The list is moderated by Elisa Mason, Information Officer for the Forced Migration Portal Project at the Refugee Studies Centre.

To subscribe, interested users can simply visit the list's homepage at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/forced-migration.html and click on the 'join or leave' option. An archive of previous postings is also available through the homepage.

The Law of Refugee Status

Weekend workshop: 19 - 20 May 2001

A comprehensive workshop on the scope of the refugee definition which gives participants the opportunity to grapple with difficult issues of application of the legal norms in the context of factual scenario based on actual refugee claims. Instructor: Professor James C Hathaway, Director of the Program in Refugee and Asylum Law at the University of Michigan Law School and author of The Law of Refugee Status (1991) and editor of Reconceiving International Refugee Law (1997). Solicitors attending the course can claim CPD hours.

Fee: £120 (including course materials and lunches)

Further information and application forms from: www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsc/ or contact Dominique Attala at: Refugee Studies Centre, QEH, 21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)1865 270272.

Fax: +44 (0)1865 270721.

Email: rscmst@qeh.ox.ac.uk

International Summer School in Forced Migration 2001 2 - 20 July 2001

Fully funded scholarships are available for nationals from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

This three-week residential course provides a broad understanding of the issues of forced migration and humanitarian assistance; participants examine, discuss and review theory and practice. Designed for managers, administrators, field workers and policy makers in humanitarian fields. Involves lectures and seminars by international experts, small group work, case studies, exercises, simulations and individual study.

The course is held at Wadham College in the heart of Oxford. Course fees: £2,250 (incl B&B accommodation in Wadham College, weekday lunches, tuition fees, course materials, social activities). Closing date for applications for bursaries: 15 March 2001; closing date for applications for places: 1 May 2001.

Contact the ISS Administrator at the RSC. Tel: +44 (0)1865 270723. Email: summer.school@qeh.ox.ac.uk Address at top of page.

Latest RSC Working Paper

Refugees on Screen

by Terence Wright

See Publications section (p46) for details or visit www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsp/main_inhouse.html

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- AUSTCARE
Danish Refugee Council
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Oxfam GB
SCF (UK)
The Ford Foundation, Cairo Office

Special thanks to UNICEF for their sponsorship of this issue on Gender and Displacement.



conferences

ExCom: a Southern view

The Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) attended its first ExCom meetings in Geneva in September 2000. ExCom was a grand and formal affair, providing a global perspective on the refugee situation. It was helpful for an organization such as ours, from the South, to know what major players are doing and especially to hear their response to African refugee concerns. It also allowed us to undertake advocacy for refugees in Kenya and the Eastern Africa region, as well as to extend our network and linkage with other NGOs in similar work.

However, while we acknowledge that consultations such as these are necessary for raising international awareness of refugee situations and for mobilizing support both in financial and human resources/expertise, we also feel that more needs to be done in translating the goodwill expressed in such fora into practical solutions.

From a Southern NGO perspective, two issues stand out for us, namely: i) the lack of adequate representation of Southern interests at these consultations and ii) the inconsistency between pronouncements and actions.

i) Lack of representation of the South

Given that Africa produces and hosts significant numbers of refugees, there is a worrying lack of adequate representation of this part of the world at ExCom. When discussing major issues such as protection challenges currently facing UNHCR or when proposing recommendations to defend the rights of refugees within the context of increasingly violent situations, the Southern perspective is crucial. Challenges to asylum - questions both of access and quality - is also a serious issue affecting African refugees, and the constraints experienced by the South in giving asylum to those seeking



ExCom 2000

refuge and protection must also be taken on board.

ExCom seeks to explore ways of increasing complementarities between NGOs and UNHCR in the field but this cannot be achieved without the involvement of those in the forefront. More needs to be done in concrete terms to secure the participation and involvement of the South. The annual ExCom meetings are not adequately advertised in the regions and in the field; Southern NGOs are not fully aware of the relevance of the ExCom and participation is therefore low. In addition, Southern NGOs find it difficult to attend such consultations, partly because of lack of funding. A more concerted effort must be made both to advertise ExCom more widely in the South and to assist Southern NGOs to attend by making appropriate funding available.

ii) Inconsistency between pronouncements and actions.

The theme of the ExCom Consultations in September 2000 was 'UNHCR at 50: From Response to Solutions'. A review of UNHCR since its inception indicates a mixed picture of successes and inadequacies. We are well aware that the challenges facing UNHCR are immense.

Its budgetary allocations are insufficient; some governments do not cooperate; and their staff are increasingly targeted in strife-torn areas. As an NGO from the South, it also hardly escapes our knowledge, however, that assistance for refugees in the South is not comparable to that offered to refugees in Europe. The quality of refugee care, assistance and protection varies from the North to the South. In the South, access to shelter, basic rights, food, resettlement as a durable solution and protection is inadequate, and many refugees, especially those in designated protected areas (ie camps), face a daily regime of rape, abduction and murder, while we hear little denunciation by UNHCR of such acts.

Refugees the world over face the same problems of displacement, trauma and loss of livelihood, dignity and loved ones; why then is the suffering and pain of one particular group more deserving of attention and assistance than the other?

Over the years, ExCom discussions have always focused on how to further the protection of refugee rights. Results on the ground, however, do not favourably reflect the recommendations made. While we seem to be aware of the issues,

effective implementation of these recommendations is not readily evident. The time has come for UNHCR and other relevant authorities to take action to correct these imbalances and to be seen to act on these issues and concerns, in order to make ExCom 2001 a more productive and fruitful experience.

Refugee Consortium of Kenya
 Contact: RCK, PO Box 25340, Lavington, Nairobi, Kenya.
 Tel/Fax: +254 2 560418
 Email: refcon@iconnect.co.ke

forthcoming

International Conference on Refugee Women Fleeing Gender-Based Persecution
 4-6 May 2001: Montreal

The Canadian Council for Refugees will be hosting an international conference bringing together some 200 participants: refugee women, refugee rights groups, refugee decision makers, academics, government representatives, UNHCR and others interested in ensuring that women fleeing gender-based persecution receive protection. Special efforts will be made to ensure that there is participation from all regions of the world (and not just from Western countries). The goals of the conference will be to increase awareness about gender-based refugee claims, to develop strategies to promote recognition of gender-based refugee claims and to strengthen networking internationally among those working on these goals. In preparation for the conference, the CCR has created a network of over 120 individuals and organizations interested in the issue, communicating by email. To join the network, email Afsaneh Hojabri at ahojabri@total.net.

Registration fee: \$150 for NGOs and \$200 for government and intergovernmental organizations (Canadian dollars). Where the fee would present a barrier to participation, it can be reduced or waived. Some travel subsidies available.

For more information on the network and conference, visit www.web.net/~ccr/gendpers.html or contact Afsaneh Hojabri at: CCR, 6839 Drolet #302, Montréal, Québec, H2S 2T1, Canada. Tel: +514 277 7223. Fax: +514 277 1447. Email: ahojabri@total.net.

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The Global IDP Project expands by Tone Faret

The Global IDP Project can look back at a very busy and productive year during which internal displacement has featured high on the humanitarian agenda. The international debate which followed UN Ambassador Holbrooke's statement to the Security Council in January 2000 generated substantial interest in the plight of the internally displaced. As a result of the Project's longstanding role in promoting an improved international response, we were well placed to satisfy the subse-

quent increasing demand for information and training on internal displacement.

Since its launch in 1998, the Global IDP **Database** has become the world's central information source on internal displacement. By the beginning of 2001, the database will include 30 profiles of countries with ongoing internal displacement, and we aim to increase country coverage to 55 profiles by June 2001. The database will then be in a position to actively cover **all** conflict-induced displacement situations. The database is serving a large audience. It is also the official source of information for the Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement at which NRC serves as ICVA's NGO focal point. Other services include training materials, thematic information and useful links, which we hope contribute to the usefulness of the website.

In 2001, NRC will expand its services to include an expanded **news page** on internal displacement and dissemination of information from the database in different formats for those without internet connection (ie CD Rom and hard copies of country profile summaries). The feedback we have received so far from various user groups such as the UN, NGOs, governments, research institutions and students, reflected in the growing number of visitors, confirms that the Global IDP Database is filling a crucial information gap. The database also functions as an important advocacy tool for improved assistance and protection to the internally displaced.

Besides making information about situations of internal displacement easily available, the Global IDP Project aims to carry out more **analytical work** in the future. While the information in the database will remain neutral, NRC will to a larger extent use the database to write

special briefing papers, studies and evaluations. Such papers could, for example, address existing gaps in protection and assistance to IDPs in a given country.

NRC constantly aims at increasing the scope of information in the database. Today, the database counts over 90 international and national NGOs among its information sources. We will continue to prioritize **information-sharing** arrangements with other organizations working with IDPs and establish closer links with first-hand sources of information, particularly national NGOs and research institutions.

One particularly effective way of cooperating with national NGOs is through **training**. As an active field NGO, NRC recognizes that the main challenge today is to find practical ways of implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement at the national and local level. Under the Global IDP Project, NRC actively promotes the implementation of the Guiding Principles at country level through a programme of training workshops on the Guiding Principles. These aim to encourage dialogue between national NGOs, government representatives, international organizations and the internally displaced themselves. So far, five workshops have been held (Philippines, Uganda, Thailand, Angola and Georgia) and five more are planned for 2001.¹

NRC's training workshops have been requested not only by countries facing internal displacement but also by donor governments. Depending on the availability of staff resources, NRC will therefore increase its training component next year. In addition, NRC will continue to collaborate with UN protection training initiatives related to internal displacement.

Finally, the Global IDP Project is publishing a **book on response mechanisms** among the internally displaced. We are cooperating with authors from 12 different countries and the book will be released later in 2001.

The Directorate

The Global IDP Project is a project of the Norwegian Refugee Council and is administered through its Geneva office.

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Information Officers: Christophe Beau, Andreas Danevad, Bjorn Pettersson, Frederick Kok, Stacey White, Greta Zeender.
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Major Donors

The following governments have contributed to the project: Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland, UK-DFID. Other donors: ECHO, International Development and Research Centre (Canada), Norwegian Church Aid, OCHA, UNDP, WFP, World Vision International and private donors.

Website

Visit our database on internal displacement and get more information about the Global IDP Project on www.idpproject.org

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:

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The Global IDP Project has achieved a great deal over the last two years and in 2001 will continue to improve what has become an essential information and training tool for a more coherent and efficient response to the needs of the internally displaced.

Tone Faret is Donor Relations Officer for the Global IDP Project.

1 Reports of workshops held to date and details of forthcoming workshops can be found on the Global IDP Project website at www.idpproject.org

Spreading the word: translation of the Guiding Principles



Over the past two years, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have gained significant standing at the international, regional, national and local levels as a useful tool for the protection of IDPs. A clear sign of their appeal and relevance in different parts of the world is their translation into an increasing number of languages.

Initially made available in all UN languages (**Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish**) for their presentation to the Commission on Human Rights in 1998, the Principles have since been translated into a number of local languages relevant to particular situations of internal displacement: **Armenian; Azerbaijani; Georgian; Burmese, Sgaw Karen and Chin** (for Burma/Myanmar); **Dari and Pashtu** (Afghanistan); **Portuguese** (Angola); **Sinhala and Tamil** (Sri Lanka). **Abkhaz, Bahasa Indonesia, Filipino and Tetum** (East Timor) language versions of the Principles are underway. Notably, these efforts to translate and publish the Principles have been undertaken at the initiative of a variety of actors - the UN and its agencies, international and local NGOs and governments, often working

in partnership. Additional such translations of the Principles into local languages are needed to make the Principles more accessible to IDPs as well as to the national and local authorities responsible for ensuring their protection and assistance. Indeed, doing so is very much in line with the Principles themselves, which affirm that IDPs have the right to communicate in a language that they understand and to education that respects their cultural identity and language.

Efforts to translate the Guiding Principles into the local languages of countries confronted with the problem of internal displacement may be eligible

for support (including financial) within the framework of technical cooperation projects of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). OHCHR is posting the various language versions of the Guiding Principles on its website (www.unhcr.ch/html.menu2/7/bprinciples_lang.htm) in order to facilitate their dissemination.

Contact Erin Mooney, Special Assistant to the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs, at: OHCHR, Palais des Nations, 1211 10 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 917 9280. Fax: +41 22 917 9006. Email: emooney.hchr@unog.ch

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Gender and Refugee Status

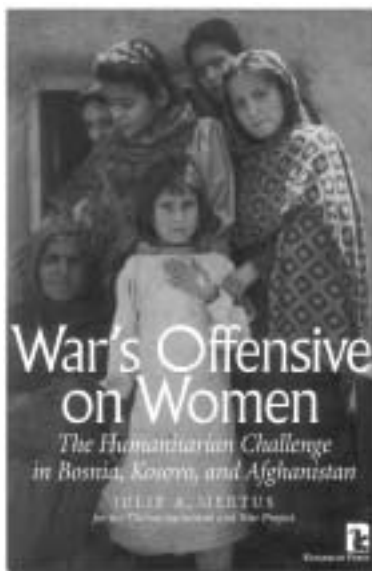
by Thomas Spijkerboer, Centre for Migration Law, Nijmegen, Netherlands. 2000. 255pp. ISBN 0 7546 2034 4.

A detailed analysis of refugee status determination and case law which shows that, at least in the North, women are now more likely than men to be recognized as refugees. This is an important overview of the position of women in refugee law.

Contact: Ashgate Publishing Limited, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR, UK. Website: www.ashgate.com

War's Offensive on Women: The Humanitarian Challenge in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan

by Julie A Mertus, Humanitarianism and War Project, Tufts University. September 2000. ISBN 1 56549 118 1 (hardback); 1 56549 117 3 (paperback). US\$50 (hb); US\$19.95 (pb).

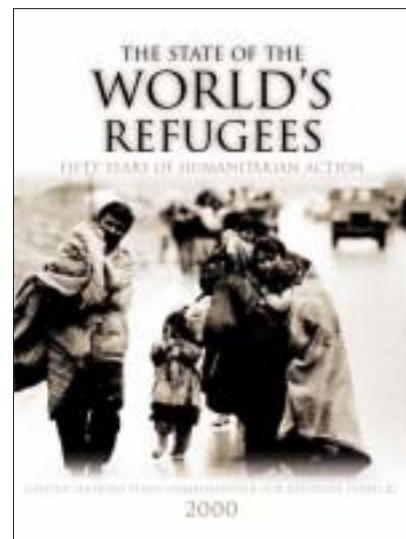


Using women's own voices and case studies, this book looks at the role played by women in war, humanitarian crises and post-war reconstruction. It details how humanitarian aid operations frequently manage to ignore the experiences and needs of women in war zones.

Contact: Kumarian Press, 1294 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002, USA. Tel: +1 860 233 5895. Fax: +1 860 243 2867. Order online at www.kpbooks.com. Email: kpbooks@aol.com.

The State of the World's Refugees: Fifty Years of Humanitarian Action

UNHCR. November 2000. 350pp. ISBN 0 19 829778 5 (hardback); 0 19 829779 3 (paperback). £40 (hb); £12.99 (pb).



A timely and important publication from UNHCR examining the major refugee crises of the last 50 years and the changing nature of international responses to the problems of forced displacement. A good encapsulation of 50 years of learning and guidelines for the future of the protection regime.

Email orders: (UK & Europe) book.orders@oup.co.uk; (USA) custserv@oup-usa.org.

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Refugees on Screen

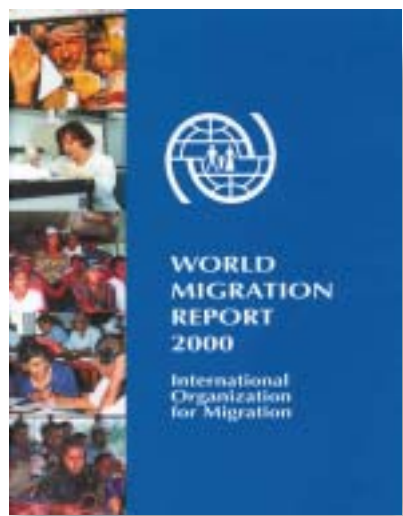
by Terence Wright, Refugee Studies Centre. November 2000. 28pp. £3.00/\$4.80.

The latest RSC working paper looks at how visual representation of refugees creates stereotypes. Historical archetypes and contemporary images are analyzed along with recent technological and institutional changes in media practice. The author lays out guidelines for future research topics.

Contact: Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, 21 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LA, UK. Email: rsc@qeh.ox.ac.uk. Order online at: www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsp/main_inhouse.html

World Migration Report 2000

edited by Susan Forbes Martin, International Organisation for Migration. November 2000. 297pp. ISBN 92 9068 089 X. US\$39.00.



An authoritative account of contemporary trends, issues and problems in the field of international migration, both voluntary and forced. There are regional overviews of trends, reports on the vast scale of displacement in Africa and details of "one of the most explosive branches of organized crime" - migrant smuggling and trafficking.

Contact: UN Publications, Room DC2-0853, Dept 1032, 2 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Fax: +1 212 963 3489. Email: publications@un.org. Order online: www.iom.int/iom/Publications/WMRENG2000.htm A summary of the book is available at: www.iom.int/iom/Publications/WMRPressKit.htm

'Welcome to Hell': Arbitrary Detention, Torture and Extortion in Chechnya

Human Rights Watch. October 2000. 99pp. ISBN 1 56432 253 X. US\$10.00.



Chilling report detailing the cycle of torture and extortion faced by thousands of Chechens detained by Russian forces. Human Rights Watch urges the international community to more effective action.

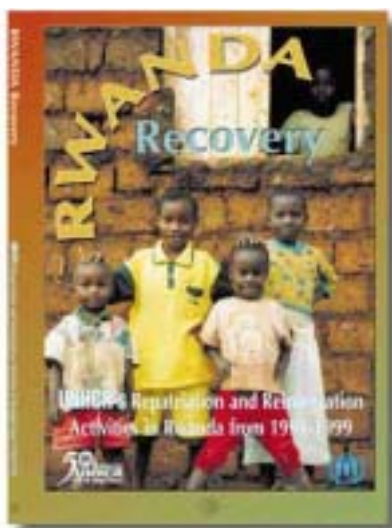
Contact: Publications Department, Human Rights Watch, 350 Fifth Ave, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10118-3299, USA. Tel: +1 212 216 1813.

Email: genaos@hrw.org

The full report is available online at www.hrw.org/reports/2000/russia_chechnya4/

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Humanitarian Action in the 21st Century

Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2000. 80pp. ISBN 0 9701247 4 0. Free.



This publication presents a compilation of essays on the title subject by the Heads of IASC agencies and NGOs: OCHA, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, ICRC, ICVA, International Federation, InterAction, IOM, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs, UNHCHR and the World Bank. Also includes mission statements by and contact information for these agencies.

For a free copy, contact: Ms Ute Kollies-Cummings, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Email: kollies-cummings@un.org

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