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1998 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

1998 was the year during which HURIDOCS held a major International Conference and its Fourth General Assembly. This main event for the HURIDOCS network is held every five years. The purpose of the international conference is to discuss the focus of HURIDOCS' work: human rights information handling, within a broader perspective of ongoing social and political developments, and in this way to provide guidance for the work of HURIDOCS. The General Assembly sets the directions that the network will take for the next five-year cycle.

HURIDOCS also engaged itself in many other activities in the areas of Training, Tool Development, Communication and Outreach, as well as Institutional Development. This report provides a summary of activities undertaken in 1998.

II. TOWARDS THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR CYCLE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The International Conference preceding the Assembly took place from 22 to 25 March 1998, in Gammarth (Tunisia). The theme of the Conference was *Human Rights Information, Impunity and Challenges of the Post-Conflict Healing Process*. The main focus was on the characteristics of human rights information in the framework of ongoing social and political developments, such as conflicts and conflict resolution, the democratisation process and impunity.

The conference was successful: it achieved to reach the aims set, and allowed for an exchange of experiences and opinions among the participants. Several issues which are expected to be important for the coming years were amply discussed, and the role of human rights information was discussed at length in relation to each major issue. Also, concrete proposals were made for activities to be undertaken by HURIDOCS and organisations in the network. In general terms, the Conference has posed the following new challenges:

- Prepare for the development of training activities, tools and methodologies needed to strengthen civil society organisations in different environments: transition from dictatorship to democracy - post-civil war - politically polarised societies - repressive regimes, etc.

- Broaden HURIDOCS field of active responsibility to include not just tools and methods for monitoring compliance with human rights norms but also monitoring tools and methods in relation to conflict, conflict resolution, reconciliation and sharing of grief.

- Ensure that HURIDOCS documentation, information dissemination, education and training tools and methodologies allow:
  a) an inclusive definition of rights, i.e., civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
  b) a recognition of violations in the private sphere, such as domestic violence, as well as in the public sphere
  c) a recognition of violations by non-state actors such as corporations, including multi- national companies, organised criminal syndicates such as the mafia, as well as by state actors.

- Take account of "the large picture", i.e., anonymous data, through work on developing methods for statistical analysis of large amounts of data, including economic, cultural and social rights, to bring out the relationship between inequality and violations.

- Take account of "the small picture", i.e., respect for the individual, through work on identifying, developing and giving training in methods of interviewing of victims-survivors that are supportive, and sensitive to culture and gender.

FOURTH HURIDOCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

These recommendations were brought forward to the HURIDOCS General Assembly that was held at the same location on 26 March 1998. 95 official delegates and 21 observers attended the General Assembly. The latter group consisted of delegates to the International Conference who were associating with HURIDOCS for the first time, representatives of donor agencies and the members of the HURIDOCS Secretariat.

Aurora Javate de Dios chaired the Assembly. The first part consisted of reports of activities. Kofi Kumado as Chairperson, Manuel Guzman as Executive Director and James Lawson as Treasurer

reported on the highlights of the activities and developments concerning the HURIDOCS network since the Third General Assembly in Crete (Greece) in May 1992.

Their reports showed the tremendous gains of HURIDOCS as a network, through the establishment of several regional networks, the development of information handling tools, and the steadily increasing number of training courses and workshops over the years. The financial report showed that the five-year cycle ended on a balanced budget. The Assembly enthusiastically accepted all three reports.

HURIDOCS Task Forces also reported on their accomplishments. The Task Force on Communications and Task Force on Software presented the results of a survey on the current state of the network in terms of information handling capacities as well as information needs. They also presented future prospects, such as establishing e-mail directories and considering more Windows-based applications for the HURIDOCS tool development programme. The Assembly encouraged the two Task Forces to continue their work.

The Task Force on Structure presented recommendations for modifying the organisational structure of HURIDOCS, based on responses to a questionnaire sent to network members in 1995. The questionnaire asked members for their views regarding organisational issues such as membership, electoral procedures, and regional bodies. The participants exchanged views on the proposals of the Task Force, and decided that the process of examining the structure has to continue, especially with regard to the issues concerning membership and regional networks.

HURIDOCS has played an active role in a number of regional networks dealing with human rights information (see under Outreach and Communication), and reports of these networks were presented to the General Assembly. Svend Bitsch Christensen reported on behalf of the European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD), Lucie Lamoureux reported for the Canada-U.S. Human Rights Information and Documentation Network (CUSHRID Net), Rosario Narvaez for the *Red de Informatica y Documentación en Derechos Humanos para America Latina y el Caribe* (RIDHUALC), Ayesha Iqbal and Kathleen Maltzahn for the Asian Committee for the Training of Trainers (ACCT), Hannah Forster on human rights networking in Africa, and Naceur el Kefi for the Arab Human Rights Information Network (AHRINET).

A number of participants made recommendations with regard to activities to be undertaken by HURIDOCS. These recommendations were agreed upon by the General Assembly, and the Continuation Committee and the International Secretariat were mandated to find ways towards their implementation. Among these proposals were:

- More stress on networking during training courses

- Conduct of training on getting the right information, in view of the increasing information overload

- Establishment of a Task Force on Electronic Publishing.

- Continued development of a gender-sensitive tool that considers human rights violations against women.

- Integration of the International Refugee Documentation Network (IRDN) within the HURIDOCS network

- Encouragement of the use of meta-tagging within the network

- Greater attention to issues related to children, including the customisation of HURIDOCS tools to reflect these specific concerns.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

On basis of the discussions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Continuation Committee started in mid-1998 a process of developing a Five-Year Strategic Plan. The strategic planning process is expected to be completed in early 1999 and involves deeper study into the needs of the network in addition to those expressed in the General Assembly.

The Strategic Plan gives an overview of the general aims which HURIDOCS seeks to achieve during this period, in its four areas of activities (Training, Tool Development, Outreach and Communication, and Institutional Development). The new Strategic Plan will cover the years 1999 to 2003.

III. THE HURIDOCS PROGRAMMES IN 1998

TRAINING PROGRAMME

In the course of 1999, the focus of the Training Programme of HURIDOCS was somewhat modified, taking into account the needs of human rights organisations as expressed during the Conference and General Assembly. Emphasis was given to training human rights organisations in tools for documenting cases of human rights violations.

1. **Training sessions during meeting of the European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation**

   The meeting of the European Co-ordination Committee took place on 21 and 22 February in Bucharest, Romania. During the last afternoon, Geneviève Bador, Lise Bruun and several others made presentations of tools for information handling tools developed by their organisations.

2. **Regional training course for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe**

   A five-day training course was held in Bucharest, Romania from 23 to 27 February 1998. It was hosted by the Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania - Romanian Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH). The topic of the course was the documentation of human rights violations, using the HURIDOCS Events Standard Formats and the EVSYS software. Eight participants from five countries in Central and Eastern Europe attended the course. The resource persons were Marija Laszlo and Bert Verstappen.

3. **Training session during CUSHRID Net Meeting**

   Bert Verstappen was resource person for a training session during the CUSHRID Net meeting in May 1998 in Washington, D.C. The session took place on 1 May 1998 and dealt with *Setting up a Human Rights Documentation Centre*. It included a discussion on managing a documentation centre and an introduction to the HURIDOCS Standard Formats (both Bibliographic and Events Formats) and software programmes. Twelve participants attended the session.

4. **National Training Course in Croatia**

A national training course took place in Zagreb, Croatia from 2 to 5 July. This course is part of a project of the Centre for Direct Protection of Human Rights, with support from America's Development Foundation. The aim of the project is to enhance the documentation of human rights violations by non-governmental organisations in Croatia. The resource persons at the course were Bert Verstappen and Marija Laszlo. The course was held in Croatian, and a Croatian version of the EVSYS software was made available to the twenty participants.

Following the course, the HURIDOCS manuals were translated into Croatian. The Centre for Direct Protection of Human Rights provided additional training at regional courses and gave on-site training and advice to individual organisations.

5. **Regional Training Course in South Africa**

Manuel Guzman was the main resource person in a week-long course in Sandton, South Africa. This course was organised by the Human Rights Institute of South Africa, and attended by 27 participants from South African, Mozambican and Ethiopian NGOs. The course covered the whole range of human rights information work, from fact-finding, to the use of databases, including EVSYS, to the preparation of human rights reports and information dissemination.

The Mozambican NGOs expressed interest for the holding of a similar course in Mozambique in the future.

6. **Training for Women's Groups in the Asia-Pacific**

HURIDOCS and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women continued its fruitful partnership in developing a gender-sensitive documentation tool and providing training on it. A major activity was a training workshop held from 25 to 29 August in Manila, the Philippines. It was organised by the Coalition against Trafficking in Women - Asia Pacific and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. There were 26 participants from Asian women NGOs in fourteen countries. HURIDOCS provided materials for the course. A major topic was EVSYS, taught by Catherine Clarin, a former intern at the HURIDOCS Secretariat.

7. **African Course on Information Handling**

HURIDOCS provided course materials for a regional training course on human rights documentation, held in Tunisia in August 1998. This course was organised by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies and the Arab Institute for Human Rights.

8. **National Training Course in Argentina**

Carmen Garreton, member of the HURIDOCS International Advisory Council, was resource person for HURIDOCS at a training course for human rights documentation workers in Argentina. This course was organised by the Documentation Centre of the Sub-secretariat on Human and Social Rights and took place from 5 to 7 August 1998.

9. **African Human Rights Camp, Morocco**

The 4th African Human Rights Camp was held from mid-September to mid-October 1998 in

Rabat, Morocco. It is a regional training workshop for human rights workers on a broad spectrum of issues. Manuel Guzman was resource person on the topic of human right information handling. This session took place on 8 October 1998.

10. **Training Course in Ethiopia**

The Centre for Strategic Initiatives of Women, based in Washington, D.C., requested HURIDOCS to give advice and nominate resource persons for training the staff of a documentation centre that is to be based at the University of Addis Ababa. The documentation centre will focus on women's rights and will involve documenting human rights violations against women. HURIDOCS helped by facilitating the enlistment of Catherine Clarin and Cecilia Hoffman from the Philippines, both from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, as trainers for the course, which is to be held in March 1999.

11. **Training manual**

HURIDOCS is in the process of developing a training manual for trainers in the field of human rights information handling. The manual, entitled *Training the HURIDOCS Way,* is meant to help prospective trainers in preparing and conducting training sessions in this field. It consists of sections on the HURIDOCS training programme, the basics of training and training methodology, and includes 22 training modules. During 1998, the manual was further developed in terms of content, methodology, duration and suggested materials. It is ready for testing and eventual publication in 1999.

TOOL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

1. **Events Standard Formats**

The *HURIDOCS Standard Formats: A Tool for Documenting Human Rights Violations* and *Supporting Documents* constitute a system for documenting cases of human rights violations. The two books were published in 1993, as the outcome of the work of a Task Force led by Judith Dueck. On basis of feedback from users and experts, the experiences gained during several training courses and a workshop held in Mexico in 1997, HURIDOCS has embarked upon a substantial revision of this tool.

During 1998, Judith Dueck, Manuel Guzman and Bert Verstappen worked on this revision. Among the work done is the development of specific formats to better reflect the reality of a human rights violation, and the development and amendment of a large number of lists of terminology applicable to human rights documentation. It is expected that the revision will be finished in early 1999.

2. **WinEVSYS**

EVSYS is software for documenting human rights violations, using *the HURIDOCS Standard Formats: A Tool for Documenting Human Rights Violations*. The Continuation Committee, upon recommendation of the EVSYS Design Team, decided that a new version of EVSYS would be developed in Access97. This would allow one to benefit from the advantages of working in Windows, the most common platform also for human rights organisations, and ensure stable technical support for the system. At the same time, the WinEVSYS software

would be flexible and could be customised according to the needs of users.

The EVSYS Design Team, consisting of Ricardo Cifuentes (the programmer of EVSYS and WinEVSYS), Romilly Gregory, Bjørn Stormorken and Manuel Guzman, worked on the new software. The Design Team met twice in Oxford, United Kingdom, in May and in October 1998. Demo versions of WinEVSYS were produced in July and in December. A version for public release is to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1999.

3. **Monitoring economic, social and cultural rights**

In 1996, the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and HURIDOCS started a project to develop methodologies for the monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights. During the first phase of the project, 19 papers were commissioned to define the minimum core content of different rights, and for analysis of the relationship between globalisation and human rights in the various parts of the world.

Fourteen papers had been submitted by the end of 1998. In addition, progress was made in the writing of a popular resource manual on economic, social and cultural rights. This resource, written by Allan McChesney, was field-tested by the author with NGOs in Canada in August, and by Manuel Guzman with NGOs in the Philippines in November.

A list of violations of economic, social and cultural rights has been compiled into a thesaurus, and continues to be developed. The study on the possible use of the Events Standard Formats for monitoring economic, social and cultural rights has been started, and testing is underway.

4. **Human Rights Search Engine**

A conference was held in Brussels on 25 June 1998, organised by the Centre for International and Comparative Human Rights Law of Queen's University, Belfast, to discuss the possible establishment of a European Human Rights Information Site. James Lawson who represented HURIDOCS has since then been developing and testing a prototype for indexing and searching materials on the Internet sites of non-governmental human rights organisations. The search engine is foreseen to be operational in early 1999. It is meant to address the problem of poor recall encountered in the use of generalist search engines.

5. **Distribution of HURIDOCS Tools**

The HURIDOCS tools continued to be distributed to organisations in the network, on an individual basis and during training courses. The increased sale of publications illustrates an interest in the tools, indicating their usefulness for human rights organisations.

OUTREACH AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

Regional networks on human rights documentation are a main tool to enhance collaboration and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences. HURIDOCS has played an active role in the establishment and in the activities of such networks. The various regional networks held meetings during the International Conference in Tunis. They also presented reports on their activities during the General Assembly, thereby enabling the exchange of experiences among regions.

1. **Asian Committee for the Training of Trainers**

   This Committee was established at the Asian regional meeting during the Tunis Conference. Its purpose is to enlarge and strengthen the pool of trainers in human rights information work. It consists of three members of the International Advisory Council, namely Agnes Camacho (Philippines), Ayesha Iqbal (Pakistan) and Kathleen Maltzahn (Australia)

   The members of the committee have started to conduct a survey of information needs of Asian NGOs. Also started are preparations for a training course for trainers which is to be held in mid-1999, most likely in the Philippines.

2. **Canada-U.S. Human Rights Information and Documentation Network (CUSHRID Net)**

   The Canada-United States Human Rights Information and Documentation Network (CUSHRID Net) was established in 1994. The founding organisations are the Amnesty International-USA, Amnesty International-Canada, the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and HURIDOCS. A main activity is the holding of an annual meeting, attended mainly by documentation workers from the United States and Canada.

   The 4th general meeting of the network was held from 1 to 3 May 1998 in Washington, D.C., and hosted by the AAAS. About 60 participants attended it, and the programme consisted of workshops and discussions on a large number of issues, many of them related to the Internet. A business meeting of the network was held on 3 May. HURIDOCS was represented by Judith Dueck, member of the Continuation Committee of HURIDOCS and co-Chair of CUSHRID Net, and by Bert Verstappen, Information Officer.

3. **European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation**

   The European Co-ordination Committee holds an annual meeting of Europe-based documentation and information workers from human rights organisations. The Secretariat of the Committee is with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Copenhagen. HURIDOCS assists in the organisation of the meeting, and HURIDOCS-related issues focus prominently on its agenda.

   The 22nd general meeting of the Committee was held in Bucharest in February 1998. The local organisers were the ICAR Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and the Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania - Romanian Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH). It was the first meeting held in Eastern Europe, and attended by about 50 participants. It may be noted that the number of participants from Central and Eastern Europe has been increasing. Issues discussed include the use of the Internet and the needs and possibilities for training.

4. **Red de Informatica y Documentación en Derechos Humanos para America Latina y el Caribe (RIDHUALC)**

   RIDHUALC is the network of human rights organisations in Latin America and the Caribbean which are concerned with information and documentation. It was established in 1989. The Secretariat of RIDHUALC is with the Asociación pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH) in

Peru.

Preparations for the third general meeting of the network, in combination with a conference on impunity, are still ongoing. The main concern has been to raise enough funds to ensure a widely-represented meeting.

5. **Martin Ennals Award**

HURIDOCS continued to serve as the Secretariat of the Martin Ennals Foundation which gives out the yearly Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders.

A film on Martin Ennals and the winners of the first four winners of the Martin Ennals Award, entitled *Martin Ennals: A Giant Among Human Rights Defenders*, was produced by the Netherlands section of Amnesty International and the Martin Ennals Foundation. The film was shown as a preview at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (at the time of the UN Commission on Human Rights) on 19 March and had its premiere at the HURIDOCS Conference in Gammarth, Tunisia on 22 March.

The Board of the Martin Ennals Award met on 20 and 21 March in Gammarth, Tunisia. At this meeting, it selected the laureate for the 1998 Award. The laureate was Dr. Eyad El Sarraj of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program. The award ceremony was held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva on 27 November 1998. It was attended by about 40 invitees and followed by a reception.

The HURIDOCS Continuation Committee requested Hans Thoolen, former member of the Continuation Committee and of the International Advisory Council of HURIDOCS and initiator of the Martin Ennals Award, to represent HURIDOCS on the Board of the Martin Ennals Award. Mr. Thoolen accepted to do so, and was elected President of the Foundation at the Board meeting held on 12 December 1998.

6. **Participation in meetings of other organisations**

Jonathan Kuttab, member of the Continuation Committee, represented HURIDOCS at the Fifth Consultative Meeting on Core Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa. This meeting was organised by Search for Common Ground, and took place in Helsinki, Finland from 21 to 24 May.

Bert Verstappen took part on behalf of HURIDOCS at the General Assembly of the Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT - SOS Torture) which was held in Geneva on 31 August.

Hans Thoolen, former member of the Continuation Committee and of the International Advisory Council, represented HURIDOCS at the World Summit of Human Rights Defenders, held in Paris from 8 to 11 December 1998. This meeting was organised by Amnesty International and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH).

7. **HURIDOCS News**

The 22nd issue of the periodical HURIDOCS News came out in the mid-year. It was published

in three languages: English, Spanish and French, and distributed to over 2000 human rights organisations world-wide. It contained the HURIDOCS programme for 1998, articles on training courses and other activities.

8. **HURIDOCS web site and mailing lists**

The HURIDOCS home page was improved, and several documents were added to it. It now contains several HURIDOCS tools such as the Bibliographic Standard Formats and Events Standard Formats and a classification scheme, information about training activities and regional networks, and the HURIDOCS News. A new, easier address was obtained for the home page, *http://www.huridocs.org*.

HURIDOCS maintains two public mailing lists, in order to allow sharing of information among participants in the network. The list huridocs-gen-l contains announcements of activities and of vacant positions etc.

A new list called huridocs-tech was established in June 1998. This list contains messages about development in information technology and how they affect human rights, including issues like technical developments, freedom of expression and privacy. It is hosted by the Human Rights Education Associates in the United States.

9. **Other activities**

The Secretariat received a large number of requests for advice, support and training from human rights organisations world-wide, and responded to these. Discussions on ways of collaborating were held with a number of visitors to the HURIDOCS Secretariat.

HURIDOCS also continued to give advice and training to Geneva-based international non-governmental organisations, such as the Anti-Racism Information Service (ARIS) and the Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT - SOS Torture).

IV. HURIDOCS INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

1. **Continuation Committee**

The previous Continuation Committee held a meeting in Geneva on 14 and 15 February 1998. The main purpose of the meeting was to finalise the preparations for the International Conference and General Assembly in Tunis. The meeting also approved the report of activities and accounts of 1997, and planned activities for 1998.

The participants at the Fourth General Assembly held on 26 March elected the following persons as members of the Continuation Committee:

- Judith Dueck (Canada)
- Aurora Javate De Dios (Philippines)
- Kofi Kumado (Ghana)

- Jonathan Kuttab (Palestine)
- James Lawson (France)
- Aida Maria Noval (Mexico)
- Agnethe Olesen (Denmark)

The new Continuation Committee held its first meeting in Geneva on 22 and 23 August 1998. The meeting discussed ongoing and new HURIDOCS activities, such as training activities, the revision of the Events Standard Formats and the development of a search engine. Kofi Kumado and James Lawson were chosen to be Chairperson and Treasurer respectively.

2. **International Advisory Council**

A new International Advisory Council (IAC) was elected at the 4th General Assembly on 26 March. Its members are:

- Frej Fenniche (Tunisia)
- Hannah Forster (The Gambia)
- Tokunbo Ige (Nigeria)
- Julienne Ndiaye (Senegal)
- Livingstone Sewanyana (Uganda)
- Agnes Camacho (Philippines)
- Ayesha Iqbal (Pakistan)
- Kathleen Maltzahn (Australia)
- Kumar Rupesinghe (Sri Lanka)
- Charlotte McCann (United States)
- Debra Guzman (Europe)
- Saskia Bal (the Netherlands)
- Marija Laszlo (Croatia)
- Mary Robinson (United Kingdom)
- Carmen Garreton (Chile)
- Ramon Custodio Lopez (Honduras)
- Maria Paula Herrero (Venezuela)
- Ramon Martinez Portorreal (Dominican Republic)
- Rosario Narvaez Vargas (Peru)

A meeting between the Continuation Committee, the International Advisory Council and the Secretariat took place immediately after the General Assembly. There were discussions on the aims and functioning of the IAC, and agreements were made to facilitate communication.

The members of the International Advisory Council have engaged themselves actively in the HURIDOCS network, and there have been regular contacts with the Continuation Committee, the International Advisory Council and the Secretariat. All members of these bodies have access to electronic mail, and a special mailing list has been established to facilitate communications

3. **Secretariat**

Throughout 1998, the Secretariat consisted of three members: Manuel Guzman (Executive

Director), Bert Verstappen (Information Officer) and Néjib Ghali (Administrative Officer). In addition, Barbara Monty Cano was an intern with HURIDOCS for the period November 1997-April 1998.

The Canton of Geneva kindly offered office facilities to HURIDOCS, and the Secretariat was relocated to a renovated villa in Versoix, a small city in the outskirts of Geneva, in April 1998. Also three other international organisations working in the human rights and humanitarian field are based at this location.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In the course of 1998, HURIDOCS received general grants for its programme from the following donor agencies:

- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diaconical Work of the Evangelical Churches in Germany
- Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- French Prime Minister's Office
- Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, United States
- Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and
- Swedish International Development Agency.

In addition, the following donors provided financial support to particular activities undertaken by HURIDOCS in the course of the year:

- CEBEMO, the Netherlands
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diaconical Work of the Evangelical Churches in Germany
- International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Canada
- International Development Research Centre, Canada.
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), the Netherlands
- Misereor, Germany
- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Norwegian Embassy in Tunisia

HURIDOCS would like to sincerely thank all these donors for their generous support. It also wishes to thank the Council of the Canton of Geneva, for granting use of office space to HURIDOCS in Versoix, near Geneva.

During 1998, several persons and organisations voluntarily contributed time and expertise to the work of HURIDOCS. HURIDOCS would like to thank all contributors, and in particular the following:

1. the members of the HURIDOCS Continuation Committee

2. the members of the HURIDOCS International Advisory Council

3. the Task Forces on Software Development, Electronic Communication and Structure, and their leaders, respectively James Lawson, Debra Guzman, Ramon Martinez and Mary Robinson

4. the regional networks and their Secretariats, namely:

a. the Arab Human Rights Information Network (AHRINET) and the Arab Institute for Human Rights
b. the Asian Network for Training of Trainers - Agnes Camacho, Ayesha Iqbal and Kathleen Maltzahn for developing a training plan for the region
c. the Canada-U.S. Human Rights Information Network (CUSHRID Net) and the Science and Human Rights Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
d. the European Co-ordination Committee for Human Rights Documentation and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
e. the Red de Informatica y Documentación en Derechos Humanos para America Latina y el Caribe (RIDHUALC) and the Asociación pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH)

5. the Evsys/WinEvsys Design Team - Ricardo Cifuentes, Romilly Gregory and Bjørn Stormorken

6. Judith Dueck, co-author of the revision of the HURIDOCS Events Standard Formats: A Tool for Documenting Human Rights Violations

7. James Lawson for developing a prototype of a human rights search engine

8. Lise Bruun for developing a standard for meta-tagging Web documents based upon the Dublin Core

9. HURINet - Debra Guzman for her contributions to the HURIDOCS mailing lists

10. Comlink, Germany for hosting various HURIDOCS mailing lists

11. Human Rights Education Associates for co-ordinating the huridocs-tech mailing list

12. the co-organisers of training activities, and in particular

a. the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Romania
b. the Direct Protection Centre for Human Rights, America's Development Foundation and Marija Laszlo;
c. the Human Rights Institute of South Africa
d. the Moroccan Association for Human Rights and the Human Rights Advisory Group (Norway) - Lalaine Sadiwa

13. the Direct Protection Centre for Human Rights, Zagreb and the Harold Light Centre for Human Rights, St. Petersburg for their translations of HURIDOCS tools in Croatian respectively Russian.

V. CONCLUSION

The various programmes of HURIDOCS were remarkably implemented, despite the fact that the network devoted much of its time and energy to its Fourth General Assembly. For instance, 10 training events were conducted within the year. This is consistent with the HURIDOCS thrust of intensified training which the past several years have witnessed.

The training activities also showed the progress of HURIDOCS in enhancing collaboration and building of alliances, not only among traditional human rights networks but also with networks of varied thematic concerns.

The tools of HURIDOCS were reviewed and revised in view of making them more comprehensive and holistic, at the same time flexible so as to be appropriate for local or specialised application.

Over and above all these, HURIDOCS successfully convened its Fourth General Assembly. This gives the network a sense of purpose for the next several years.

The financial report of HURIDOCS likewise shows that it was a very satisfactory year. The figures may be misleading in the sense that income was relatively small. What can be appreciated is the high level of accomplishments, and this can be attributed to the great volume of voluntary work. Moreover, there were many activities of HURIDOCS, such as most of the training courses, where the funds or part of them were received directly by the co-organisers.

In other words, HURIDOCS lived to its mandate of making things happen as a network.