HURIDOCS

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International

Annual Report of Activities 2007

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Geneva, ... 2007*

February 2008

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Websites:
http//:www.huridocs.org – main website
http//:www.hurisearch.org - HuriSearch human rights search engine

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The HURIDOCS team

The HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (Board):

- Kofi Kumado (Ghana), Chair
- Judith Dueck (Canada), Vice Chair
- Agnethe Olesen (Denmark), Treasurer and Co-ordinator
- Jonathan Kuttab (Palestine) Jur. Dr.
- Aurora Javate de Dios (Philippines) Ph. D.
- James Lawson (France)
- Aída María Noval (Mexico)

The staff at the Secretariat in Versoix:

- Bert Verstappen, Programme Coordinator
- Daniel D'Esposito, Training Officer
- Nejib Ghali, Administrative Officer

From left to right: Daniel D'Esposito (training officer), (Palestine), Nejib Ghali (administrator), Judith Dueck (Canada) (programme coordinator) Agnethe Olesen (Denmark), Kofi James Lawson (France), Aida Maria Noval (Mexico), Aurora (Philippines)

HURIDOCS thanks in particular:

- the Norwegian Agency for Development Co- operation (financial support for the overall programme)
- Fast Search & Transfer (HuriSearch partner that provide in-kind support)
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE (HuriSearch partner)
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland (HuriSearch contributor)
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Advanced Workshop 2008)
- Open Society Institute, Budapest (Advanced Workshop 2008)
- British Mission in Bangladesh (capacity building project)
- Trocaire, Ireland (capacity building in Zimbabwe)
- Amnesty International, Netherlands (capacity building in Mozambique)
- International Development Research Centre and Mennonite Central Committee Canada
  (support for the participation of Judith Dueck, HURIDOCS' Canadian Board member, in HURIDOCS activities)

HURIDOCS also thanks all network members, partners, volunteers and professionals who contributed time and expertise to HURIDOCS, and in particular:

- The members of the Continuation Committee (Board) and the members of HURIDOCS International Advisory Council.
- The various regional networks and their Secretariats
- The WinEvsys Design Team members
- James Lawson, Judith Dueck, Fast Search & Transfer (FAST), and ODIHR for continuing advice and support on the HuriSearch search engine
- Trainers at the various HURIDOCS training courses
- Hans Thoolen for representing HURIDOCS on the Board of the Martin Ennals Award, as its Executive Chairman
- Nidelven-IT (Norway) for helping develop the new HURIDOCS website and HuriSearch
- Yves Lador for providing valuable inputs into the contents of the planned Conference
- The interns at the HURIDOCS Secretariat
- The volunteer translators

I. Introduction

Need for HURIDOCS?   Why now?

HURIDOCS in brief

The *Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International (HURIDOCS)* is a global capacity-building network of organisations that use documentation techniques, monitoring methods, information management systems and available technologies in the defence of human rights and the prevention of abuses. HURIDOCS was established in 1982, and has provided many valuable practical tools and linkages between organisations in the network.

Our vision: A world where the power of information and communication is harnessed in the service of human rights.

HURIDOCS has four programme areas:

A. Tools and Techniques
B. Training and Advisory Services
C. Outreach and Networks
D. Centre of Excellence

The Annual Report of Activities provides an overview of the activities and projects under-taken by HURIDOCS.

For HURIDOCS, 2007 was a transition year. The three-year plan for the period 2004-2006 was completed. In 2007, an evaluation of HURIDOCS' activities was held at the request of its main donor, the Norwegian aid agency Norad. On basis of this evaluation, the HURIDOCS Continuation Committee (Board) developed and approved a five-year strategic plan for the period 2008-2012.

It was an active and productive year for HURIDOCS which is, in particular, due to the assistance and contributions of our partners and supporters.

II. Activities and Achievements in 2007

Activities focused on four areas corresponding to the central objectives of HURIDOCS:

A. Tools and Techniques

Human rights organisations need tools and techniques on human rights monitoring, information management and communication which are flexible for adaptation to local use. These tools are developed in consultation with the network, ensuring availability in various forms and languages as well as ease of installation.. In order to cover the full range of documentation needs, HURIDOCS has developed a large number of tools:

1. HuriSearch: Facilitating Access to Human Rights Information on the Web

In collaboration with the leading enterprise search provider Fast Search & Transfer, HuriSearch was developed by HURIDOCS to facilitate access to human rights information on the web. HuriSearch, the Web search engine for human rights, is available at: http//:www.hurisearch.org.

It provides the human rights community and others concerned with human rights with a powerful web research tool. It also aims to increase the visibility of information published by human rights organisations and to encourage webmasters to use metadata[1] systematically, thus making human rights information searching on the Internet much more reliable and efficient.

HuriSearch start page   **HuriSearch results page**

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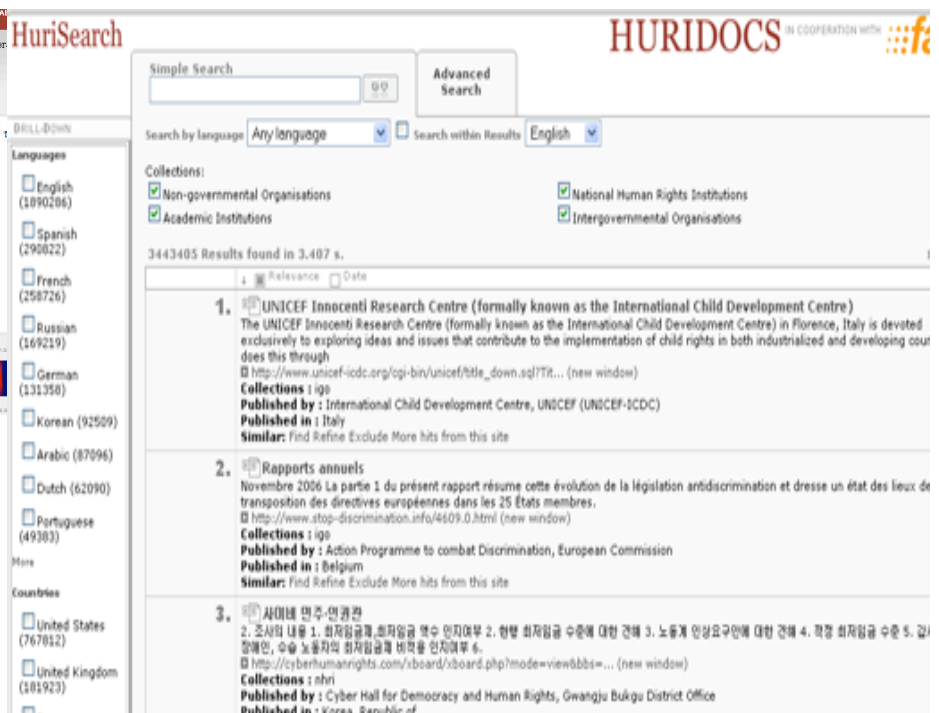
[1]   Meta-data are data about data. They are used to facilitate the understanding, use, management and retrieval of data.

In 2007, HURIDOCS continued to develop HuriSearch including the following features:

→ **Search capabilities**:
HuriSearch now offers the following search functions:
- Search by language of publication and by country of publication
- Search by publishing organisation, or type of publishing organisations.
- Search by index term: search results are scanned for the most frequently mentioned HURIDOCS index terms. The HURIDOCS index covers the most relevant terms in human rights work.
- Search by keyword: HuriSearch uses artificial intelligence to analyse search results and identify relevant keywords, giving suggestions for refining searches.

→ **Search scope:**
- About 1350 new websites were researched and added to the index, which by the end of 2007 contained more than 3 million pages from over 4400 websites.

- All websites are crawled with regular frequency. NGO sites are crawled every eight days, and websites of intergovernmental organisations, national human rights institutions and academic institutions on a daily basis. In consequence, HuriSearch is capable of retrieving very fresh information.

→ **Look and feel, usability, access:**
- HuriSearch offers a complete series of orientation pages for the user: help page, feedback page, etc.
- The whole search interface, including orientation pages, is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese, German and Korean.

Following the launch of the new version of HuriSearch in December 2006, the numbers of people visiting HuriSearch each month increased considerably.

An increasing number of websites and blogs are now linking to HuriSearch, with Yahoo! counting over 31'000 "inlinks". At least 50 organisations provide a HuriSearch search box directly on their pages. A list of third-party search boxes is available at http://www.huridocs.org/tools/hurisearchboxes.doc.

HURIDOCS maintained good working relations with FAST staff, and on 9 May two HURIDOCS representatives participated in the FAST Search Summit in Zürich.

At the end of 2007, HuriSearch included sites of organisations based in 168 countries (up from151 at the end of 2006) – see map below.

Green = country from which sites are included in HuriSearch

HURIDOCS also collaborated with and provided advice to the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (TnD) of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). From the TnD Websites, searches for NGO material are carried out on HuriSearch. In 2007, HURIDOCS added over 600 Websites dealing with discrimination and racism to HuriSearch.

ODIHR's TANDIS website

HURIDOCS staff and Board members as well as others provided presentations and demonstrations of HuriSearch. Board member Judith Dueck spoke at the Access to Knowledge 2 Conference held at Yale University. Board member Aida Maria Noval gave presentations on searching techniques to human rights groups in Mexico. Programme Coordinator Bert Verstappen provided a demonstration at the Programme de formation en droits de l'homme of the Collège Universitaire Henry-Dunant (CUHD) in the framework of the Summer University of Human Rights. Staff of the Coalition against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific gave an introduction to HURIDOCS and HuriSearch at its 9th Summer Institute on Women's Human Rights.

1. Semantic Web: Tools for Better Human Rights Websites

HURIDOCS seeks to increase the quality and effectiveness of human rights Websites by promoting the use of meta-data based upon existing terminology lists. HURIDOCS continued its analysis of the use of meta-data on human rights Websites and maintained contacts with interested partners.

2. EvSys Databases: Documenting Human Rights Violations

Many human rights organisations are in need of a **comprehensive, user-friendly and adaptable** database programme to record, manage and retrieve information about cases of violations.

HURIDOCS developed an innovative database program (Evsys) for this purpose as early as the late 1980s. With WinEvsys (the Windows version) users are able to manage information about human rights events, the victims, perpetrators and other relevant information. The detailed definition of fields allows for the generation of data that can be organised and displayed in ways needed by human rights organisations. It is very flexible, works in several languages and can be substantially modified by users to suit their needs.

Thanks to the establishment of a mailing list, users of WinEvsys can be informed of the latest updates. This will also help us to identify additional organisations that use WinEvsys. See: http://www.huridocs.org/involved/winevsys-list

WinEvsys is used by organisations in the following countries:
- Europe: Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine
- Americas: Ecuador, Haiti
- Africa: Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe
- Asia: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines

In addition, there are communities using WinEvsys based tools in Somalia, Sri Lanka and Iraq.

HURIDOCS also provided input for the design of a database which is being developed at the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. This database for documenting human rights violations is to be used by Field Offices and Human Rights Components of Peace Keeping Operations. On 23 February, HURIDOCS served as an external expert at an in-house consultation of the OHCHR regarding this database.

3. Software for Human Rights Libraries

HURIDOCS has developed Bibliographic Standard Formats which are used by at least fifty libraries and documentation centres world-wide which have collections on human rights and related areas. These formats have been programmed into CDS-ISIS for Windows, a software developed and distributed by Unesco.

4. Translating HURIDOCS Tools: Crossing the Linguistic Divide

HURIDOCS recognises the need to make its tools available in several **languages**. While English, Spanish and French are the primary languages for HURIDOCS, some materials are also available in Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean and other languages. In this respect, 2006 has seen a major

effort in the area of translation. This is done on basis of expressed needs of organisations in HURIDOCS' network, who themselves initiate these translations. Progress in 2007 included:

- Completion of the translation of the Events Standard Formats and Micro-thesauri into Spanish. 200 sets are being printed in Mexico, and the electronic document will be made available on the HURIDOCS Website.
- Translation of the Events Standard Formats, the Micro-thesauri and the WinEvsys software into Arabic and into Portuguese, plus start of the translation of these tools into Bahasa Indonesia by local NGOs.
- Completion of the translation of the manual *The Right to Food : A Resource Manual for NGOs* into Spanish and start of the translation of the manual *The Right to Health* into Spanish
- Translation of main sections of the HURIDOCS Website into French, Spanish and Arabic
- Start of the translation of the background pages of the HuriSearch search engine and of the search interface into Japanese and Portuguese

5. Dissemination: Providing HURIDOCS Tools to the Human Rights Community

Throughout the year, new and updated HURIDOCS tools and their translations were made available in electronic form on the HURIDOCS Website.

HURITOOLS CD-ROM

In 2007, HURIDOCS updated and distributed the HuriTools CD-ROM which provides all its tools and manuals in electronic format. This is very convenient for organisations and persons with slow internet access. Additions include the WinEvsys training videos.

Throughout the year, we distributed about 250 copies of HuriTools. Distribution took place at training courses and meetings. After a promotion of HuriTools, about fifty CD ROMs were sent to human rights groups mainly in the South.

Continuation Committee (Board) Member James Lawson continues to oversee the area of Tools and Techniques.

B. Training and Advisory Services

HURIDOCS aims to:

❖ Support human rights organisations to set up and strengthen their information systems
❖ Build the capacity of the human rights community to master and adapt these tools and techniques to their specific needs through training and other activities

HURIDOCS activities to achieve these objectives include:

1. Tools Mastery through Training Courses

HURIDOCS provides training activities that are specialised and practical, responding to the specific needs of human rights organisations. Where possible, specific countries are strategically identified. This facilitates the creation of national networks that can shares methods, develop tools, and enable pooling of data for better analysis.

Courses usually last from 3 to 5 working days with an average of 15 to 20 participants. HURIDOCS collaborates with its partners to adapt the tools and techniques for their use and to set up their information systems. It provides continuing advice and support to ensure that the systems remain operational and conform to the needs of the particular organisation.

HURIDOCS training activities in 2007:

• **Bangladesh, August 2007 to May 2008**: HURIDOCS and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) partnered to offer capacity building. The organisations include BRAC and BLAST. The project includes a training of trainers in fact-finding, and a training on techniques for documenting violations. The project also includes a one-day workshop for managers, to introduce the techniques and tools to them, and to facilitate coordination and collaboration in the area of documenting violations. Supported by the Foreign and Commmonwealth Office / British High Commission in Dhaka

• **Indonesia - July 2007**: HURIDOCS partnered with Tifa Foundation to provide training on techniques for documenting violations to Indonesian human rights organisations, including Kontras, Imparsial, Elsam, and Komnas HAM Indonesia. The training focussed on the events approach, using the WinEvsys to record violations. After the training, the participants formed a support groups animated by Tifa Foundation, to continue the collaboration in the field of documenting violations.

• **Romania - April 2007**: HURIDOCS trained human rights monitors from the ILGA-Europe network. The three-day course, entitled "Gathering and Using Information to Combat Discrimination", covered use of standard formats, controlled vocabularies, handling interviews, writing reports, making interventions. Participants came from all over central Europe. A similar course was provided in Kyrgyzstan in June 2007.

- **Maputo, Mozambique - March 2007**: in partnership with Amnesty Netherlands SPA (Special Program for Africa), and the Liga Moçambicana dos Direitos Humanos (LMDH), HURIDOCS is training a group of NGOs in documenting human rights violations using the WinEvsys database system.

- **Ankara, Turkey - March and April 2007**: as part of a Netherlands Helsinki Committee project, together with two major Turkish human rights NGOs, Human Rights Association of Turkey and Mazlumder, HURIDOCS trained a team of trainers in fact-finding and reporting. These trainers will then be able to train to volunteers at branch level.

- **Kathmandu, Nepal - February 2007**: in partnership with OHCHR and the Nepali Human Rights Commission (NHRC), HURIDOCS delivered two simultaneous trainings: a five-day training on monitoring and fact-finding for 10 NHRC protection officers, and a five-day training on documenting violations using the WinEvsys database system for documentalists from 10 Nepali human rights NGOs. Supported by OHCHR and UNDP.

In addition to the activities listed above which took place in 2007, HURIDOCS also worked on developing training and capacity building projects which will take place in 2008:

Country	Partner
Pakistan	Bangladesh Human Rights Commission
India	OLAKH (Feminist Documentation,Resource and Counselling Centre)
Cameroon	Centre Interdisciplinaire Pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme
Mali	Association Malienne des Droits de L'Homme
Nigeria	
Russian Federation	Nizhny Novogorod Committee Against Torture

HURIDOCS also provided short introductions to human rights documentation to the Advanced Courses organised by the International Service for Human Rights. This reaches human rights professional advocates, who will later be able to use for HURIDOCS tools when they are needed. HURIDOCS will offer these modules to other short course and Masters programmes in 2008.

Map of countries reached through training activities in 2007:
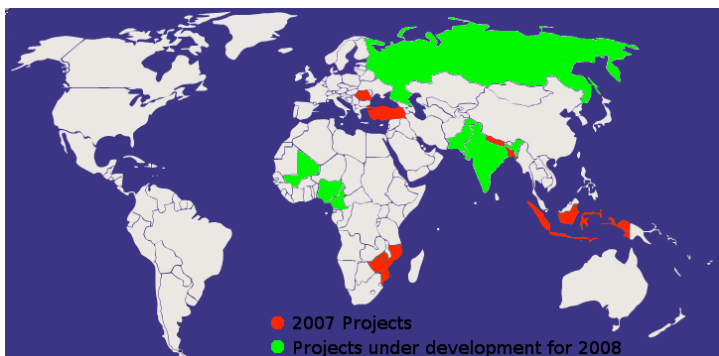
2007 has also seen the drafting of several new projects that are to be further concretised in 2008:

- An **Advanced Workshop on Human Rights Documentation Techniques** bringing together organisations that use HURIDOCS tools held from 14 to 18 January, 2008

- A Geneva-based training on the **monitoring of economical, social and cultural rights**, bringing together expertise and resources in Geneva – to be held from 5 to 9 May 2008 in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies at the University of Geneva.

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GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

HURIDOCS has developed new training materials, including a complete set of trainer's manuals for *training of trainers in fact-finding*.

1. Advice and Support

HURIDOCS engaged in a very promising partnership with Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), starting as a consultancy supported by Trocaire, and continuing on a bilateral basis between ZPP and HURIDOCS. ZPP has collected an enormous amount of data - over 50'000 incident forms. This data is collected by over 230 monitors, who are coordinated and trained by Provincial Coordinators. ZPP wishes to analyse, in the short term, over 10'000 of these forms to draw a map of political violence preceding elections. But this data is locked in paper forms, and all analysis had to be made manually. HURIDOCS helped ZPP to set up an information system:
- Setting of a WinEvsys computer database to record and analyse data, including encryption and backup procedures, and installation the system on 10 PCs connected to a server.
- Training of two data analysts and ten data recorders
- Training of field monitors via training of Provincial Coordinators in fact-finding using the "Who did what to whom" methodology.
- Development of paper forms adapted to the "Who did what to whom model"
- Troubleshooting and ongoing support

At time of writing, ZPP had managed to computerize 10'000 incident forms and had already produced its first analysis of electoral violence, making advocacy presentations to key media and diplomatic stakeholders. This partnership will continue in 2008, with the replacement of WinEvsys with the next-generation analytical tool that HURIDOCS is developing, called Open Evsys.

2. Trainers Pool

HURIDOCS continued to draw upon the trainers in the trainers pool when identifying resource persons for its training activities. In addition, HURIDOCS training and other activities often reveal new human resources which increase the trainers pool. Relevant resource materials for trainers is available on the web, accessible to the members of the trainers pool.

Continuation Committee (Board) Member Aida Maria Noval continues to oversee the area of Training and Information Systems Strengthening.

C. Outreach and Networks

HURIDOCS aims at:

- ❖ Improving human rights advocacy and reporting techniques
- ❖ Expanding human rights outreach and network capacity

It is obvious that networking has become an important element of work for human rights organisations. Indeed, it simplifies especially the pooling of resources, adoption of common positions and joint actions in response to issues and events.
For this purpose HURIDOCS carried out several activities in order to facilitate contact, cooperation and interaction among and between human rights organisations:

1.   Access to HURIDOCS Resources

a.   Website and Mailing Lists

In 2006, HURIDOCS launched a new version of its **main website** www.huridocs.org*,* using the Plone content management system. This system has the advantage of being open source and allows the recording of meta-data.

In 2007, the HURIDOCS Website was regularly updated. The main sections were translated into French, Spanish and Arabic.

The number of visitors increased strongly since the launch of the new site, and is at ca. 3'000 unique visitors per month. There are ca. 1'000 registered members to the HURIDOCS Website. The number of downloads of tools was around 8'000 in 2007, a considerable increase in comparison with the almost 4'000 of 2006. Most of the users come from NGOs (74 %), but the tools are also used by academic institutions, business, NHRIs and international organisations. Except for the Middle East, there is a geographical balance concerning the number of downloads by region.

HURIDOCS tools were downloaded from 122 countries (against 101 countries in 2006). Most downloads came from Italy, India, Philippines, Untied States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Turkey, the United States and Morocco.
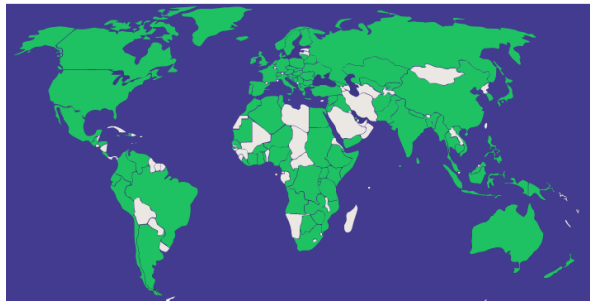
Green = country from which HURIDOCS tools were downloaded

b. Governance

During 2007, the HURIDOCS **Continuation Committee** held two meetings. The first meeting took place in June in The Hague, the Netherlands, and was combined with visits in view of the upcoming Conference (see above). The second meeting took place in October at the HURIDOCS Secretariat. Both meetings included discussions on finances and fund-raising, long-term strategies and planning as well as the promotion of HURIDOCS and HuriSearch.

The CC at work at the HURIDOCS Secretariat in Versoix

The **International Advisory Council** of HURIDOCS consists of 13 members. They were informed of HURIDOCS activities, invited to Continuation Committee meetings and asked for advice or assistance.

c. Relations with Intergovernmental Organisation and Institutional Representation

Board members and Secretariat staff continue to represent HURIDOCS in international contexts with the aim of building the network, sharing tools and expertise, training, facilitating linkages, responding to requests and otherwise strengthening relationships with HURIDOCS' clientele.

d. Strategic Partnerships and Network Building

HURIDOCS has established working relations with over twenty partner organisations.

In 2007, it collaborated in particular with the following organisations:

- Fast Search & Transfer, Norway: collaboration in the development of the HuriSearch search engine
- the Tolerance and Non-discrimination Programme of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Poland: collaboration in providing access to NGO material on various aspects of tolerance and non-discrimination through the HuriSearch search engine
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Switzerland: collaboration with regard to training – during 2007, training course in Nepal, and concerning methods and tools for documenting human rights violations
- Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DoCip), Switzerland: collaboration in providing training to representatives of indigenous peoples' organisations and advice regarding the structure of DoCip's own documentation centre
- International Service for Human Rights, Switzerland: regular collaboration in providing sessions during ISHRs training courses for human rights defenders
- Human Rights Education Associates, United States: collaboration among others through the huridocs-tech mailing list and in the promotion of HuriSearch
- the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and two local human rights organisations, the Human Rights Association (IHD) and Mazlum Der and as well as the IHOP network in Turkey: collaboration in a project to strengthen the monitoring and documentation skills of human rights NGOs
- the Special Programme on Africa of Amnesty International, Netherlands section: collaboration to strengthen the monitoring and documentation capacities of human rights groups in Africa – during 2007, in particular with activities in relation to Mozambique
- the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific, a regional network that continued to train its members in documentation of violence against women, using an adaptation of the Events standard formats and the WinEvsys database
- positive working relations were maintained with Rights & Democracy, Canada which is now established as HURIDOCS Canadian partner.

2.   Network and Partner Communications

a. Regional and Thematic Network Development and Support

HURIDOCS maintained contacts with regional and thematic networks in the field of information management and documentation handling, including:
- Arab Human Rights Information Network (AHRINET)
- Asia-Pacific Committee for the Training of Trainers (ACTT)
- Red de Informática y Documentación en Derechos Humanos de América Latina y el Caribe (RIDHUALC)
- Human Rights Information Network for Anglophone Africa (HURINAA)
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women –Asia Pacific (CATW-AP, Philippines)

- International Torture Documentation Network (ITDN)
- Documentary Network of Indigenous Peoples (DNIP)

At the 30th meeting of the *European Co-ordination Committee on Human Rights Documentation (ECCHRD)* which was organised by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and held in Lund, Sweden on 8 and 9 June, HURIDOCS presented an update on HURIDOCS activities.

HURIDOCS is also actively involved in InForHumanum, a newly established network of Geneva-based NGOs concerned with information, training, research and education in the fields of human rights, humanitarian law and peace.

b. *Promotion and Responses to Information Requests*

HURIDOCS carried out different outreach activities which make the HURIDOCS network and its work better known. This included producing and updating information material and representation at relevant meetings and events.

The HURIDOCS Secretariat continued to maintain and disseminate information on three public (*HURIDOCS Open*, *huridocs-tech*, *indi-health-l*) and three private mailing lists. The HURIDOCS Open list focuses on new developments on human rights documentation and has 725 subscribers. The huridocs-tech mailing list deals with the human rights implications of Information and Communication Technologies and has1200 subscribers.. Indi-health-l deals with health rights for indigenous peoples and has 77.

The Secretariat daily receives requests about HURIDOCS tools and training activities and it provides prompt responses to these requests.

In collaboration with various other Geneva-based NGOs, HURIDOCS developed the Website www.hrcouncil.info which provides easy access to information about human rights events in Geneva, and in particular allows following developments in the Human Rights Council.

3. Conference

HURIDOCS is preparing a conference for 2008. The theme of the Conference is: *International Criminal Court and Human Rights Council: the New Challenges for Human Rights Communications* and it will be followed by a General Assembly. During 2007, various preparations for this Conference were made. The concepts of the Conference were clarified, and discussions were held with SIM and the International Criminal Court.

Consultant Yves Lador completed a background paper on relevant developments with regard to Human Rights Council and International Criminal Court

Discussions were held with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights who is agreed to co-organise the Conference and with staff of the Registrar's Office of the International Criminal Court.

Project outline and information flyer for prospective participants were drafted and discussed, and applications for financial support were submitted to donors.

D. Centre of Excellence

  ❖ *HURIDOCS seeks to provide a centre of excellence on methods and techniques for human rights monitoring, documentation handling and information management*

For this purpose, HURIDOCS seeks to develop its Secretariat into a centre of excellence and a service provider by equipping it with staff with the requisite knowledge and expertise to attain its overall goal. This also involves the setting in place of procedures for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

1.   General Assembly

The Fifth General Assembly of HURIDOCS is scheduled to take place immediately after the Conference *International Criminal Court and Human Rights Council: the New Challenges for Human Rights Communications*

The HURIDOCS Continuation Committee and Secretariat elaborated the framework and contents of the General Assembly.

2.   Centre of Excellence

The key functions of the **Centre of Excellence** are to support the network, coordinate the programme, advise organisations, host interns, demonstrate tools, maintain a specialised library, be a help desk, promote information standards, demonstrate information management leadership, consult with the network, inform the network, respond to requests and implement Board policy and directives.

During 2007, the HURIDOCS Secretariat consisted of a full-time Programme Coordinator, Bert Verstappen, a full-time Training Officer, Daniel D'Esposito and a part-time Administrative Officer, Nejib Ghali.

Board member Agnethe Olesen provided ongoing coordination and organisational guidance to the Secretariat throughout 2007.

Evaluation

In response to a request by HURIDOCS' main donor, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, a review of HURIDOCS was held during the first half of 2007. This review aimed to assess the relevance and quality of HURIDOCS objectives, programmes, activities and products. It analysed the performance of HURIDOCS based on the Strategic and Action Plan 2004-2006.

The review was undertaken by Stener Ekern and Kristine Mesgrahl of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. The evaluation involved participation in the training course in Indonesia, visits to partners in Tunisia and Egypt and discussions with Board members and Secretariat staff.

The report of the reviewers contained nine valuable recommendations. These were taken into account by the Continuation Committee in developing the Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2012.

Strategic Plan

During 2007, the Continuation Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, drafted, discussed and approved the Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2012.

This plan briefly describes the importance of information handling for the protection and promotion of human rights. It continues with an overview of the key achievements of HURIDOCS over the period 2004 to 2007. The focus then shifts to the evolving context of HURIDOCS' work, describing the need for collaboration between civil society organisations and international organisations. Standards and tools for human rights documentation are required in a changing environment, and the capacities of human rights communities need to be strengthened through the HURIDOCS network.

This Plan contains four goals:

- Develop and Adapt Human Rights Information Handling Tools for Action
- Build Capacity and Empower organisation to manage information
- Link Human Rights Communities to foster synergies
- Provide Advisory and Support Services to sustain initiatives

III. Final Comment

XXXX Ask Kofi to draft something. Or send him something to approve. Draw on the strategic plan, the old harnessing booklet or something else. Again – use it to set HURIDOCS as a necessary player in the world of human rights.

The year 2008 will constitute the first year of the new Strategic Plan of HURIDOCS, covering the period 2008-2012. HURIDOCS will also carry out various activities in the four components of its programme, as described in the *Annual Strategic Plan 2008.*

Versoix, March 2008

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