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## MARKING THE 60 YEARS OF THE UDHR AROUND THE WORLD

### A YEAR LONG COMMEMORATION

The year long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was intended to be as inclusive as possible, highlighting the role of people everywhere as the custodians and beneficiaries of the UDHR. The commemoration, spearheaded by the Secretary General of the United Nations, encompassed the UN family, the public and private sectors, media, schools, artists and other representatives of civil society throughout the world. Beginning on Human Rights Day 2007, United Nations offices around the globe held a diverse range of creative events on different aspects of human rights. Here is a sample of their activities:

**Interactive Dialogues on Human Rights** - A monthly, interactive series of panel discussions at UN Headquarters in New York, on topics ranging from new media and human rights, to racism, the impact of counter-terrorism on human rights, and the global food crisis and the right to food. Demonstrating the truly international reach of the UDHR60 campaign, UN offices in Azerbaijan, Brazil, Congo Egypt, Greece, Paraguay and Russia, arranged seminars, conferences and roundtable discussions on issues from disability rights to the human rights-environment nexus.

**Conferences in Europe** - In Paris, the 61st DPI-NGO conference in September, titled "Reaffirming Human Rights for All", brought together more than 1100 NGO representatives from 66 countries. In Brussels, the "Defenders Take the Floor" conference in October, organized jointly by the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels, the European Parliament and the European Commission honoured human rights defenders around the world.

**The UN's Annual Student Conference on Human Rights, 2008** - The conference focused on the links between Climate Change and Human Rights and for the first time a parallel student conference was organized in Mexico with the participation of students throughout Latin America.

**Worldwide Exhibits** - Throughout the year exhibits were used to illustrate the rights enshrined in the UDHR. The "Sketching Human Rights" exhibit, featuring a collection of thought-provoking cartoons from a range of international cartoonists on the subject of human rights, opened in New York before travelling to Brussels, Vienna, Paris, and Geneva. Patras in Greece was home to an international painting exhibit on human rights while Brazzaville, Congo and Yerevan, Armenia both hosted local exhibitions. A photographic exhibit highlighting historical perspectives of as well as current challenges to human rights was shown in Prague, Czech Republic.

**"60 Years of Human Rights" Prize, Rio, Brazil** - In Brazil, the United Nations Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro awarded the "UN: 60 Years of Human Rights Prize" to five Brazilian journalists who have excelled in coverage of human rights issues in the local press over the last 30 years.

### OHCHR ACTIVITIES AROUND THE GLOBE

**Dignity and Justice for Detainees week, 6 – 12 October 2008** - As part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on all human rights partners worldwide to pay special attention to the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of persons deprived of their liberty in prisons and other places of detention.

OHCHR Field Presences and partners are also commemorating the 60th anniversary in many different ways. The following is a selection:

The South-East regional office in [Bangkok](#) conducted a survey with local residents in all parts of the country to assess how Thai citizens relate to the 30 articles of the UDHR. The regional office also facilitated workshops and launched a special publication entitled: *Dignity and Justice for All of Us: Our Voices are Heard in Thailand*; OHCHR- [Nepal](#) is organizing a marathon run between two remote villages of the Dhankuta district in remembrance of the victims who suffered gross human rights violations in the region; in [Timor-Leste](#), the first “Sergio Vieira de Mello-UNMIT Human Rights Awards” will be held in December. The award will be handed out by the President José Manuel Ramos to an individual, group or institution having made significant contribution to the cause of human rights in the country.

In [Macedonia](#), OHCHR has an essay competition on human rights for school children; in [Azerbaijan](#), OHCHR is organizing a commemorative event on 10 December 2008, where the winners of an essay competition for journalists and a drawing competition for children will be announced; In [Georgia](#), human rights trainings for journalists, legal practitioners and the judiciary took place throughout the year, under the auspices of OHCHR.

In [Côte d'Ivoire](#), the United Nations Peace Mission (ONUCI) established 80 human rights clubs in schools. TV and radio programmes on human rights were broadcast throughout the year.

OHCHR in [Guatemala](#) launched a campaign which included the “Declare” website with digital animation and media advertisements, among other activities; and in [Mexico](#), there were poster and video competitions, with a wide dissemination of the winning poster.

OHCHR [Palestine](#) and the Faculty of Law at An-Najah University hosted an open day forum to highlight the importance of the UDHR and mark its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Office also cooperated with the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) to organize a day of celebration in the streets of Gaza City.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2008

[United Nations General Assembly, New York](#) - On 10 December, the United Nations General Assembly will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration. At this meeting, the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights – awarded every five years – will be presented. Other activities on the anniversary will include the screening of *Stories on Human Rights*, followed by a panel discussion on the state of human rights 60 years after the adoption of this landmark document.

[Human Rights Council, Geneva](#) - On 12 December, the Human Rights Council will hold a commemorative session to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR. The morning segment will be dedicated to presentations of national, regional, and international initiatives launched on the occasion of the anniversary. The afternoon will be devoted to a high-level segment.

[Stories on Human Rights Films](#) - To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and a non-governmental organisation, Art for the World, commissioned a series of 22 short films created by some of the world's leading directors. *Stories on Human Rights* will be shown at events organised on 10 December in Geneva, New York and Paris, as well as many other locations across the world.

[Human Rights Day Concert, New York, 15 December 2008](#) - The Concert, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Spain, will feature a performance by the West-Eastern Divan Quintet, with celebrated pianist and Messenger of Peace, Mr. Daniel Barenboim.



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## STORIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY FILMMAKERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation, Art for the World, commissioned a series of short films by leading filmmakers and artists from around the world. The ambitious project includes an associated book featuring five Nobel Prize winners, and posters designed by arts students from more than 20 countries. *Stories on Human Rights* was made possible thanks to the commitment and creative support of many individuals, and the financial support of the European Union, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and Serviço Social do Comércio (SESC) in São Paulo, Brazil.

### THE FILMS

The films are of the highest cinema quality. Some are plainly-told stories of everyday lives while others take a more metaphoric approach. All are thought-provoking and ideal for triggering discussion about human rights. Educators and advocates everywhere will find among them suitable films for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The 22 short films have been made by leading filmmakers and video artists from 22 different countries. Filmmakers were invited to select from six cross-cutting themes arising from the UDHR: Culture, Development, Dignity and Justice, Environment, Gender and Participation. The films are in the director's original language and subtitled in the six official languages of the United Nations, as stand alone shorts of three minutes and compiled into a single 80 minute-long feature.

### THE BOOK

Works by 12 internationally-known writers, including five Nobel Prize winners, feature in a publication designed

to complement the films. Divided into the same six themes, the book includes interviews with the film directors, their film scripts and photographs taken during the making of the films, alongside the authors' works. The quality publication, produced and distributed by the publishing house Electa, will be available for sale in a limited number of retail outlets in various countries.

### THE POSTERS

Arts students in more than 20 countries have competed to have their winning poster designs based on the six themes selected for display in Geneva and New York. The competition has been developed and run by the New School of Fine Arts (NABA) in Milan through their international networks, to enable students to learn more about human rights and participate in the United Nations' international project.

### THE FILMMAKERS

The directors and video artists involved in the project are, by theme:

#### Culture

MARINA ABRAMOVIC – The Netherlands  
DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ-FOERSTER & ANGE LECCIA  
– France  
WALTER SALLES & DANIELA THOMAS – Brazil  
APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL – Thailand

#### Development

SERGEI BODROV – Russia  
MURALI NAIR – India  
IDRISSA OUÉDRAOGO – Burkina Faso

## Dignity and Justice

SHIRA GEFFEN & ETGAR KERET – Israel  
RUNA ISLAM – United Kingdom  
ABDERRAHMANE SISSAKO – Mauritania  
PABLO TRAPERO – Argentine  
BRAM SCHOUW – The Netherlands

## Environment

ZHANG KE JIA – China  
FRANCESCO JODICE – Italy  
PIPILOTTI RIST – Switzerland  
SARKIS – France

## Gender

ARMAGAN BALLANTYNE – New Zealand  
SAMAN SALOUR – Iran  
TERESA SERRANO – Mexico

## Participation

HANY ABU-ASSAD – Palestine  
CHARLES DE MEAUX – France  
JASMILA ŽBANIC – Bosnia



*Voyage* by Daniela Thomas



*Black Breakfast* by Zhang Ke Jia



*Glass Ceiling* by Teresa Serrano



*What about Me?* By Shira Geffen and Etgar Kerret



*Impasse* by Bram Schouw



*Participation* by Jasmila Zbanic



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## 2008 UNITED NATIONS PRIZE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On 10 December 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Prize will be awarded to individuals, groups or organizations in recognition of “outstanding achievements in the field of human rights”.

The prize was established in 1966 by the General Assembly and was first awarded on 10 December 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Past winners include Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King Jr. and Eleanor Roosevelt, who played a key role in creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Organizations that have won the prize include Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Mano River Women’s Peace Network in West Africa, while in 1998, the UN recognized the sacrifice and achievements of all human rights defenders across the globe.

In awarding the Prize, the UN is sending a clear message to those who stand for human rights and freedoms that the international community is grateful for and supports their tireless efforts to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The prizes are honorary in nature. Nominations are sought from Member States, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN and other appropriate sources.

Nominations are received by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and a consolidated list is presented to the Special Committee to select the winners. The five members of the Special Committee are: the President of the General Assembly; the President of the Economic and Social Council; the President of the Human Rights Council; the

Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council; and the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women.

### 2008 WINNERS

An award ceremony will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 10 December 2008 as part of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

See over for a list of previous recipients.

For more information on the UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights, please visit  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/hrprize2008.aspx>



## LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THE UN PRIZE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### FIRST AWARD - December 1968 - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Manuel Bianchi (Chile), Ambassador, Chairman of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- René Cassin (France), Original member of Human Rights Commission
- Chief Albert Luthuli (posthumously) (South Africa), President of the ANC
- Mehranguiz Manoutchehrian (Iran), Attorney/Legal Adviser and Senator
- Petr Emelyanovich Nedbailo (Ukraine), Member, Human Rights Commission
- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt (posthumously) (United States), First Lady, President of the Human Rights Commission

### SECOND AWARD - December 1973 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Dr. Taha Hussein (posthumously) (Egypt), Professor of Literature
- C. Wilfred Jenks (posthumously) (UK), Director-General of International Labour Office
- Maria Laval Urbina (Mexico), Lawyer, Professor
- Bishop Abel Muzorewa (Zimbabwe), President of the ANC, Bishop of United Methodist Church
- Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (Mauritius), Prime Minister of Mauritius
- U Thant (Myanmar), Secretary-General of the United Nations

### THIRD AWARD - December 1978 - 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Begum Ra'Ana Liaquat Ali Khan (Pakistan)
- Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan (Iran)
- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King (Posthumously) (USA)
- Mrs. Helen Suzman (South Africa)
- The International Committee of the Red Cross
- Amnesty International
- Vicaria de la Solidaridad (Chile)
- Union Nationale des femmes de Tunisie

### FOURTH AWARD - December 1988 - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Baba Murlidhar Devidas Amte (India), Lawyer
- John Humphrey (Canada) Director, United Nations Division of Human Rights
- Prof. Adam Lopatka (Poland), President, Supreme Court of Poland
- Bishop Leonidas Proaño (Ecuador)
- Nelson Mandela (South Africa)
- Winnie Mandela (South Africa)

### FIFTH AWARD - December 1993 - 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Mr. Hassib Ben Ammar (Tunisia), President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights
- Dr. Erica-Irene Daes (Greece), Chair/Rapporteur, Working Group on Indigenous Populations
- James Grant (USA), Executive Director of UNICEF
- The International Commission of Jurists
- The Medical Personnel of the Central Hospital of Sarajevo
- Dr. Sonia Picado Sotela (Costa Rica), Jurist, Vice President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Ganesh Man Singh (Nepal), Supreme Leader of the Nepali Congress
- The Sudanese Women's Union
- Father Julio Tumiri Javier (Bolivia), Founder and President, Permanent Assembly of Human Rights in Bolivia

### SIXTH AWARD - December 1998 - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Sunila Abeysekera (Sri Lanka), Director of Inform
- Angelina Acheng Atyam (Uganda), who has worked to secure the release of children in rebel captivity in Uganda
- Jimmy Carter (U.S.A.), former President of the United States
- Jose Gregori (Brazil), Head of the Brazilian National Secretariat for Human Rights
- Anna Sabatova (Czech Republic), one of the founding members of "Charter 77"
- A Prize was given in honour of all human rights defenders

### SEVENTH AWARD - December 2003 - 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Enriqueta Estela Barnes de Carlotto (Argentina), President of the Asociación Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo
- Deng Pufang (China), Founder and Director of the China Disabled Persons' Federation
- The Family Protection Project Management Team ( Jordan)
- Shulamith Koenig (USA), Executive Director of the People's Movement for Human Rights Education
- Mano River Women's Peace Network in West Africa (network of women's organizations from Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea)
- Sergio Vieira de Mello (Brazil), special posthumous award.



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## USEFUL TOOLS AND CONTACTS

### TOOLS

OHCHR webpage on the UDHR 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/60UDHRIntroduction.aspx>

The UDHR in more than 300 different languages:  
<http://www.unhcr.ch/udhr/>

A plain language version of the UDHR in French was developed by a Research Group of the University of Geneva, and then translated into English.  
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ABCAnnexesen.pdf>

The United Nations Cyberschoolbus: educational tools, about the United Nations and the UDHR, for teachers and pupils.  
<http://www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/index.asp>

Campaign materials, an information kit, an events calendar, cartoons on human rights and historical audiovisual resources on the Universal Declaration are available on the United Nations UDHR60 website in the six official UN languages. This site will become the website for Human Rights Day 2008 in early December, with the addition of new materials and a new home page. <http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/udhr60>

Know Your Rights.org - This dynamic website showcases anniversary events in Europe and beyond.  
<http://www.knowyourrights2008.org>

Defenders Take the Floor.org - Cartoons, videos and podcasts on human rights. "Defenders Take the Floor"  
<http://www.defendertakethefloor.org/>

The UDHR: an Historical Record of the Drafting Process. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/udhr/index.htm>

A photo gallery on the creation of UDHR is available on the OHCHR website <http://www.ohchr.org>.

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## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND THE UDHR

The international community increasingly acknowledges that human rights education produces far-reaching results. By promoting respect for human dignity and equality and participation in democratic processes, human rights education contributes to sustainable prevention of abuses and violent conflicts.

On 10 December 2008, the day the world celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations General Assembly will launch the International Year of Human Rights Learning. The International Year will be devoted to activities undertaken to broaden and deepen human rights education and learning and will provide an opportunity to strengthen initiatives within the ongoing World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005 – ongoing).

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Comprehensive human rights education, training and information not only provides knowledge about human rights and the mechanisms that protect them, but also imparts the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in every day life. Human rights education fosters the attitudes and behaviour needed to uphold human rights for all members of society, thus building a universal culture of human rights.

Human rights education activities should convey fundamental human rights principles, such as equality and non-discrimination, while affirming their interdependence, indivisibility and universality. At the same time, activities should relate to learners' real-life experiences and culture. Such activities create awareness and enable learners to identify and address their human rights needs and seek solutions consistent with human rights standards. Both content and methodology should reflect human rights values, encourage participation and be conducive to a learning environment free from want and fear.

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Provisions highlighting the importance of human rights education have been incorporated in many United Nations human rights instruments, including treaties, and in outcome documents of important international meetings.

To foster national action on human rights education, Member States also adopted various specific international programmes: the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (1988-ongoing), launched on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the UDHR, and the [United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education](#) (1995-2004), to encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive, effective and sustainable strategies at the national level.

At the end of the Decade, on 10 December 2004, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the [World Programme for Human Rights Education](#) (2005-ongoing) to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors. Unlike the limited time frame of the Decade, the World Programme is structured around five-year phases, the first of which covers the period 2005-2009 and focuses on the primary and secondary school systems. Developed by a broad group of education and human rights practitioners from all continents, the Plan of Action for the first phase proposes a concrete strategy and practical ideas for implementing human rights education nationally. It is based on the understanding that human rights education in the school system promotes a holistic, rights-based approach that includes both "human rights through education," ensuring that all areas of the educational system are conducive to the learning of human rights, and "human rights in education," ensuring that human rights are respected in the school environment.

## REAL STORIES

The role of human rights education in empowering people to uphold human rights can be better illustrated by real stories. The following are excerpted from “Schooling for Justice and Rights”, a publication documenting a grassroots human rights education programme in Indian schools<sup>1</sup>:

- Sundari is a 9<sup>th</sup> standard student in a secondary school of Thirunelveli, India. The people of her village despise and mistreat a woman because she is a widow. Because of the human rights education programme she has been attending at school, she decides to educate the community about their blind belief and the rights of women. She educates her family first and then her neighbours. As a result, the villagers begin showing respect and concern for the widow.

- Vanaja is a human rights-trained teacher in a government school of Chennai, India. She finds out that some of her students are employed as domestic servants in other teachers' homes. She sends a number of petitions to officials and meets the school headmaster to address this problem. The headmaster announces that he would take severe action against any teachers who would not put an end to this. And the children's school attendance quickly returns to normal.

More information is available on OHCHR's website at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/trainin g/index.htm>

### A few human rights instruments and documents related to human rights education:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 (article 26)
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965 (article 7)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (article 13)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 (article 10)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (article 29)
- The Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights - Vienna, 1993 (Part I, paragraphs 33-34 and Part II, paragraphs 78-82)
- The Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance - Durban, 2001 (Declaration, paragraphs 95-97 and Programme of Action, paragraphs 129-139)
- The World Summit Outcome – New York, 2005 (paragraph 131).

<sup>1</sup> People's Watch, “Schooling for Justice and Rights – Human Rights Education in Indian Schools: Building a Model”, Madurai 2008, page 82 and page 116.