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**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

**Public information activities in the field of human rights, including
the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights**

Report of the Secretary-General*

* This report is submitted late so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 2003/62, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-first session a report on public information activities, with special emphasis on the activities relating to the World Public Information Campaign.
2. The World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights was launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, with the objectives of increasing understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and educating the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and freedoms and the efforts of the United Nations to realize them.
3. The coordination of the United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights was specifically mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, as part of the mandate of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
4. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly stressed the importance she attaches to the implementation of activities for increasing awareness of human rights among the general public. To meet this objective she has announced a number of reforms that will strengthen the Office, including the abolishment of the External Relations Branch within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Communications and NGO Partnership and Media Units have been respectively renamed the Public Affairs and Public Information Units. Both units report directly to the Deputy High Commissioner.
5. The present report supplements information and estimates provided in the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/56/271). Further information about other educational activities in the field of human rights undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, is available in the relevant report of the High Commissioner to the Commission (E/CN.4/2004/93).

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Publications programme

6. The goal of the publications programme of the Office is to raise awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to publicize ways of promoting and protecting them at the international level. Another aim is to encourage debate on human rights issues under discussion in United Nations bodies.
7. Since the last report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2003/99), the demand for OHCHR publications has increased considerably. During the reporting period, the Office has distributed more than 170,000 copies of human rights publications, in addition to the 2,000 copies of each publication that is regularly distributed by the Distribution Section at the United Nations Office at Geneva through the mailing list established jointly by OHCHR and the Distribution Section. OHCHR also considerably increased the number of publications available on its web site.

1. Fact Sheets

8. The Fact Sheet Series consists of booklets that deal with topical human rights issues and explain the structure and procedures of United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies and special mechanisms. The goal is to help readers understand basic human rights and the international machinery that has been established to promote and protect them. All Fact Sheets are available on the OHCHR web site, thereby contributing to their dissemination, a reduction in print runs and a rationalization of costs.

9. During the reporting period, Fact Sheet No. 4 (Rev.1), *Combating Torture*, was issued in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, and No. 7 (Rev.1), *Complaint Procedures*, was published in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Fact Sheet No. 15, *Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee*, was also revised. The English version is already available on the web site and is expected to be published in hard-copy form in the six official languages. Fact Sheet No. 24, *The Rights of Migrant Workers*, was issued in Arabic. Furthermore, one new Fact Sheet was prepared: No. 29, *Human Rights Defenders: Protecting the Right to Defend Human Rights*, which was issued in all official languages.

2. Training and educational material

10. The Professional Training Series consists of handbooks and manuals intended to increase awareness of international standards and is directed at target audiences selected for their ability to influence the human rights situation at the national level. Although primarily designed to support the training activities of the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme, these publications also serve as practical tools for organizations that provide human rights education to professional groups.

11. During the period under review the following items of the series were published: No. 5, *Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Manual on Human Rights Training for the Police* (in Arabic); No. 5/Add.2, *Human Rights and Law Enforcement: A Trainer's Guide on Human Rights for the Police* (in all official languages); No. 5/Add.3, *Human Rights Standards and Practice for the Police: Expanded Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police* (in all official languages); No. 8/Rev.1, *Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (in Arabic, Chinese, English and Russian; French and Spanish translations are under preparation); and No. 9, *Human Rights in the Administration of Justice: A Manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers* (in English).

12. Within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, which consists of materials aimed at supporting general human rights education efforts by all partners, a revised version of *ABC: Teaching Human Rights - Practical Activities for Primary and Secondary Schools* was issued in English and French. Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish versions are planned.

3. Special issue papers

13. Special issue papers explore selected issues in greater depth. Issues are chosen in the light of their topicality, urgency and recent developments which have led to a change of

perspective or emphasis that demands closer analysis. Several special issue papers were published in the period under review: *Human Rights and Disability: The current use and future potential of United Nations human rights instruments in the context of disability* (in French and Spanish); *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking* (in Arabic, Chinese and Russian); *Abolishing Slavery and its Contemporary Forms* (in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish); *Digest of jurisprudence of the United Nations and regional organizations on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism* (in English); *Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: A Conceptual Framework* (in English, French and Spanish); and *Embedding Human Rights into Business Practice* (jointly with the United Nations Global Compact, in English).

4. Reference material

14. The OHCHR reference publications give researchers and human rights law practitioners access to key human rights instruments and other essential information. The material includes jurisprudence from human rights treaty bodies. In this regard, a revised version of the OHCHR flagship publication *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments, vol. I, Universal Instruments* was issued in the six official languages. To provide efficient, fast and user-friendly access to international instruments through search functions, the *Compilation* was also issued in CD-ROM form. In addition, volume 3 of *Selected Decisions of the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol* was issued in French, Russian and Spanish; volume 4 was issued in English and is currently being translated into French, Russian and Spanish.

5. Promotional material

15. The purpose of promotional material is to inform the general public about United Nations work in the field of human rights. It provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about the United Nations human rights programme as well as information on how to use the system to address human rights violations. In this context, *OHCHR: An introduction to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, was published in French and Spanish and is expected to be issued in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. In addition, *Human Rights in Action - Promoting and Protecting Rights around the World* was issued in English, French and Spanish. Furthermore, the cartoon booklet *HIV/AIDS: Stand Up for Human Rights* was published jointly with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization in English.

B. Use of electronic means

16. The OHCHR Internet site is an indispensable tool for human rights information users worldwide. To facilitate both developing and developed countries being informed about the United Nations human rights issues and activities, the servers have been upgraded to take advantage of the latest technology. The log shows that the number of visitors to the site has increased constantly.

17. OHCHR has continued to expand the content of its Internet site in order to reach out to a wider audience. The human rights information has been recategorized into the situation of human rights worldwide, human rights issues, international human rights instruments, human rights bodies and the Secretariat, in order to provide easier navigation for users and cover a broader range of human rights topics.

18. The Office is committed to making the contents of its web site available to all, including those with disabilities. In this connection, OHCHR has designed the Internet pages in accordance with international accessibility recommendations.

19. Understanding that multilingual development is a key to delivering human rights information, OHCHR has developed a document management system which allows users to access the United Nations human rights documents in all six official languages. The system is associated with the Internet pages and the search functions with a straightforward means of finding relevant information.

C. Media liaison

20. The Office has continued to strengthen its capacity to communicate the human rights message through the media. OHCHR staff responsible for media liaison brief the international press regularly on the activities of the Office and on the human rights programme in general. The media liaison staff also participates in elaborating the communications strategy of OHCHR; drafts press statements; organizes media events for the High Commissioner; assists the special procedures mechanisms and the treaty bodies with their media liaison needs; and helps draft and place opinion pieces and other articles in major international publications.

21. Among activities of note undertaken by OHCHR staff, in the spring of 2003, the Media Liaison Unit assisted in the drafting, translation and placement of an article by the High Commissioner - "Only Member States can make the UN work" - in over 50 newspapers worldwide, including *The Wall Street Journal* (United States), *El País* (Spain), *Al Ahram* (Egypt), *La Croix* (France) and *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* (Russia). In 2003 and 2004, the Unit worked with the Treaties and Commission Branch in three seminars to train journalists from around the world on the work of treaty bodies.

D. Public outreach programmes

1. Briefings

22. The Communications and NGO Partnerships Unit regularly organizes briefings for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, academics, professors and non-governmental organizations. It also provides lecturers for briefings organized by the United Nations Information Service in Geneva. The number of briefings delivered by OHCHR staff during the reporting period has increased since the previous biennium to 93. In addition to conducting the briefings in English, French and Spanish, capacity has been established to conduct briefings in Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

23. As part of the Office's overall outreach efforts for the 2003-2004 biennium, the communications staff organized three exhibits showcasing human rights themes. Two of the exhibits were organized in conjunction with Human Rights Day 2003 and were opened in the Palais Wilson on 10 December. The first was an exhibit of posters on human rights themes by students of the Bulgarian National Art Academy, and the second was an exhibit to honour both the past and the 2003 winners of the United Nations Human Rights Prize. The exhibits were on

display at the Palais Wilson for up to six months. To raise awareness of the issue of torture, the third exhibit was a showcase of works of art by victims of torture and was displayed in the Palais Wilson from June through July 2003.

24. During the reporting period, the Office's outreach capacity has been enhanced through the design and production of basic information and visual communications materials targeted at the general public. The basic information materials are complementary to the substantive publications produced by the Office and seek to provide the general public with an introductory understanding of the work of the Office in the promotion and protection of all human rights for all. The communications staff produced and distributed a flyer on the Commission on Human Rights in the six official languages for the sixtieth session. A general information flyer on the work of the Office has been conceived and designed for distribution in the six official languages.

25. Other promotional materials have also been designed and produced by the communications staff, including:

- A full range of OHCHR souvenirs, which are available for purchase at the United Nations Office, Geneva;
- A human rights calendar for 2005 in English and French;
- A series of human rights thematic posters, each in the six official languages, which was dispatched to all United Nations information centres (UNICs), United Nations resident coordinators and OHCHR field presences in advance of Human Rights Day 2003;
- Human Rights Day banners were also produced and displayed in Geneva and New York on Human Rights Day 2003 and 2004. These banners were also utilized for special meetings and panel discussions.

26. Since the last report to the General Assembly, the communications staff developed and implemented plans around the observation of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. In 2004, the Office commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, and the International Day of the World's Indigenous People and organized various parallel events at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

27. Human Rights Day activities in 2003 focused on the theme "Know your human rights". The communications team planned and implemented several events both in Geneva and in New York to commemorate the day, as well as the following milestones: tenth anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights; tenth anniversary of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The communications staff also organized the nomination procedure, the collation of nomination by Member States, NGOs and individuals, and the preparation of the awards ceremony on Human Rights Day in New York for the International Human Rights Prize 2003. In 2004, Human Rights day was devoted to human rights education.

To commemorate the end of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and as a prelude to Human Rights Day activities, the communications staff organized, in November, with the United Nations Postal Administration, the unveiling of a commemorative stamp series. In addition to planning and implementing observance activities in New York, the communications team conceived and developed a Human Rights Day web page on the Office's web site and provided global support to UNICs, resident coordinators and OHCHR field presences for their various Human Rights Day observances.

28. Over the biennium 2003-2004, the communications staff worked on two special projects. As part of the working group at the United Nations Office at Geneva for the commemoration of the 19 August 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, the communications staff contributed to conceiving, planning and organizing a peace concert in Geneva. The communications staff also coordinated the Office's substantive participation in Forum Barcelona 2004, the first Universal Forum of Cultures, which entailed developing a human rights-oriented communications strategy in the framework of the Forum, including public service announcements, human rights exhibits and other communications materials.

29. The communications staff also worked closely with the host country on several outreach activities aimed at raising awareness of the work of the Office in the promotion and protection of all human rights for all during the reporting period. Among other activities, the communications staff set up and staffed a human rights information stand at the International Open Door event marking the opening of the Geneva stadium. The communications staff took an active part in planning the exhibit organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland "*Être. Les droits de l'homme à travers l'art*" during the sixtieth session of the Commission. In addition, the communications staff also organized, with the Geneva state and cantonal authorities, the *Vigne des Nations* event, honouring OHCHR.

3. Internship programme

30. During the reporting period, OHCHR, participating in the United Nations internship programme, offered internships to 139 graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations activities and procedures in the field of human rights.

31. Internships are awarded without financial commitment of any kind on the part of OHCHR or the United Nations bodies.

4. Training courses and other technical cooperation activities with a public information element

32. An account of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by OHCHR is given in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/2005/110).

II. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

33. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat implemented a multitude of public information activities within the framework of the World Public Information Campaign and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004. This work was also

carried out within the framework of three other ongoing decades: the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993-2003; the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, 1995-2004; and the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 1997-2006. The Department carried out information programmes in such related areas as economic, cultural and social rights, the rights of specific groups, the question of Palestine, decolonization, the advancement of women and international law.

34. The Department's coverage of United Nations human rights activities, as well as worldwide distribution of relevant human rights information materials, was ensured through a multimedia approach, which included: the production of printed materials regarding United Nations work in the field of human rights; making material available on the United Nations web site; radio and television programmes; press conferences, press briefings and special media outreach activities; exhibits; special events and activities with educational and non-governmental organizations; and public services for visitors and people with queries. Information materials were produced in the six official languages of the United Nations and disseminated worldwide, including through the worldwide network of the United Nations information centres and services, the regional United Nations information centres and other United Nations offices. Many materials were also adapted into local languages.

35. Examples of activities undertaken by the Department during January 2003 to December 2004 are given below.

36. Press releases generated from United Nations Headquarters in New York and from the United Nations Information Centre in Geneva covering United Nations meetings and activities on human rights issues were produced and distributed in English and French in hard copy and electronically to the network of information centres and services. These press releases are primarily intended for the media and delegations, as well as for other audiences, including government officials, non-governmental organizations and academia. The press releases were also posted on the United Nations web site, which, as of 10 December 2004, averaged about 8.8 million hits and about 1.2 million page views per day.

37. The human rights site on the Internet (www.un.org/rights) is directly accessible from the main pages of the United Nations web site (www.un.org), which is updated and maintained by the Department of Public Information in most of the official languages. Comprehensive information on human rights and important links to other human rights material on the web are also accessible from the main web page, under the rubric "Issues on the UN Agenda". Through the United Nations News Centre on the Web (www.un.org/news), the Department provided regular coverage of United Nations-related human rights stories, including the work of the United Nations human rights bodies as well as the activities of and statements by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The news web site is updated several times a day by the Department.

38. The Department's educational outreach is being enhanced largely through innovative electronic communications. The Global Teaching and Learning Project, created in 1996 to produce educational materials for schools, is now participating in an increasing number of online educational partnerships. The Project's popular web site, United Nations CyberSchoolBus (www.un.org/CyberSchoolBus), continues to engage students around the world. For example, the total number of countries reached each month by the CyberSchoolBus site in 2003

averaged 140. The online site for young people and educators contains student briefing papers on various topics, including human rights. The special section on “Human Rights in Action” contains the complete text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as a “plain language” version and a question-and-answer section.

39. One of the largest online projects on human rights ever conducted was carried out by the Department in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society. This was the World Summit Event for Schools organized by the DPI Global Teaching and Learning Project from September to December 2003 (in partnership with the European Schoolnet). It consisted of online activities for schools around the world on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and human rights. A total of 880 schools in over 80 countries registered for this event. In addition, the World Summit Event for Schools held a live interaction between students (from Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Turkey, and Uganda), the President of Romania, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). This interaction focused on ICTs and human rights and was webcast on the United Nations CyberSchoolBus web site.

40. Human rights is an issue frequently addressed in the course of the guided tours of United Nations Headquarters. For the period January 2003 to October 2004, the Group Programmes Unit of the Department organized 71 in-house briefings, five outside speaking engagements and four videoconferences, reaching a total audience of 4,624 people.

41. The *Yearbook of the United Nations*, published each year in English by the Department of Public Information, devotes a separate three-chapter section to human rights questions in each volume, covering the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, intergovernmental bodies, special rapporteurs and special representatives and experts dealing with human rights issues, as well as related action by the United Nations Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The *Yearbook* is a sales publication with a print run of 3,500 copies, of which 900 are given free to Governments, senior United Nations officials and depository libraries. It is also produced as a CD-ROM.

42. During the reporting period, the magazine *Africa Renewal* (formerly *Africa Recovery*), produced by the Department in English and French, carried more than 30 articles relating to human rights in Africa on such topics as the rights of indigenous peoples and of peoples infected with HIV/AIDS. A cover story on how the new African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights will strengthen the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and promote the continent’s principal human rights manifesto, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Other articles featured work to achieve gender equality, human rights violations in the Sudan and, on the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, the Secretary-General’s challenge to the international community to take steps to prevent any recurrence of genocide anywhere in the world. The magazine continued to give comprehensive coverage to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), which places a high priority on human rights.

43. *Africa Renewal* is issued four times a year, with a print run of 24,000 copies in English and 10,000 in French. Slightly more than half of the copies go to readers in Africa, and the rest are distributed primarily in Europe, Asia and the United States. The publication is highly regarded across the spectrum of its recipients, which include the media, NGOs, academics,

humanitarian aid agencies, United Nations system personnel, African policy makers and opinion shapers, economists and other experts on Africa. The Department also maintains the Africa Renewal web site in English and French (www.un.org/AR).

44. The magazine *UN Chronicle* is issued four times a year in English and French, and, since the beginning of 2002, also in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish in print editions, and in English and French online. During the reporting period, a number of articles appeared which were devoted to human rights, including: “Who Is Afraid of Human Rights”, one of the Secretary-General’s lecture series. Other topics included: the illicit diamond trade in Africa; combating impunity and transitional justice in the aftermath of mass atrocities; the rights of persons with disabilities; awarding of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize to Shirin Ebadi for her efforts in the struggle for the rights of women and children; the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly; truth and reconciliation commissions; interview with the Secretary-General of Amnesty International; xenophobia; and promoting democracy. Online articles covered the meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; where the world stands regarding capital punishment; and women, democracy and Islam.

45. The “UN Works” Programme expands public understanding of the role human rights and development play in the experience of real people around the world. Via original television programming, educational and media outreach, a multilanguage web site and other communications products and activities, “UN Works” brings United Nations objectives to a global audience. The Programme’s 10-part TV series explored human rights issues, including religious intolerance, children’s rights, indigenous rights and the right to development, through personal stories of individual children. Each 30-minute programme is hosted by a celebrity, including Michael Douglas, Susan Sarandon, Meg Ryan, Danny Glover, Laurence Fishburne, Tim Robbins and Angelina Jolie. The series is being marketed to schools worldwide. The “UN Works” also partnered with the Discovery Channel to broadcast 20 television spots on the rights of indigenous people and cultural diversity.

46. Dissemination of human rights publications is enhanced through the promotional activities of the Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information. Publications have been featured in exhibits at professional conferences, as well as in advertisements in journals such as *Human Rights Quarterly*, and included in catalogues and other brochures. Catalogues and flyers are sent to academics, institutions, NGOs and interested members of the public, and review copies are sent to journals and magazines. As new publications are released, they are also featured on the United Nations publications web site and posted as listings with commercial Internet sites, such as Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. In addition, the United Nations Bookshop maintains a large section devoted to human rights issues where it promotes titles of both United Nations and other commercial and non-profit publishers.

47. The Department’s television, photo and radio activities relating to human rights included regular coverage of statements by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights before the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies. UNPHOTO also provided coverage of press conferences, including those by the High Commissioner, as well as special events organized at Headquarters on the subject of human rights. UNTV and UNPHOTO products are sent to news redisseminators, such as the Associated Press and AP TV, Reuters and Reuters TV, and Agence France Presse. Coverage is provided with due regard to meeting the

deadlines of the Department's news and broadcast clients around the world. *World Chronicle* TV programmes, which include human rights stories, are distributed to a number of English-speaking countries, such as the United States, where a large audience is exposed to United Nations issues and activities. The UNTV series in five languages, UN in Action, which also runs human rights stories, is distributed to broadcasters in more than 100 countries and is shown on the weekly programme CNN World Report.

48. Through its partner networks in all regions of the world, UN Radio news reaches tens of millions of listeners. During the reporting period, UN Radio continued to cover various aspects of human rights issues and related issues in its news bulletins and current affairs magazines in various languages. A wide range of topics were addressed.

49. The observance of Human Rights Day in New York, Geneva and at other United Nations Offices provided an important opportunity for the Department of Public Information to promote the work of the United Nations on human rights issues. Activities in observance of other special days related to human rights were organized by the Department at Headquarters and by UNICs and UNISs around the world, including World Press Freedom Day (1 May), International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June), International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August), International Women's Day (8 March), International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), International Day for Tolerance (16 November), and World AIDS Day (1 December). In 2003, the Department and the Courtroom Television Network (United States) organized a one-hour programme entitled "We Are Family: Educating Our Children for a Safer World" in observance of International Day for Tolerance. The event was co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the We Are Family Foundation, the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and Operation Respect. In 2004, the Department and the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs co-sponsored a panel discussion in observance of World Press Freedom Day on the theme "Freedom of expression in cyberspace".

50. During the reporting period, the NGO Section of the Department regularly included human rights issues in its NGO Briefing Programme and in its annual DPI/NGO conferences. In September 2003, the fifty-sixth annual conference, held under the theme "Human security and dignity: fulfilling the promise of the United Nations", included a panel discussion on "Educating for a secure future, from oppression to empowerment". In 2004, the fifty-seventh annual conference, held under the theme "Millennium Development Goals: civil society takes action", featured a panel on strategies to overcome obstacles and another on making the goals relevant. Some 1,800 people from all over the world attend the annual conferences.

51. In 2003 and 2004, NGO briefings were organized by the Department on such topics as: gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals (in observance of International Women's Day); perspectives on migration and discrimination (in observance of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination); the impact of rights-based strategies on children; indigenous women; girls and technology; the persistence of slavery: A Focus on Human Trafficking (in observance of the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition); and women, violence and HIV/AIDS (in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women).

52. In 2003 and 2004, a total of 21 participants in the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme (formerly the Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries) were briefed on "The United Nations and human rights" by a representative from OHCHR. They were also briefed on "The United Nations and indigenous issues". The participants in both sessions paid visits to Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Committee to Protect Journalists where they were briefed, and attended an advanced workshop at Columbia University, which included a briefing on "Human rights and the media".

53. The Department's annual Training Programme for Palestinian Media Practitioners, which was attended by a total of 14 participants in 2003 and 2004, included a human rights workshop at OHCHR headquarters at Geneva and briefings by representatives of Human Rights Watch and academic institutions in New York and Washington, DC.

A. Activities of the United Nations Information Service at the United Nations Office at Geneva

54. The United Nations Information Service at the United Nations Office at Geneva bears a special responsibility for promoting human rights, given its close proximity to OHCHR and consequent involvement in the work of OHCHR, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the majority of the sessions of the six human rights treaty bodies meeting in Geneva. The Service continues to provide on a sustained basis in-depth public information support for all aspects of the human rights programme. This includes: issuing press releases on human rights matters and, in particular, providing English- and French-language press coverage of their meetings; providing radio and television coverage of the above-mentioned bodies; the holding of regular briefings for the Geneva-based press; and organizing briefings for NGOs, university students and the public.

55. During the reporting period, the Information Service continued to promote human rights issues both in its ongoing work and by undertaking special projects relating to specific events. Chief among the events were the memorials for the late High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and other fallen United Nations staff who were victims of the 19 August 2003 bombing of United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. In the wake of the bombing, the Service organized a press briefing on 20 August 2003 by Bertrand Ramcharan, Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights. Thirty press releases and summaries were issued in English and French and the Service responded to many press queries. The Service's Press, Radio and Television sections covered events surrounding the Baghdad bombing and its aftermath extensively. UN Radio/Geneva made arrangements to receive, record and transmit within the Palais des Nations the major developments at United Nations Headquarters concerning the attack, including remarks by the Secretary-General and members of the Security Council. Support was provided to the Secretary-General who was in Geneva to lead the commemoration ceremonies taking place simultaneously in New York and Amman on 19 August 2004 to mark the first anniversary of the bombing in Baghdad.

56. The Service issued the address of the Secretary-General at the observance in all six official languages and his remarks at the evening's peace concert. UNTV provided live coverage for television broadcasters, which was transmitted live through the Eurovision network to 60 television stations throughout Europe as well as to the Middle East and North Africa. The

ceremony was also fed by videoconference to 18 United Nations duty stations, some of which re-transmitted it to their field offices. The audio was transmitted live to UN Radio New York and to the local English-language station World Radio Geneva. The United Nations provided pool photos to the major agencies as well. Audio tributes to the 22 victims of the tragedy were recorded and edited in the UN Radio studio.

57. The forty-first Graduate Study Programme, organized annually by the Information Service with substantive input from OHCHR on the human rights segment of the programme, took place from 7 to 25 July 2003. A total of 94 students representing 42 Member States participated in the Programme, under the theme "Proposed new ways and means to strengthen the United Nations capacity for collective action". A total of 63 students representing 33 Member States participated in the forty-second Graduate Study Programme which took place from 5 to 23 July 2004 under the theme "The United Nations and partnerships for peace".

58. The Information Service carried out a number of activities to mark international days, including International Day of the World's Indigenous People, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and International Day of Disabled Persons.

59. Radio and television continued to cover human rights extensively. The Information Service also facilitated coverage and provided production and transmission facilities for accredited journalists as well as for broadcasters in different parts of the world for interviews with senior human rights officials. This included the production at the Palais des Nations of a BBC World "Hard Talk" programme with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and a number of live television interviews. Coverage of the participation of senior government officials in human rights meetings was provided on request to national television stations. Between January 2003 and November 2004, 267 radio reports and 199 television reports on various human rights activities and events were produced and transmitted to UN Radio in New York and to major national and international broadcasters and broadcast agencies, such as the European Broadcasting Union, Reuters TV and AP TV.

60. In January 2003, a UNTV team covered the mission of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The television pictures were used widely in news and documentary programmes on human rights.

61. The April 2003 edition of the Place des Nations television magazine programme was devoted to human rights. The programme was broadcast by television stations in francophone Africa, cable stations in Switzerland and neighbouring France, and Channel 78 in New York.

62. During the reporting period, the Information Service organized 85 press conferences related to human rights. Among them was the first press conference by Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights, after taking up her new post in early July 2004.

63. The Service maintained its home page in English and French, giving prominence to human rights developments, and continued its collaboration with the Internet team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

64. The Visitors' Service covers human rights in each of its tours. The 50-minute-long tour devotes about five minutes to this subject, and guides are frequently asked questions about human rights. Guides explain to visitors the different types of human rights; the mechanisms; the work of the treaty bodies in monitoring States' compliance with their obligations; the work of OHCHR; and current priorities, such as the fight against trafficking in human beings. Ten briefings on human rights were organized for groups of students in conjunction with a guided tour.

65. During the reporting period, the Public Relations Section organized 39 seminars that included a human rights lecture as part of an information programme on the work of the United Nations tailored to the needs of students, diplomats and NGOs.

66. During the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 2003, the Information Service acted as moderator for 15 briefings organized by OHCHR and given by special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and mandate holders to all accredited participants in the Commission on Human Rights, with particular emphasis on NGOs; and during the sixtieth session in 2004, the Service moderated 14 such briefings.

B. Activities of the United Nations Information Service at the United Nations Office at Vienna

67. The United Nations Information Service at the United Nations Office at Vienna translated into German and placed an op-ed piece by the late United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, in the leading Austrian daily, *Der Standard* on 2 May 2003. Under the heading "Did the UN really fail?" the author argued for strengthening the links between human security and human rights to increase the United Nations efficiency in conflict prevention.

68. During an open house event on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna International Centre, the promotion of human rights was addressed by various information stands (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and NGOs). The open house day on 26 October 2004 attracted close to 15,000 visitors.

69. The topic of human rights is a regular part of the guided tour and lecture programme. The issue of human rights is discussed particularly in the context of lectures on human trafficking. Since January 2003, the Service, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, delivered 11 lectures on that issue. Moreover, the issue of human rights is always included in all general lectures on the United Nations as well as in the lectures on United Nations reform, the role of the United Nations in international affairs, and peacekeeping, which are given by the Service's desk officer for Hungary.

70. One lecture per year, requested from the Information Service by the Boltzman Institute for visiting United States students, focuses specifically on human rights. The Service's Slovene desk officer gave a presentation at the international seminar "Women in Migration and Vulnerability for Trafficking in Human Beings", organized in Slovenia (one of the four client countries of the Service) from 10 to 13 June 2004 by the East-East Cooperation Centre.

71. On the occasion of the annual observance of Human Rights Day, the Director of the Information Service read out the message of the Secretary-General during a panel discussion on the topic "Human rights and change - the challenges of our time", organized by the Vienna Bruno Kreisky Fora for International Dialogue and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) on 9 December 2004.

72. UNIS Vienna worked with its traditional partner in Hungary, the United Nations Association of Hungary, to mark Human Rights Day in Budapest on 10 December 2004. The United Nations Association organized a special discussion forum with keynote speaker, Matyas Eorsi, the head of the Hungarian parliamentary committee for European affairs. He reviewed the role of the EU in promoting human rights. The discussion following the keynote speech focused on the work of the United Nations in setting the stage for the advance work by the EU in human rights legislation.

73. UNIS Vienna was an active participant in the discussions. UNIS was also responsible for the Hungarian-language translation of the Secretary-General's message, which was distributed at the event and also sent out to non-participating media. The event was attended by over 50 representatives of NGOs, academia, government institutions and media.

C. Activities of other United Nations information centres and United Nations Offices

74. During the reporting period, a total of 2,386 activities related to human rights issues were carried out by the worldwide network of United Nations information centres and United Nations Offices. Selected examples of such activities are described below.

75. The United Nations Information Centre in Algeria organized a seminar on the theme "Human rights and fundamental freedoms" for teachers and students of the Algiers Faculty of Law. The United Nations Information Centre in Paraguay organized briefings and seminars on human rights for military officers and police officers, and organized a seminar on women and child rights and a seminar on the culture of peace and human rights. Support for a seminar on human rights organized by the Human Rights Commission of the Argentine Senate was provided by the United Nations Information Centre in Argentina. The National Information Officer at the United Nations Information Centre in Sri Lanka gave a lecture on "The role of the United Nations in compilation and codification of human rights conventions and instruments and the promotion of human rights". The Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Zimbabwe was the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities, where she presented a paper on "Human dignity and social justice from the United Nations point of view". The United Nations Information Centre in Italy provided guidance and sponsored an art contest on the rights of the child and inaugurated an exhibit of paintings, essays and poems by students. A lecture on international instruments to promote human rights and the fight against terrorism was organized by the United Nations Office in Kazakhstan.

76. Media outreach activities included radio interviews by the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Information Centre in Bangladesh on Human Rights Day in 2003; articles entitled "Child trafficking rampant in Africa" and "Rights threatened in combating terror" written by an information officer at the United Nations Information Centre in Kenya, which were

published in the *Daily Nation*; an interview by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Nigeria with African Independent Television on the subject of children's rights, the impact of war on children and United Nations efforts to rehabilitate children in countries emerging from armed conflict; an interview by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in the Russian Federation on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People; and a TV interview by a staff member of the United Nations Information Office in Armenia on the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition.

77. A number of United Nations information centres and Offices undertook activities to promote Human Rights Day. Examples include a lecture on human rights issues given to students of the Eurasian National University by the United Nations Office in Kazakhstan; a workshop on "Human rights in the Arab world" and a conference on human rights issues and on the rights of women in the Arab world, organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Egypt; a round table organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Bangladesh for editors and senior journalists from national dailies and electronic media; a seminar on the theme "Know your human rights" organized by the United Nations Information Centre in India; a special event entitled "Human Rights Day in St. Petersburg" organized by the United Nations Information Centre in the Russian Federation; a workshop on human rights oriented towards high school teachers and the general public by the United Nations Information Centre in Panama; a seminar on the International Criminal Court by the United Nations Information Centre in Trinidad and Tobago; a PowerPoint presentation by the United Nations Information Centre in Morocco on "The human rights-based approach to programming and results"; a national seminar on the status of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations Information Centre in Yemen; and round table discussions on human rights and sustainable development (United Nations Information Centre in Tunisia) and on human rights education (United Nations Office in Armenia).

78. Activities were also carried out to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Day of the World's Indigenous People and the International Day for Tolerance.

79. United Nations information centres and Offices provided assistance and logistical support and generated publicity for visiting United Nations officials, including several special rapporteurs (United Nations Information Centres in Turkey, Thailand, Colombia, Romania, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Georgia). The United Nations Information Centre in Egypt organized press conferences for the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories during its visits to Egypt in June 2003 and June 2004. Staff at the United Nations Information Centres in Pakistan, France and the United States of America provided assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights during his visits in 2003.
