



Police and Human Rights Program (PHRP)

Amnesty International – Dutch Section
Update December 2008

Dear friends,

This PHRP-update is sent around to those working within the field of Police and Human Rights - both within and outside Amnesty International (AI). Please forward it to anyone you know who may find it interesting.

In this 'PHRP update' you will find:

1. *Understanding Policing: A resource for human rights activists* is now available in Bahasa Indonesia and Brazilian Portuguese
2. 'Police and human rights training for human rights defenders
3. Expert meeting on policing high crime and violence communities, Amsterdam, summer 2009
4. Publication 'Understanding Transitional Policing'
5. What is the Police and Human Rights Program?
6. Recent publications

Please let us know if you have any information that may be relevant for others working in the field of Police and Human Rights so that we can include this in our next 'update'.

If you do not wish to stay on this mailing list or if you wish to receive it on another e-mail address please send an e-mail to phrp@amnesty.nl.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of Anneke Osse and myself,

Quirine Eijkman

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1. *Understanding Policing: A Resource for Human Rights Activists* Is Now Translated!

Most of you will know of the resource book published last year: *Understanding Policing; a resource for human rights activists*. We are pleased to inform you the resource book has now been translated into Russian, Spanish, Portuguese (Brazilian) and *Bahasa Indonesia*. The usefulness of translating the resource into other languages, including French and Arabic, is currently explored.

Bahasa Indonesia: A hard copy is available with Kontras (<http://www.kontras.org/>)

Brazilian Portuguese: The Portuguese version is ready for printing. If you're interested in receiving a copy, or know of others who might be interested, please send us the postal address so that we can organize for its delivery (phrp@amnesty.nl).

English: The book is available with the Police and Human Rights Program. Please contact phrp@amnesty.nl if you wish to receive a copy. You can also download the full text from our website at www.amnesty.nl/policeandhumanrights

Spanish: The book is available with AI Paraguay (<http://www.amnistia.org.py/>) if you wish to receive a copy. You can also download the full text from our website at www.amnesty.nl/policeandhumanrights

Russian: A hard copy is available with Amnesty International's Russia Resource Centre (www.amnesty.org.ru). The full text of the Russian version is available at <http://www.amnesty.org.ru/pages/policing2007-hre-rus>

Feel free to share the resource with others you know who may value its contents. Moreover, please do inform us if you know of human rights activists and / or other NGOs working on policing who may find receiving a copy useful.

2. Training for Human Rights Defenders on Policing

This year we have carried out several training sessions for human rights advocates working on policing issues – or planning to start doing so. We have run sessions for staff of AI Sections such as AI Mauritius. We have also conducted other sessions, for example in Indonesia, for the local human rights community.

In Mauritius the focus was on training police officers and AI members. This visit was meant to explore further opportunities for cooperation and to provide police and human rights training to police representatives as well as AI members. The prime goal was to develop contacts with the police, to prepare common ground to take engagement a step forward and to inform the Mauritian public about AI's intentions in this sensitive field.

In Indonesia the focus was on how to engage with the police in a situation of police reform. Other goals were to improve access to the police, to establish a dialogue and to increase activism on police work by human rights organizations. Furthermore, greater engagement with the Indonesia public was discussed.

If you would like to receive more information on training sessions we can conduct for your organization please contact: phrp@amnesty.nl.

3. Expert Meeting on Policing High Crime and Violence Areas, Amsterdam, Summer 2009

This project is about policing and human rights dilemmas in high crime and violence areas such as urban slums. In a context where criminal gangs and para-policing groups have *de facto* territorial control of socially excluded and marginalized communities, there is a risk of political and public tolerance of repressive policing, which may result in human rights violations. Also due to sensationalist media reports human rights defenders from around the world are increasingly challenged to get their message across. The outcome of the project will assist AI and other human rights organizations in understanding and developing discourse as well as policy on law enforcement situations characterized by high levels of crime and violence. This while taking practical and police operational considerations as well as human rights standards into account.

It will bring together public security experts, law enforcement officials, academics, community representatives and human rights defenders. For more information, please contact: q.eijkman@amnesty.nl

4. Understanding Transitional Policing

This new publication intends to focus on the role of human rights defenders in law enforcement and police reform in transitional societies. The goal is to enhance AI's understanding about policing in post-conflict - and post-authoritarian situations characterized by political- and social instability, human rights violations, high levels of violence, disorder and crime, while taking the need for institutional reform and accountability for past human rights violations into account. Thereby leading to more effective recommendations addressing law enforcement, police accountability and institutional reform in transitional contexts.

For this publication, we will establish a steering group of relevant experts from around the world and invite them to comment on the draft.

For more information, please contact: g.eijkman@amnesty.nl

5. The Police and Human Rights Program

The Police and Human Rights Program aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of the police & policing within the Amnesty International movement – and wider human rights community - in order to become more effective when targeting the police or police related issues.

The area of policing and human rights presents a dynamic and constantly evolving field of study. The human rights discourse has in recent years broadened its attention to include not only the negative functions of the State and its agents as human rights violators but also the positive obligations of the State. This presents an opportunity for the police to be seen as human rights protectors. At the same time, the notion has developed that human rights are not only abused by State officials, including the police, but by non-State actors as well.

Both police and human rights advocates are (should be) striving for societies characterized by security and safety. This insight has opened up the possibility of police and NGOs working together rather than opposing each other. The idea of police and NGOs working together is fraught with difficulties. Police officers tend to have a different perspective from that of most human rights advocates. They sometimes use different language when speaking of the same issue and will reach different conclusions about cause and effect. Sometimes this is the obvious result of the different roles they have in society; sometimes they may be the result of stereotypic assumptions.

The Police and Human Rights Program hosts a website (www.amnesty.nl/policeandhumanrights) where you can find:

- background information on the Police and Human Rights Program
- a three-step model to follow when intending to set up work on policing
- a tool for making a contextual analysis – which we believe is essential, if not conditional, to be effective when seeking to work on policing as well as for making an informed decision on what strategy to adopt
- the full text of *Understanding Policing*, in PDF format, in English and Russian
- the full text of the conference report: *'Engaging with police reform: the role of NGOs and civil society in police reform'* (Utrecht, 10-11 November, 2006)
- various links to NGOs active in the field of Police and Human rights
- relevant downloads
- suggestions for relevant standards to study in this domain

5. Recent Publications

- AI (2008). "Less than Lethal?: The use of stun weapons in US law enforcement", London: Amnesty International, AI Index: AMR 46/011/2008. Website: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/010/2008/en>
- AI (2008). "Let them Kill Each Other: Public security in Jamaica's inner cities", London: Amnesty International, AI Index: AMR 38/004/2008. Website <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR38/001/2008/en/c7546d90-ff39-11dc-b092-bdb020617d3d/amr380012008eng.html>
- Center Prodh.(2008). *Human Rights under Siege: Public security and criminal justice in México*, Mexico City: Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center. Website <http://centroprodh.org.mx/2008/publicaciones%202008/Centro%20Prodh%20Human%20Rights%20Under%20Siege.pdf>
- Denham, T. (2008). "Police Reform and Gender: Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit". (Eds.) Megan Forces (DCAF), Bastick and Kristin Valasek. Geneva: Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed OSCE/ODIHR, UN-INSTRRAW. Website: http://www.iknowpolitics.org/files/police%20reform%20and%20gender_un_INSTRAW_0.pdf
- Eijkman, Q. A. M. (2007). *We Are Here to Serve You!: Public Security, Police Reform and Human Rights Implementation in Costa Rica*. Antwerpen/ Oxford: Intersentia.
- Finnegan, L., Hickson, C. and Rai, S., (Eds.) (2008), "Implementing Community-Based Policing in Kenya", Saferworld, London. Website: <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/images/pubdocs/Report.pdf>
- Hinton, M.S. and Newburn, T. (Eds.) (2009). *Policing Developing Democracies*, New York/ London: Routledge.
- Hornberger, J. (2007). *Don't Push this Constitution Down my Throat!: Human rights in everyday practice. An ethnography of police transformation in Johannesburg, South Africa*. Utrecht: Utrecht University.
- HRW (2008). *Closing Ranks against Accountability: Barriers to Tackling police violence in Turkey*, New York: Human Rights Watch, HRW 1-56432-409-5. Website: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/12/05/closing-ranks-against-accountability-0>
- Husain, S. (2007). *In War, Those Who Die Are Not Innocent: Human rights implementation, policing, and public security reform in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*. Amsterdam: Rozenburg Publishers.
- Jefferson, A. and Jensen, S. (Eds.) (2009), *State Violence and Human Rights*. New York: Routledge/ Taylor & Francis Books.
- Mehta, S. (2007), *Feudal Forces: Democratic Nations, Police Accountability in Commonwealth South Asia*, New Delhi: Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. Website: http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/police/feudal_forces_democratic_nations_police_accountability_in_cw_south_asia.pdf
- Theroux, L. (2008). "Louis Theroux: Law and Disorder in Philadelphia/ Johannesburg", BBC 2: Documentaries.

For feedback or suggestions, please contact phrp@amnesty.nl.