

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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THEME: SURVEILLANCE



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COVER: Sandrew Metronome has kindly allowed us to use this still from the award-winning German movie *The Lives of Others* (*Das Leben der Anderen*) which describes surveillance methods during the Communist era in East Germany. Could Denmark be turning into a Big Brother society too?

[READ ABOUT THIS THEME ON PAGE XXXXXX](#)

STATUS: 20 YEARS HAVE GONE BY - AND A SMALL FAREWELL



Morten Kjærum
Director
The Danish Institute
for Human Rights

2007 was characterized by numerous projects with cooperation partners in Denmark as well as internationally. DIHR staff have been successful in entering into dialogue with those whose rights are infringed upon and those who infringe upon

the rights of others; and also in creating a platform for dialogue between both these groups. Throughout all these activities, human rights and democracy have remained in focus, whether they concerned new international projects or new national initiatives. The year also marked DIHR's 20th Anniversary where we looked to the past as well as to the future with a series of arrangements, publications and a new work structure for the entire institution. This annual report provides glimpses into DIHR research, information and documentation work; from our training offers, from our national endeavours and our many international activities.

DIHR has worked with projects to further democracy in many different countries. Therefore, the Institute sees it as a positive tool to strengthen the Danish efforts in countries such as Iraq regarding more goal-oriented assistance towards democracy and towards developing Iraqi society; for instance, in improving education, the justice sector and a deeper knowledge of human rights. All this is something that Denmark has considerable experience with. But DIHR has also urged that rejected Iraqis become part of Danish society while they gain educational qualifications and work experience. The rejected Iraqis should live in local communities so they enter the Danish workplaces and have their kids join regular schools. Treatment of these people has long been undignified and words like respect, empathy and human decency should soon once again be part of the Danish Immigration Service's vocabulary.

Dialogue is one of the main ingredients in furthering and protecting human rights; sharing your experiences and learning from one another. It is also a stepping stone in an initiative towards an Arab-European human rights dialogue for European human rights institutions launched by DIHR in collaboration with our Jordanian colleagues. A forum was created to discuss issues of global relevance such as terrorism, gender equality and discrimination. Discrimination, for instance, is the commonest human rights infringement on a global scale; whether it regards gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or other fields. At the same time, discrimination is one of the most frequent causes of serious global conflict. Hopefully, discussions concerning this both in the Arab world and in Europe will help us all become better at fighting discrimination. That is how DIHR combines our own international work experiences with our national engagement and vice versa.

2007 also meant it was time to appraise the UN's new Human Rights Council. Critique of the Council has been voiced during its first year in existence, and it is important to keep a watchful eye on its work. But the Council has shown its potential; among other things, it has adopted a Convention protecting individuals against involuntary disappearances and a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Moreover, a new procedure has been initiated whereby all countries are to be examined regularly. During the course of the first year, some things have gone well, other things less so. The important accomplishment, however, remains that promising frameworks have been established. Another good sign is that the EU countries have taken a more proactive stance with regard to the Council, participating more actively in the debates. Having such an international forum for dialogue is important.

When seeking ways to improve protection of human rights, knowledge forms a necessary part, so policies and debates are not based on subjective perceptions. The latter may lead to erroneous legislation and practices with serious human consequences. I am therefore happy to witness the serious research that has always been characteristic of DIHR; resulting in two Ph.D. dissertations in 2007; one on citizenship and another on terrorism and human rights. Two more are underway concerning the rights of the disabled and the possibilities and risks with regard to human rights inherent in new technology. The fact that knowledge can move mountains has been documented by DIHR's major Human Rights and Business programme which has achieved a unique international position.

These are but some examples from Denmark and the world at large which have filled the calendars of DIHR staff in 2007. This is also to be my final year as DIHR's director. In 2008, I shall be starting as director of the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights. Building this new agency will be an exciting task. The agency will analyze and consult on implementation of the EU Human Rights Charter, at the same time creating synergy between this new institution and a number of networks between different players in member countries. This will be done as a collaborative effort in a dialogue involving both the EU institutions, governments and human rights actors. In this work, I shall use the many experiences I have garnered by being part of the work developed over the past 20 years by the Institute for Human Rights in Denmark.

I wish to conclude by extending a warm thanks to the DIHR staff who have succeeded in bringing the Institute to the substantial position it enjoys today, both at home and abroad. Also, a thank you to the Board for support and for outlining qualified paths for DIHR's work. Thank you to DIHR's Council, which is a stimulating dialogue partner. Thank you to our colleagues in DCISM and DIIS who have succeeded in widening our horizon. And a big thank you to the many partners in Denmark and across the world who have shown great energy, courage, creativity and sacrifice, contributing towards fighting for our common goal – a world showing greater and greater respect for the individual human being.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morten Kjærum', written in a cursive style.

FOCUS ON CHINA

COMPANIES HAVE A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

For a number of years, Danish companies and municipalities have been purchasing cheap granite from China; granite which is mined under working conditions that are both hazardous and highly criticisable. This is an example of the discussions that can be raised as to whether or not companies have a social responsibility in their increasing use of foreign suppliers. At the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), we do not feel that Danish companies can continue to profess ignorance and thus leave responsibility to local authorities.

"Focus on this subject has reached a level where companies that, say, purchase granite in China should be aware of the risks," says Allan Lerberg Jørgensen, an Adviser at DIHR who provides counsel for international companies on how they can avoid conflict with human rights when collaborating with suppliers in countries like China. Allan Lerberg Jørgensen recommends using the so-called CSR Compass, a free internet tool which may assist international companies in sound manoeuvring on the global market; socially, environmentally and ethically. But at the same time, he emphasizes that it remains completely up to the individual company whether it wishes to actively do something.

"We are talking about a voluntary responsibility on the part of the companies. In this case, it is the Chinese government that bears responsibility for protecting the work environment in Chinese companies. But that does not help Danish companies very much, since everyone knows that China does not do this. Therefore customers, employees and other stakeholders increasingly expect that Danish companies assume this responsibility," Allan Lerberg Jørgensen continues.

Follow the Swedish example

He finds it particularly problematic that municipalities – and thereby the Danish state – do not assume responsibility and investigate working conditions before entering into collaboration with a foreign supplier. He would like to see them follow the Swedish example.

"Several Swedish municipalities now require that foreign suppliers provide proof that work is done in a non-hazardous and sound working environment in accordance with the Conventions signed by Sweden. These conditions are also written into the contracts," Allan Lerberg Jørgensen explains.

THE CHINA OLYMPICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has worked in China for several years, and in 2007 we took up the issues concerning China's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games. DIHR urged debate as to whether social indicators should be used to assess the Olympics and other large-scale events. This debate was prompted by media reports of forced evictions in order to clear city areas to make room for official Olympic venues. On Monday, 18 June, the Institute for Human Rights held a public meeting, where David Westendorff discussed the social costs of holding the Olympic Games in Beijing. Westendorff is an American researcher who has worked for several years on the social implications of the preparations for the Olympic Games in Beijing.

"It is important to gather documentation regarding the reports of forced evictions in China in connection with the Olympic Games," explains Senior Researcher Hatla Telle from DIHR.

"We hope that public debate and research can move the Olympic Committee to review which guidelines should apply to future Olympic events so host countries and Olympic officials take social indicators into account and you avoid that people's rights to housing are infringed upon," she concludes.

Many times in the past, major international events such as the Olympic Games have had a negative influence on the protection of human rights, and this is the issue that David Westendorff discussed at the meeting. DIHR focused on China and the Olympic Games throughout 2007 and 2008.

INFO

www.menneskeret.dk/tema/tema+om+Kina



HOW A CELL PHONE CAN FURTHER WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN UGANDA



Rikke Frank Jørgensen is a Ph.D. fellow with the Institute for Human Rights. In the fall of 2007, she visited Uganda to investigate how information technology and the Internet in particular can be used by civil societies around the world to strengthen their human rights.

"In recent years in Uganda, a sizeable women's network called Wougnet has seen the light of day. The whole thing began in 2000 when a fiery soul called Dorothy Okello, who holds a degree in engineering and has worked with information technology, started a mailing list to reach women's organizations in Uganda. The purpose was to strengthen them in how they could use the Internet to cooperate and boost each other's goals onto the political agenda. The particular focus was on women's rights in Uganda. And the little project she started seven years ago has now flourished into a network counting more than 100 organizations in Uganda with links to international organizations, as well. Work centres on providing women with information which will help them to better lives. This may be on how to protect yourself against HIV and AIDS. But it may also be information on agriculture and on how entrepreneurs can create small businesses using IT.

Rikke Frank Jørgensen visited a project in Northern Uganda called Apac. The region is beset with oppression of women and the poor. Here, groups of women had been given a radio and a mobile phone. "Every morning, a journalist from Radio Apac ventures into rural areas collecting questions from the women. And every afternoon, this results in a programme called 'Farmers' News', where the journalist summons people to the studio to respond to these specific questions. As the programme is aired, women gather around their radios throughout the countryside and they may text further questions to the studio. So mobile phones and local broadcasting are used to give the women hands-on answers to the questions that arise in their daily lives."

"One interesting side effect of the project which had not been foreseen is that these women have been encouraged to participate actively in political life. At the recent local elections, several of them ran for office and were actively engaged in the local political debate. So I think this is a fine project because it shows how you may use very humble means – we are talking about a few radios and cell phones and a committed radio station – to increase local access to information considerably."

INFO

Read the entire interview with Rikke Frank Jørgensen describing the project using access to information to provide a unique opportunity to participate in democratic life and thus a renewed economic, social and cultural independence for the women: www.menneskeret.dk/nyheder/arkiv/nyheder+2007/hvordan+en+mobiltelefon+i+uganda+kan+fremme+kvinders+rettigheder

NEW DIHR WEBSITES

In 2007, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) launched two new websites

DIHR's two main websites, www.humanrights.dk and www.menneskeret.dk were merged in order to combine the research strength of [humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk) with the broader accessibility of [menneskeret.dk](http://www.menneskeret.dk). [Humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk) will become the Institute's new English-language homepage; and [menneskeret.dk](http://www.menneskeret.dk) will be the Danish-language equivalent. Differences will remain, however, especially with regard to the news articles posted on the two websites, but all factual information concerning the work of DIHR will be available on both websites.

INFO

See more at www.menneskeret.dk and www.humanrights.dk

NORDIC CAMPAIGN: KEEP THEM SAFE!



On 25 September 2007, 20 humanitarian organizations in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden launched a common Nordic campaign called 'Keep Them Safe'. The campaign sent a strong message to authorities in the Nordic countries to follow recommendations from the UN refugee organization UNHCR which once again urged that refugees from southern and central Iraq be granted asylum. Former Prime Minister Anker Jørgensen, author and MP Paula Larrain, social counsellor and author Hanne Reintoft, director and actor Flemming Jensen and actor Peter Mygind were among those who chose to send this message to Danish authorities in the fall of 2007:

"People who flee from areas plagued by violence and armed conflict cannot get effective protection in the Nordic countries. The problem is that asylum seekers need to prove that they are particularly and individually being persecuted. Without such documentation, an individual cannot be recognized as a refugee in Denmark. Individuals who according to UNHCR are in need of international protection are therefore left to languish for years in meaningless expectation with limited rights and uncertain prospects," says Asylum Law Expert with DIHR, Kim U. Kjær.

Apart from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Danish Refugee Council, Danish Red Cross, Amnesty International and the Danish United Nations Association also supported the Danish part of the Keep Them Safe campaign. Thereby, these organizations were sending a direct message to Danish authorities that they should protect individuals who have reached Denmark fleeing from world conflict areas like

Iraq. As a minimum, Denmark should adhere to the UNCHR recommendations regarding treatment of asylum cases. As early as December 2006, UNHCR recommended giving asylum to Iraqis from central and southern Iraq. UNHCR has since reiterated this message several times, most recently in August 2007. Nevertheless, at the end of 2007 more than 500 Iraqis were still languishing in Danish asylum centres in a limbo with uncertain futures; with no right to work and support themselves and their children – and without any real possibility of returning home. Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights decided in 2007 that authorities in the European countries must adhere to the UNHCR recommendations when assessing asylum cases, and that individuals belonging to certain population groups who are exposed to particularly grave violations in their home countries are under no obligation to prove that they are individually persecuted. Therefore, the Danish organizations backing the campaign strongly urged Danish authorities to change their practice forthwith and provide protection to those who are in fact persecuted.

"We feel that the Nordic countries should set an example and lend substance and value to the right to asylum instead of undermining it," Kim Ulrik Kjær emphasizes.

INFO

Read more about the campaign that gathered more than 14,000 signatures:
www.keepthemsafe.org/cy_infodk.php



WEST AFRICA

The problems facing West Africa came into focus in 2007 as harrowing stories of illegal immigrants from West Africa risking their lives in rickety boats to reach Europe occupied the media. During the same year, the Danish Institute for Human Rights increased its activities in Sahel countries such as Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali and to a lesser extent Benin in order to improve human rights compliance there and encourage development.

DIHR's West Africa Strategy

The region is plagued by conflict and even in peaceful countries, democracies tend to be fragile and institutions weak. Based on more than a decade of experience in the region, DIHR has developed a five-year West Africa Strategy which will be implemented from 2007-2011. The general objective of this strategy is to strengthen institutional capacity and the ability of human rights stakeholders in West Africa to respect, promote and protect national and international human rights standards.

After consultations with key stakeholders in the region and a context analysis, DIHR identified four intervention areas, i.e.: capacity building of key human rights actors, family law, security, and human rights education and documentation, which will form the basis of the new strategy. In the longer term, the strategy will extend to other states in the region besides the Sahel countries already mentioned.

DIHR also helped to organize two major activities during 2007 to focus on the region's problems: the Dakar

Conference on Human Rights Mandates and National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa and a course for civil society organizations on human rights mandates and internal good governance held at the UNESCO Chaire in Benin. Under the Institute's Research Partnership Programme which focuses on West Africa in 2007 and 2008, DIHR invited 5 researchers from the region to Copenhagen to work on family law and juvenile justice in 2007.

Monique Alexis, who is Project Manager for West Africa, believes that the new strategy will make a difference:

"Our aim is to build up human rights capacities in the region. We are doing this by supporting human rights ministries, NHRIs, human rights NGOs and civil society networks and by focusing on important areas such as family law. Family law is the key to protecting the rights of women and children in West Africa. In some places it's a taboo and there is a lot of confusion between modern legislation inherited from the former colonial powers and local traditional law or religious law. This confusion means that women and children end up suffering."

"Another key area is safety and security. The police are often regarded as a repressive force that back up the people in power. We help governments who are willing to transform the police into bodies that serve the public and protect people's rights. But this is a long-term process which must be based on trust and strong partnerships. A good example of this is our successful partnership with the police and security forces in Niger."



NEW CONVENTION ON FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A new human rights convention to combat forced disappearances

At the start of 2007, the UN General Assembly adopted a new Convention which will protect people against forced disappearances. The Convention spells out in detail how signatory states are to ensure that their national legislation prevents and punishes political kidnappings ordered by or on behalf of the government. It makes it clear that the continued forced disappearances in several continents are an international crime which under certain circumstances constitutes a crime against humanity.

The Convention defines a victim as a person, or any individual, who has suffered as the direct result of a forced disappearance. According to the convention, victims in cases of forced disappearance will have the right to know and read about their own case, the right to compensation, and the right to form associations with the purpose of investigating circumstances regarding forced disappearances; their children will have the right not to be forcibly removed from their families and not to have documents attesting to their true identity hidden, destroyed or altered.

The perpetration of forced disappearances constitutes a fundamental breach of the principles of rule of law. Often, these breaches place the victim without legal protection and impose grave and lasting suffering upon the victim's family and friends." It is important that the new Convention not only concerns itself with the immediate rights of individuals who are or have been the victims of forced disappearances, but that it extends to the rights of any children they may have and their family," says Paul Dalton, DIHR Project Leader specializing in legal matters.

A follow-up mechanism to be initiated under the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be an important instrument to follow up on specific cases in the future. It will be given the opportunity to react promptly to any threat of specific forced disappearances.

INFO

Read the final resolution for adoption at the UN General Assembly at the Un General Assembly, Third Committee (click on a language under point 46 – A/61/448)

TOTAL BAN ON HEADSCARVES TANTAMOUNT TO DISCRIMINATION



During the course of 2007, there was a lively debate about the headscarves worn by Muslim women and the ban on such religious headgear; time and again, the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) commented on these points of view. A general ban on headscarves or shaking hands would be tantamount to discrimination, DIHR stated. If an employer rejects a job applicant who wishes to wear a scarf to work or prefers other forms of greeting to the handshake, this may constitute a violation of the law against differential treatment based on ethnicity, faith or religion. A rejection of, say, headscarves can only be warranted if a specific job function cannot be carried out by an employee wearing such headgear. And it of course varies from case to case when a headscarf will in fact prevent an employee from carrying out his or her work. Therefore, a blanket ban on headscarves would be uncalled for, according to DIHR, referring to Section 70 of the Danish Constitution, which stipulates that no one may have their rights curtailed based on religion or origin. A general curtailment in the access to the labour market for specific religious groups is a violation of this prohibition in the Constitution. It is emphasized that accept of the headscarf is an example of initiatives that would aid in allowing women access to the labour market and education and thus contribute to integration into Danish society.

RACISM FLOURISHES IN EUROPE

More and more citizens are reporting acts of racist violence in Denmark. This can be seen in the 2007 report from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) – formerly EUMC. The report shows an average increase in reports of racist crimes and violence of 70 % over a five-year period. The Danish figures reveal an increase from 28 reports in 2000 to 85 in 2005.

Yet despite this increase, the number of reported crimes is still low compared, to countries such as Sweden and Norway. This, however, should not necessarily be seen as a sign that there is less racist violence in Denmark, the Institute points out.

“We look at it very, very seriously when people are subjected to racism. But we may also see this increase as something positive, because it may mean that more citizens dare to file such reports. Through the media, many ethnic minorities have become aware of the fact that they have the right to complain if they are subjected to racism,” says Mandana Zarrehparvar, a Special Adviser with DIHR.

Only recently has Denmark begun to systematically registers racist crimes and violence. Therefore, the Danish figures do not necessarily present a realistic view of how widespread a problem this in fact is. At the same time, vulnerable groups may not be fully aware of their rights and their possibilities of complaining.

“I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg, because there is no real knowledge of how big the figures really are.

Many may not dare to report the violence if they hail from countries where there is no faith in authorities,” says Mandana Zarrehparvar.

In its report, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights points out that the problem is greatest in areas such as the labour market, housing and education. According to their report, EU citizens often encounter discrimination within these areas if they have a name with a foreign ring to it.

INFO

You can read the full 177-page report here:
http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/racism/report_racism_0807_en.pdf

DANES WANT MORE DIVERSITY

In 2007, the Institute for Human Rights commissioned a Catinet survey to investigate how Danes feel about diversity in the workplace. Out of 1014 respondents, 70 % would prefer a workplace where colleagues are different with regard to gender, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. Moreover, the survey shows that 7 % of those asked have encountered problems in their work environment solely related to their gender, age, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion. The new survey also uncovered that 82 % of respondents considered it either very important or important that their work place protects employees against discrimination.

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Se undersøgelsen her
www.menneskeret.dk/files/pdf/Catinet2007.pdf

TOOLS FOR DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

In 2007 the DIHR Diversity Team, together with representatives from Nykrndividual manager can apply directly to his or her daily tasks. "We are experiencing a positive development," says Team Leader Susanne Nour. "Companies no longer question why they should work with diversity and equal opportunities for all; they are seeking tools and knowledge about how to proceed in practice. Therefore, our goal has been to create a toolbox which the individual manager can put to use in everyday life to develop him- or herself as a manager and benefit from staffers' diversity as a company resource," Susanne Nour explains. A study done by the Danish Technological Institute shows that 77.6 % of CEOs in small and medium-sized businesses desire a diverse composition among employees. New competences, job satisfaction and innovation are the primary reasons, and one CEO in five believes that a diversely composed staff means an improved bottom line.

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The tools are available at
www.mangfoldighed.dk

DIHR PUTS DIVERSITY FIRST

The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has a number of Team Leaders responsible for special areas of initiative. In 2007, Susanne Nour headed work on diversity in the labour market.



With increased globalization and a shortage of manpower, Danish companies have their eyes on all groups in society. What is needed is a strategy to meet the new challenges and demands that come with a diverse workforce, says Team Leader Susanne Nour.

One of the main focus areas for DIHR is precisely diversity and equal treatment in the workplace. This work is based on Danish legislation on discrimination and the value set represented by human rights. A lack of knowledge concerning how to manage diverse groups of employees and the rising demand for manpower has meant that Danish companies need new management tools and competences. According to Susanne Nour, diversity and the need to ensure equal opportunities for all constitute the greatest human rights challenge in the Danish labour market today.

How does DIHR tackle this challenge?

"What we do is to develop practical management tools that can ensure that employees are not discriminated against. We start at the shop floor, so to speak, looking at the individual manager's behaviour and attitudes regarding differences among employees and help create a space for diversity where differences are embraced," Susanne Nour explains.

Can you give some examples of your work – for instance, some highlights from 2007?

"The first highlight I would like to mention is the MIA Award presented on April 27, 2007. This is Denmark's only business award for diversity and equal opportunities. 2007 was the fourth year that we honour three companies for their contributions to diversity in the workplace. Another highlight came on November 15, 2007, when we launched our new big diversity project known as the 'Diversity Lab.'"

INFO

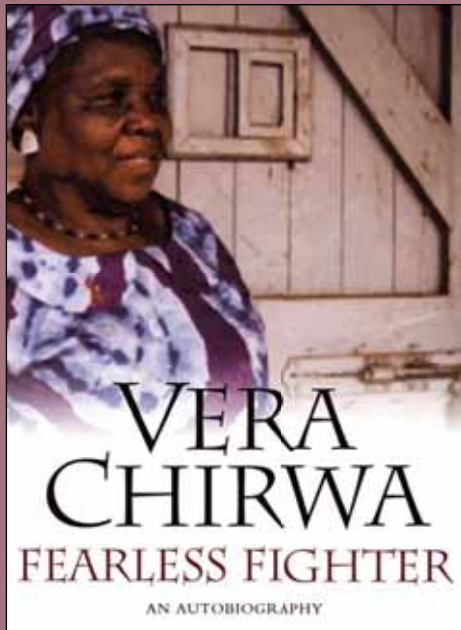
Read the whole interview at
www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/årsberetning

PUBLICATIONS IN 2007

THE VERA CHIRWA AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Fearless Fighter, Zed Books, London & New York, 2007

Vera Chirwa's autobiography *Fearless Fighter* (2007) is a story of betrayal, imprisonment, torture and exile. Yet it is also a tale full of hope, inspiration and extraordinary bravery. Born under British colonial rule, even as a child she was aware of the injustice meted out to her as an African and a girl. While struggling to get an education, she met and fell in love with Orton Chirwa, a charismatic teacher and activist. From then on their fates became intertwined with the politics of their country after independence. As a campaigner, politician, lawyer, wife and mother, Chirwa has left an indelible mark on Malawian politics.



Fearless Fighter, Zed Books, London & New York, 2007
 Vera Chirwa's autobiography *Fearless Fighter* (2007) is a story of betrayal, imprisonment, torture and exile. Yet it is also a tale full of hope, inspiration and extraordinary bravery. Born under British colonial rule, even as a child she was aware of the injustice meted out to her as an African and a girl. While struggling to get an education, she met and fell in love with Orton Chirwa, a charismatic teacher and activist. From then on their fates became intertwined with the politics of their country after independence. As a campaigner, politician, lawyer, wife and mother, Chirwa has left an indelible mark on Malawian politics.

The initial concept for *Fearless Fighter* was developed by Vera Chirwa and Kirsten Lund Larsen, while DIHR researcher, Tomas Martin, travelled to Malawi to take down Vera's story, and later edited the manuscript. The Danish Institute for Human Rights supported the book project from the beginning.

As an historical record the book works on two levels: on the one hand it offers us a unique insight into the Malawian struggle for independence from British rule during the 1950s, full of crystal-sharp detail and unforgettable events, and on the other hand it functions as a universal saga depicting the 20th century battle against colonialism and institutional racism which took place across the globe during those tumultuous years.

The same applies to Vera's own individual story. As a member of the first generation of Africans to become lawyers and human rights activists, she is a unique figure in Malawian history, a woman who was prepared to sacrifice everything to win justice and freedom for her people. But she also writes movingly about being a mother, about the sacrifices she and her family had to make to achieve this higher goal. In that sense this story is also about the ordinariness of being a mother and wife and some of the most poignant scenes in the book describe incidents where everyday concerns clash with the higher ideals to which both Vera and her husband dedicated their lives.

Above all else the book is a dramatic record of the indomitable spirit of a woman who refused to accept things as they were. We follow her personal struggle against injustice from the age of five when she is severely beaten by her father for refusing to do her chores and runs away from home, to the time when she and her husband are sentenced to death by a kangaroo court.

Apart from Vera's extraordinary tenacity and dedication, what shines through this book is her capacity to forgive her enemies. Despite years of incarceration in filthy prison cells, despite all the privations inflicted on her family, Vera never sounds bitter. It proves that fortitude and strength of purpose can topple oppressive regimes and help to create a more just society. Vera Chirwa's story personifies this struggle for justice and the rule of law, for democracy and rights for all – for the colonised, for Africans, women, prisoners, and all disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable persons. Her story is an inspiration to all human rights activists who strive to achieve justice even when the odds seem to be hopelessly against them.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

SHELL REPORT RECOMMENDS DIHR

In the annual report from Royal Dutch Shell, one area of focus was the crucial role staff play in handling human rights in developing countries and human rights issues within companies; here, the energy giant emphasized the need for specific tools that can help companies to do business in a responsible manner in the third world. Shell highlighted its cooperation with the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) which, through its Human Rights & Business programme, has developed an array of tools available to companies. The report also mentions specific courses in human rights education for Shell employees in Nigeria which were offered by DIHR. As part of its training programme, Shell Nigeria now plans to train all of its 5,000 employees in human rights.

"Shell has been a key partner for DIHR since the Human Rights & Business programme was launched in 2000. The company has been a front runner in using our tools, methods and training directly in their business projects.

Tools such as country analyses and the training of staff are absolutely pivotal in order to deal with human rights issues in companies," explains Margaret Jungk, leader of the DIHR Human Rights & Business project.

"Through our partnership with companies like Shell, we can continue to develop tools to protect human rights in some of the world's most challenging business climates," she emphasizes.

DIHR launched the project on human rights and business in 1999 in collaboration with the Confederation of Danish Industries and IFU (Danish Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries).

INFO

Read more about human rights and business here:
www.menneskeret.dk/Erhverv

TOOLS FOR DIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

In 2007 the DIHR Diversity Team, together with representatives from Nykredit, Novo Nordisk, Danish Defence, the Municipality of Copenhagen and Dansk Cleaning Service, launched a toolbox with specific hands-on tools for diversity management.

The result was the Internet-based diversity toolbox called the Diversity Wheel. The Diversity Wheel contains 45 specific management tools and exercises which the individual manager can apply directly to his or her daily tasks.

"We are experiencing a positive development," says Team Leader Susanne Nour. "Companies no longer question why they should work with diversity and equal opportunities for all; they are seeking tools and knowledge about how to proceed in practice. So our goal has been to create a toolbox which individual managers can put to use in everyday situations to develop themselves as managers and take advantage of staff diversity as a company resource," Susanne Nour explains.

A study carried out by the Danish Technological Institute shows that 77.6 % of CEOs in small and medium-sized businesses desire a diverse workforce. New skills, increased job satisfaction and more innovation are the primary reasons given, and one CEO in five believes that a diverse workforce leads to an improved bottom line.

INFO

Read more about human rights and business here:
www.menneskeret.dk/erhverv

CO-CITIZENSHIP IN DANISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) employs a number of human rights experts, each of whom is responsible for a different focus area. Senior Adviser Anette Faye Jacobsen, for instance, has many years of experience when it comes to training and education in human rights.



She is keen to inform people about the challenges involved in making a theoretical concept like 'co-citizenship' relevant to school pupils and how to bring this about. Co-citizenship is a useful concept because it has a positive ring to it. It is about giving the pupils tools to take part more actively in the community to which they belong. It does not dictate what we should do about immigrant children who lag behind in reading skills; rather, it simply asks us, how can we design an elementary school for everybody which truly embraces us all? The word itself simply implies that you are taking part in something and that this is inclusive.

"One of the Institute's duties, as laid down in the Act establishing DIHR, is to ensure training and education in human rights. This applies to all levels of the Danish system of education, including Danish primary schools, which are, after all, a large and important part of the Danish education system," says Anette Faye Jacobsen. In 2004, the Institute began its collaboration with a Copenhagen primary school to include co-citizenship in the curriculum. How did the project evolve? "It was Stevnsgade's primary school in Nørrebro, later called Guldberg Skole, which took the initiative and contacted the Institute. The teachers were worried because there was a negative atmosphere at the school. They were experiencing co-citizenship attitudes among many of the pupils which were disrespectful, hostile, suspicious and exclusive. Their task consisted of turning this situation around and recreating a sense of community in the school."

INFO

Read the complete interview at www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/årsberetning

SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO GOOD HEALTH

A number of Danish schools have fallen into disrepair, leading to, among other woes, dampness and moulds, which make the kids sick. Moreover, school classrooms do not get properly ventilated, resulting in lapses of concentration and learning deficiencies among pupils. These were some of the conclusions reached in a 2007 study from the Danish Working Environment Authority.

The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) finds it problematic that school children's health is not given a higher priority in Denmark; according to DIHR, this may be in violation of Article 3 in the UN Convention of the Child, which states that the interests of the child must always come first.

"The problem lies in the fact that pupils are obliged to attend classes. This makes it impossible for them to avoid the health hazards of poor ventilation," explains Christoffer Badse, a Project Leader with DIHR. He also refers to Article 24 of the Convention of the Child, stressing that the signatory states must respect "the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health".

"Thus the human rights issue at stake is that children have the right to good health. And when they get sick from just being in their classroom, you may question whether municipalities are shouldering their international obligations in this area", emphasizes Christoffer Badse. He also stresses that children in many ways have the same rights as adults, and that this includes working environment issues. This has, for instance, been recognized in Sweden, where children are allowed to make official complaints and even take municipalities to court if their school has a bad indoor climate. In Sweden, school children fall under the jurisdiction of the working environment authority, which may look into cases of, say, harassment and poor ventilation.

"Such a solution might be worth considering in Denmark," according to Christoffer Badse.



COMPULSORY MEASURES SIT BADLY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Employees at the Danish Institute for Human Rights rarely comment on political statements before any specific legislation is proposed. But in 2007, Special Adviser Anette Faye Jacobsen made an exception in connection with the publication of a new report from the Rockwool Foundation, 'Pisa Ethnic', which revealed that 47 % of pupils with an immigrant background lack functional reading skills after 9th grade. This led the Social Democrats to propose that municipalities should be allowed to force parents with a different ethnic background to send their children to preschool day-care centres from age 1 – even if these parents wished to take care of their children at home themselves.

The purpose of this proposal, among other things, is to improve children's reading skills and ensure better integration. According to the UN Convention of the Child, states are under an obligation to offer education to all citizens, just as citizens have an obligation to receive education. Nevertheless, this proposal does not rhyme well with human rights, in the view of Anette Faye Jacobsen, who has many years of experience with children's rights. She points out two problems with the proposal. "In the first place, the proposal envisions a sizeable invasion into the right to family and private life. Before any such infringement can be justified you need solid grounds to do so. I do not see any such grounds in the present proposal," she says. "The other problem lies in the fact that the proposal also carries with it an element of discrimination, because you are assessing a group's needs collectively based solely on their ethnicity and then making a political intervention based on this background. From a human rights perspective this is not something you can do. The state should not introduce compulsory measures unless these are well founded and objective and they should not be based solely on ethnic criteria," says Anette Faye Jacobsen.

At the time of going to press, the Parliamentary Information Service revealed that such a bill was never actually proposed and that the Ministry of Welfare is not currently contemplating any such initiatives.

INFO

You can read the 177-page EU report here (PDF):
www.rff.dk/da/publikationer/boeger/2007/pisa_etnisk_2005/



TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

The fight against trafficking in women was given an extra boost in 2007 when DIHR and two art mediators launched a campaign which comprised an exhibition, public debate and *street events*.

Following the government's action plan against trafficking in women, this campaign entitled 'TRADING and USING BODIES' reinforced this fight. Behind it were the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and two art dealers. It sent the clear message that trafficking in women is a social problem which everybody must assume responsibility for. On a global level, millions of people have become victims of trafficking. In Denmark alone, it is assumed that there are as many as 2,500 foreign prostitutes, many of whom are victims of the sex trade.

With this campaign, both DIHR and art dealers, Lotte Juul Petersen and Malene Ratcliffe, hope to focus awareness on this area and to improve conditions for vulnerable women in the long term. "We have joined forces in order to focus on this serious problem. By using contemporary art as a mouthpiece, we seek to change the perceptions created by simply looking at figures and statistics," explain Lotte Juul Petersen and Malene Ratcliffe, who view the collaboration with DIHR as an opportunity to demonstrate how art can make a real difference in society.

TRADING and USING BODIES included a large number of events in Copenhagen, including an exhibition at the

Institute for Contemporary Art, screenings in Air Play Street Gallery in Nørrebro and an evening of public debate. The artist known as HuskMitNavn (RememberMyName) produced the poster "Sex Slave" which was seen everywhere in the streets of Copenhagen. Artists from Denmark and abroad taking part in this campaign were Ursula Biemann (Switzerland), Nanna Debois Buhl (Denmark), and Tadej Pogacar (Slovenia). Air Play Street Gallery in Nørrebro showed videos by Tanja Ostojic (Serbia) and Tadej Pogacar (Slovenia).

The campaign concluded with an evening of public debate on 20 March, where researchers and artists joined in. In June 2007, the US Department of State published a report criticizing Danish efforts to prevent the trafficking of women. Among other things, the report stated that the Danish government should "provide the victims of trafficking with temporary residence and work permits" and offer victims "legal alternatives to deportation." One particular problem concerns the Danish practice of deporting whistleblowers. This has previously been criticized by DIHR because "sex slaves" who assist Danish police in capturing the criminals behind the trade often face a return ticket home to a country where the traffickers are based.

CASE CONCERNING THE MOHAMMAD DRAWINGS DISMISSED IN STRASBOURG

The Danish Institute for Human Rights follows the work of the European Court of Human Rights very closely. Journalist and writer, Henrik Dækker, provides a service to the Institute by selecting cases from the Court in Strasbourg and describing them on the DIHR website www.menneskeret.dk

An example from 2007 was the dismissal of a case by the European Court of Human Rights brought before by a Moroccan citizens.

The case concerned the caricature drawings which the Danish daily *Morgenavisen Jyllands-Posten* printed in September 2005. The complainant, 53-year-old Mohammed Ben El Mahi, represented Morocco's National League for the Protection of Consumers and the Moroccan Association for Protecting Children and Family Support. The complaint was that the drawings violated the European Convention of Human Rights' protection of the freedom of religion and the prohibition of discrimination (Articles 9 and 14).

The seven judges considering the case found that it fell entirely outside the applicability of the Convention, since the Moroccan complainant and the two Moroccan associations had no connection with Denmark whatsoever. According to Article 1 of the Human Rights Convention, the states that have ratified it are only under obligation to secure these rights within their own territory, meaning that the Court had no competence to handle the complaint. Thus the Court of Human Rights did not consider the substance of the affair with the Mohammad drawings, concerning freedom of expression vs. particular considerations for the Muslim faith.

Two other complainants have approached the Court of Human Rights, but they have neglected to pursue their cases within the time limit. Other Muslim groups are now attempting to use Danish courts to litigate based on the drawings, citing other legal claims. Thus it cannot be ruled out that other cases will ultimately end up in Strasbourg. To stand a chance at all, the complainants must – after having exploited the national legal remedies (i.e. the Danish courts) - themselves bring the case (cases) before the Court of Human Rights.

In order for a case to be considered on its merits, it must rest on a sound formal basis. More than 90 % of the cases brought before the Court are dismissed on formal grounds. This happens when complainants do not meet a number of conditions listed in the Convention.

INFO

See Dækker's documentation here:
www.menneskeret.dk/internationalt/domstolen/dackers+domsresuméer

DIHR RESEARCHER: PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT SENTENCES CAN BE COMPARED TO ORDINARY PUNISHMENT

The number of mentally ill individuals sentenced to undergo psychiatric treatment for a specific or indeterminate time is rising in Denmark. From 2004 to 2006, the number of such sentences rose by 35 %, but the actual cause of this increase may be due to many factors. For instance, it may be because more crimes than hitherto are being reported or there may be an actual increase in the number of patients being classified as having a 'dangerous mental illness'. On 22 May 2007, in the Danish daily *Information*, the Danish Institute for Human Rights warned that there may be certain similarities between a sentence to undergo psychiatric treatment and ordinary punishment.

"The effect of an extraordinary measure such as a sentence to undergo psychiatric treatment is that one's right to freedom is restricted. Besides that, it is a reaction by society to the fact that you have committed a punishable act," says researcher Maria Ventegodt Lisberg. She emphasizes that even though a sentence to undergo psychiatric treatment is meant to help, this does not change the fact that the sentence to treatment also involves clear elements of actual punishment.

In 2006, DIHR published a report on the use of extraordinary measures for dealing with mentally ill criminals which concluded that it is tantamount to discrimination when a mentally ill individual is sentenced to treatment for a crime for which an ordinary criminal would receive normal punishment. This differential treatment can sometimes be justified on objective grounds. However, problems arise when the treatment which mentally ill criminals are sentenced to is not proportional to the crime they have committed, i.e. crimes for which non-mentally ill perpetrators would receive a much milder sentence such as a fine.

INFO

The entire survey can be read and downloaded here (PDF):
http://humanrights.palermo.magenta-aps.dk/upload/application/e92b2cf1/ifmr_udred_4.pdf

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BUILDS A COMMON INITIATIVE AGAINST

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has a number of team leaders each responsible for their own particular area. Mandana Zarrehparvar, for instance, is Team Leader of the Equal Treatment and Anti-Discrimination Team. Here she emphasizes that if we are to fight discrimination and further equal treatment in Danish society, it will require a joint effort. The Equal Treatment and Anti-Discrimination Team at DIHR are working assiduously to fight all forms of discrimination. The team focuses on creating a joint effort against discrimination in a wide array of areas transcending different organizations and their special interests.



What have been the highpoints of the team's work in 2007? "One was the 'Consensus Conference' that we held in January 2007. At this conference, the 'Declaration on the Inclusive Society' was written and signed by 22 Danish civil society organizations. Another highpoint was the EU report entitled 'Tackling Multiple Discrimination' which was rounded off by an EU conference in December 2007 where the results and the publication were presented."

What have the 'Consensus Conference' and the 'Declaration on the Inclusive Society' in particular meant for the fight against discrimination?

"The 'Consensus Conference' and the 'Declaration on the Inclusive Society' were the result of several years of work towards creating a common platform together with NGOs in the fight against discrimination. What really matters is that awareness has now been created that you need a strong joint work effort cross-cutting the different stakeholders if discrimination in Danish society is to be combated. In preparing the 'Declaration on the Inclusive Society', we used a participatory action method which is now considered by the EU to be 'good practice'. At the same time our work has travelled beyond the borders of Denmark as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights has incorporated our participatory action method in their work towards fighting discrimination," says Mandana Zarrehparvar.

INFO

Read the whole interview at
www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/årsberetning

NEW JOINT PLATFORM:

Equal treatment across all areas of discrimination

For the first time in a Danish context, a plethora of organizations combined forces in order to create a joint platform for fighting discrimination and furthering equal treatment. On 12 January, the Danish Institute for Human Rights held a conference on this topic where a group of NGOs signed a joint declaration on 'The Inclusive Society':

Danish civil society would like an inclusive, democratic society which could fight discrimination and further the cause of equal treatment for all citizens regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity and race, sexual orientation, etc.

"A pluralistic, democratic society presupposes an effective campaign to combat discrimination. This requires that organizations working for equal treatment agree on a joint effort. Today, we have reached such an agreement," says Mandana Zarrehparvar, Special Adviser at the Institute for Human Rights.

Søren Laursen, the Danish National Association of Gays and Lesbians, says:

"In my view, our organizations have moved into a new phase with regard to creating a society which includes everyone." And he continues: "It is fantastic that we have been able to agree on these principles. We have given each other a tool, a declaration envisioning a focused effort towards a common goal. Discrimination is always the same, whether it is because you are elderly, disabled, homosexual or for any other reason."

INFO

Read the Declaration here:
www.menneskeret.dk/Tema/Tema+om+diskrimination/Hvad+er+diskrimination/Ligebehandlingsudvalget/Erkl%C3%A6ring+om+det+inkluderende+samfund/



IRAQ ON STAND-BY



The war in Iraq means that furthering democracy and human rights in the region is an uphill struggle

Since the end of 2003, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has supported projects such as an NGO House in Basra as well as the training of teachers and police officers. However the situation in Basra today is so bad that the Institute no longer maintains a presence in the city. This is what Birgit Lindsnæs, Head of DIHR's International Department, told the daily newspaper Information in 2007 when she explained why DIHR's work in Iraq has been put on stand-by.

"As early as 2004, the security situation made it impossible for us to travel in Iraq at all. Since then we have had to continue our work by meeting our partners from Basra outside the country, in places such as Kuwait or Jordan," Birgit Lindsnæs told Information.

She explains that DIHR has no choice under the present conditions and that working in this way is a constant uphill struggle. For one thing it makes it difficult for the Institute to reach large sections of Iraqi society.

"With the exception of our collaboration with the NGO House and the University, we have been unable to reach out to broad sections of Iraqi society," she explains. According to Birgit Lindsnæs it is the invasion of the country that is the problem. "Many experts predicted that the work of democratisation would be near impossible to carry out because of the war," she adds. "There were probably many of us who had difficulty imagining going in and building this up. Experts familiar with Iraq who have worked there, predicted that the military invasion would very quickly lead to a serious breakdown in Iraqi society. An offensive war is a very problematic way of achieving democracy. The struggle for democracy needs to take place inside the country, as history teaches us," says Birgit Lindsnæs.

INFO

Read more about DIHR's international projects at www.humanrights.dk/international

THE FIRST ARAB-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE MEETING ON TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has been collaborating with Jordan's National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) for a number of years in order to establish an Arab-European platform for national human rights institutions. In the spring of 2007, DIHR successfully organized a dialogue meeting in Amman, Jordan, to focus on international anti-terror legislation and its implications for human rights. The purpose of the meeting, was to place the Arab-European political nexus into the framework of an international human rights dialogue. With this in mind participants such as Gianni Magazzeni, Chief of the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, spoke of the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) in the war on terror. Afterwards, there was a debate on the sometimes strained relationship between anti-terror legislation and rights such as freedom of assembly, non-discrimination and the right to a fair trial.

The meeting was the first of its kind at this political level. Other speakers included former Secretary General of the United Nations and current Chair of the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, Boutros Boutros-Ghali; Ahmad Obeidat, Chair of NCHR and former Prime

Minister of Jordan; and DIHR Director Morten Kjærum; as well as representatives of Arab and European national human rights institutions. Participants from national human rights institutions in Morocco, Egypt, Palestine, Qatar, Jordan and Greece attended the meeting and there were also representatives from the Saudi Human Rights Committee and the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights. In addition, two representatives from the OHCHR offices in Geneva and Beirut attended.

The first meeting was followed up by a new meeting in Copenhagen in October, where representatives from 11 Arab and European human rights institutions attended. Among keynote speakers were Dr. Salah Amer, Chair of the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, Chris Sidoti, Secretary General of the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, Commissioner General Shaher Bak from the National Centre for Human Rights, Jordan and Birgit Lindsnæs, Head of the International Department at DIHR, who was the prime mover behind this effort. The Deputy Minister of the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights also participated as did representatives from the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights.

DENMARK SUPPORTS NEPALESE DEMOCRACY

At the end of August 2007, Sushil Pyakurel visited the Danish Institute for Human Rights. Sushil Pyakurel is a former Commissioner with the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal as well as founder of the Nepalese human rights organization INSEC.

Since the peace agreement was agreed in Nepal in 2006, Sushil Pyakurel has been committed to creating national and international awareness about the elections to the National Constitutional Assembly in November 2007; his visit to Denmark was part of this commitment.

Sushil Pyakurel also met both with Minister for Development Cooperation Ulla Tørnæs and Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Denmark has supported the democracy process with DKK 10 million. Since the spring of 2005, Sushil Pyakurel has been working under the Institute for Human Rights' Nepalese Human Rights Defenders Capacity Building Programme. With support from Danida, this programme aims at strengthening human rights defenders and providing information about the human rights situation in Nepal. Apart from preparing analyses and articles, Pyakurel has been building a network of human rights defenders working from abroad as the King assumed power, in order to maintain the focus on human rights during the conflict. He has also played a pivotal role in establishing dialogue between political parties and the Maoists as well as in the popular movement that led to the peace agreement of last year.

At the time of going to press, the monarchy had been abolished in Nepal.





DENMARK ACQUITTED

On 3 May 2007, Denmark was acquitted of violating the provision of "No punishment without rule" as stated in the European Convention of Human Rights, Article 7, after it fined Greenpeace activists for illegal trespassing at the Thule Air Base in Greenland (Custers, Deveaux and Turk vs. Denmark; Decision of 3 May 2007). "This ruling raises a crucial issue in a country adhering to the rule of law; namely that punishment cannot be given for actions or omissions which were not punishable at the time they were committed," says Project Leader Christoffer Badse from the Institute for Human Rights, and he continues: "Also, it raises the question whether you can apply legal provisions retroactively to actions committed before the law in question was made public. In this specific case, however, the Court found that a sufficient legal basis existed and the prohibition against trespassing was predictable."

Facts

The complaint, which was brought before the Court 1 April 2003, concerned the establishment of the US air base in the Thule district of Greenland. The complainants, members of the organization Greenpeace, took part in an action against the base in order to create awareness concerning the Thule radar installation, which is part of the US missile defence system, and in order to highlight the environmental consequences of the base. The Court found unanimously against a violation of Article 7.

INFO

See more about the case here:
www.menneskeret.dk/Nyheder/ARKIV/Nyheder+2007/Danmark+frikendt+ved+Den+Europ%c3%a6iske+Menneskerettigheds-domstol

'START HELP' MAY CREATE MORE POOR CITIZENS

If you are Danish, an EU citizen or from another Nordic country, you are eligible to receive social benefits. But if you hail from a country outside the EU – and have not resided in Denmark for the past 7 years – you will only receive the so-called 'start help', which amounts to half of the normal social benefit allowance.

This is an arrangement that the Danish Institute for Human Rights has regularly criticized in its annual Status Reports and the issue cropped up on the public agenda again in 2007.

"Even though in principle, Danes can also end up receiving start help if they have been living outside the EU for an extended period of time, it is in practice almost exclusively refugees and immigrants who are among start help recipients; 94 % to be specific," explains Mandana Zarrehparvar, a Special Adviser with DIHR.

In 2007, Amnesty International also published its report on the discrimination of foreigners. Since 'start help' was begun in 2002, several organizations have pointed out how this arrangement may lead to discrimination in practice; among them is the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

"Back then, we expressed our concern that this new arrangement would create increased social marginalization, poverty and a greater dependency on social benefits among recipients. We also raised the question whether the arrangement amounted to indirect discrimination of ethnic minorities, since the modest start help was preponderantly given to foreigners in Denmark," says Mandana Zarrehparvar.

Similar criticism has been raised by several international organizations, among them the European Economic and Social Committee which oversees whether national legislation and practices adhere to the European Social Charter.

Here, critics pointed out how Danish start help means that people with an ethnic background other than Danish do not have equal possibilities of receiving social benefits. DIHR is of the opinion that among recipients of start help there is an overrepresentation of people who already struggle with problems in other areas, such as poor health or psychological problems, and who are therefore unable to find jobs and keep them. Therefore, start help is a mistake and should preferably be abolished.

DANISH COURT DECISION DID NOT ADHERE TO THE UN CONVENTION ON THE DISABLED

Does it mean something if you are disabled or functionally challenged? The answer is yes if you are functionally challenged in that you suffer from a long-term illness; say, from multiple sclerosis. This is clear from a decision made by the Western High Court in October 2007. The case concerned an alleged unwarranted dismissal where the complainant – a woman suffering from multiple sclerosis – could not according to the Court be considered 'disabled' in the legal sense. As a consequence, she was not eligible for special protection against dismissal.

But this does not adhere to the UN's new Convention on the Disabled, signed by Denmark in the spring of 2007. This Convention has a wider interpretation of the concept of disability than the Danish law on differential treatment, since it also covers individuals who are functionally challenged in the long term, either psychologically or physically.

"The UN Convention extends protection to people with chronic diseases. But in its specific decision, the High Court has applied a more narrow definition of who is to be protected against differential treatment than is found in Danish legislation," says Special Adviser Anette Faye Jacobsen from the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). So DIHR is of the opinion that even though Denmark has

only signed the Convention and not yet ratified it as part of Danish legislation, the case from the Western High Court should still prompt a discussion about how we are to define being disabled in Denmark in the future.

Anette Faye Jacobsen realizes that both the Danish legislation on differential treatment and the new UN Convention are about ensuring that individuals with disabilities are given equal opportunities; that they must be able to participate in society and the workplace along with others.

"But we are facing a discussion about definitions that needs to be taken. Both because Denmark is about to join the Convention and because a more encompassing definition of disability would benefit a greater number of people. Therefore the new Convention should make us consider whether we should adjust the Danish law on equal treatment," she stresses.

INFO

Also read about the DIHR Year of Inclusion 2008 on page XXXXX

STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DENMARK

Every year the Danish Institute for Human Rights publishes a Status Report about the human rights situation in Denmark. In this Report, DIHR jurists cover a wide selection of cases. The Report is presented to both Parliament's Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and the general public on International Human Rights Day on 10 December. In 2007, Christoffer Badse was responsible for editing the 2007 Report and here are one of the cases commented on by Badse during the course of 2007.

DANISH REPORTERS CONVICTED

On 7 March 2007, the Eastern High Court decided that two reporters who had each been fined DKK 6,000 for the possession of dangerous chrysanthemum bombs had not had their freedom of expression as journalists violated. The High Court found that the case involved the question of weighing protection of the freedom of expression of journalists according to Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights against the Act on Fireworks' prohibition against illegal and dangerous fireworks; and that it required a specific weighing of considerations for newsworthiness against the nature of the punishable act.

In this case, the High Court found that even though the purchase had been made in order to shed light on the supply chain involving illegal fireworks in Denmark, and even though the two journalists had surrendered the bombs to the police themselves, protection of freedom of expression according to Article 10, Section 1 of the Convention does not imply a general exemption from the obligation to follow legal provisions.

The High Court also found that the limits to freedom of expression stipulated in Article 10, Section 2 were applicable, since the rules governing the purchase of fireworks are founded precisely in overriding security concerns. Christoffer Badse, the Institute for Human Rights, says: "The national interpretation of

Denmark's human rights obligations in the new court decision is in accordance with a decision from the Eastern High Court from October of last year. This decision concerned a journalist who had brought a grill knife from the transit hall at Kastrup Airport to a gate where a flight was boarding; the purpose being to shed light on possible security breaches. Here the High Court also did not find grounds for exemption from punishment, even though it did allow that there was considerable societal interest in investigating possible deficiencies in airport security and that journalistic coverage of this had considerable information value and newsworthiness."

"The press role as public watchdog and the extended protection of freedom of expression for journalists that follows still predominantly applies to disseminating information about the criminal offences of others to the public, as we saw it in the Jersild verdict (23 September 1994) from the European Court of Human Rights; and as we most recently saw in Denmark with the acquittal of two reporters from the daily Berlingske Tidende who published information leaked by an employee from the Intelligence Service," he concludes.

INFO

Read or download the Status report here:
<http://shop.humanrights.dk/product.asp?product=1257&sub=12&page=1>



AFGHANISTAN

A TRIP TO THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE MAY BE LETHAL

Anette Faye Jacobsen is Special Adviser with DIHR and returned home from a trip to Afghanistan in 2007. She was a guest instructor for human rights trainers in the capital of Kabul. Her trip led to many talks with activists, journalists and local people, and provided her with an impression of a country fighting daily battles on many fronts.

"This was my first visit to Afghanistan, and the impressions that this constantly imbues in the slightly unprepared visitor are quite existential," she says in a travel letter from the country that is still marked by years of oppression and war.

"The years under feuding warlords, then the years under the Taliban in the 1990s and the present situation with many of the former warlords being elected into Parliament while vast areas of the country are ravaged by their armed gangs and others – all of this contributes to a sense of decades of struggle for basic survival in the country," writes Anette Faye Jacobsen, referring to the fact that journalists and activists still currently live in fear of the supporters of the present fundamentalist regime.

But even though, according to Anette Faye Jacobsen, dialogue is still an unknown concept after the many years

of conflict in Afghanistan; and even though there is still great distrust of others' intentions, you can still glimpse a better future for the country ; at least in a number of tangible areas.

The network for human rights trainers is one example of an initiative that seems to be achieving palpable results through strong solidarity and a constant push for new reforms.

"It has made itself be known as an umbrella organization and become indispensable even in central government organizations as well as a dialogue partner you must include if credibility in the fledgling democratic initiatives is to stand a chance," writes Anette Faye Jacobsen in her travel letter from this mountainous country.

INFO

You may read the full letter here:

www.menneskeret.dk/nyheder/arkiv/nyheder+2007/rejsebrev+fra+afghanistan

Also read more about the DIHR project in Afghanistan here:

menneskeret.dk/tema/tema+om+afghanistan

COURTS SHOULD CHANGE THEIR PRACTICE

In 2003, the Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment at the Institute for Human Rights treated a case of alleged discrimination of a student at the Copenhagen Technical Academy (KTS). Both the District Court and the High Court acquitted the school but in 2007, the UN Committee on Racial Discrimination (CERD) decided it was indeed tantamount to discrimination when Murat Er, a student at the school, found a note with the words “not p”. The “P” stood for “pakis” and indicated an employee who did not wish to employ Danes with an immigrant background as interns in his or her company.

CERD has maintained that the school’s practice could potentially lead to Murat being discriminated against. The problem was that the school had a practice which treated a group of students worse than others solely based on their ethnicity, explains Birgitte Kofod Olsen, a Department Head at DIHR. After the UN criticized this Danish court decision, Danish courts should change their practice in cases concerning discrimination, DIHR maintains. CERD upheld the decision of the Complaints Committee and established that when the Danish Courts acquitted the school, this means that the Danish state is in violation of two articles in the UN Convention against Racial Discrimination; to wit, the articles concerning prohibition against racial discrimination and concerning equal treatment in the labour market and in education.

The Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment received 32 specific complaints in 2007 and investigated 3 cases on its own initiative. The Committee made 15 statements in 2007.

INFO

Read more about the Complaints Committee here: www.klagekomite.dk

TIME LIMITS ON REMANDED CUSTODY HELPFUL

Following a protracted time of criticism, Danish Minister of Justice Lene Espersen (Conservative) and the government decided in 2007 to promote a bill limiting long-term indictments and periods of remanded custody. The decision comes after a number of suggestions were put forward by the Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice to introduce time limits on remanded custody. DIHR previously pointed out that the extended periods in remand custody and other such practices were untenable. Peter Scharff Smith is a Senior Researcher with DIHR and has studied conditions for those in remand custody for years; he has no doubt that the government’s initiative is a step in the right direction.

“It is definitely a good idea to introduce specific time limits and to seek a shortening of the period in remand in general. However, the big question is what this will mean in practice,” he says, reminding that steps should also be taken to improve conditions for those in remand custody and create a more appropriate framework for such incarceration.

“I would also urge that remanded custody is at the same time made less of a burden; say, by facilitating a more beneficial contact between those in custody and their families,” says Peter Scharff Smith, adding that the European Prison Rules adopted by the European Council’s Committee of Ministers state that “visitation should make it possible for inmates to maintain and develop their relationship with their family in as normal a way as possible.”

“You may well question whether the present arrangement lives up to that,” he concludes.



THEME

SURVEILLANCE

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has on several occasions warned that Denmark is turning into a surveillance society threatening the right to privacy and the individual citizen's trust in the rule of law. Among the consequences of the fight against terror has been extended authority to the Police Intelligence Service and this Theme shows some of the problem areas that DIHR finds reason to warn against. And DIHR does not stand alone. In 2008, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution affirming that member states have to ensure that the fight against terror should be "in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including applicable international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law."

In June 2008, the Danish government announced that it would increase the Police Intelligence Service's surveillance of Danes and foreigners living in Denmark. However, an independent control body, the Wamberg Committee, will have its ability to inspect the work of the Police Intelligence Service (PET) extended. The Committee must still approve PET's registration of individuals and organizations, but in the future it will also, via random checks, oversee how PET in general treats personal information in its IT systems.

DIHR WARNS AGAINST TEACHERS KEEPING TABS ON WOULD-BE TERRORISTS

As part of anti-terror measures, the Police Intelligence Service wants the radicalization of youths to form part of the crime prevention cooperation known as SSP (a Danish acronym standing for School, Social Authorities and Police) on an equal footing with the efforts directed at substance abuse, robbery and theft.

School teachers and educators in high schools and institutions of higher education should thus help spot youngsters with a Muslim background at risk of entering radical environments. Teachers should be aware of suspicious behaviour among their pupils and students evident, say, in changes in clothes style, reading habits and social behaviour. On the PET homepage, it says "changes in clothes style and physical appearance has in several instances been indicative of a changed and radicalized behaviour. Thus it is the change in apparel that is an interesting indicator of an incipient radicalization – not the clothes style in itself."

"But what is it that we are to keep an eye on? Here the whole thing becomes problematic because the things that are mentioned as possible signs of danger are not necessarily signs of extremism, but signs of devout feelings. And here it is important to differentiate; otherwise we are talking about discrimination and casting suspicion on a large group of people," says Peter Vedel Kessing, a researcher with DIHR, quoting a memorandum from the Centre for Terror Analysis saying that "it is difficult to give a precise profile of the young people who are radicalized."

Supervised surveillance

Peter Vedel Kessing also urges that the PET screenings of suspicious groups and use of terrorist profiling are clearly documented and supervised, so possible violations of rights are submitted to control.

"There must be independent supervision of the authority surveilling citizens. In this way you can ensure that surveillance only takes place when absolutely necessary," Peter Vedel Kessing concludes.

MASS REGISTRATION IS TOO INVASIVE

September 2007 saw the advent of a new kind of mass registration in Denmark. The new, so-called "Logging Directive" entered into force; this means that Danish Internet and telecommunications providers will henceforth be charged with "logging" – or saving – their users' traffic data for as long as a year; the purpose being to assist police in the fight against terror.

"We are talking about a very sweeping infringement on the right to privacy, where a great deal of people are affected. A lot of the people one wishes to register from now on aren't relevant to PET's work at all," Ph.D. Fellow Rikke Frank Jørgensen said to the daily Politiken on 14 September 2007.

Rikke Frank Jørgensen is DIHR's expert on human rights and the IT society. In the interview, she emphasizes that from a human rights perspective there is no connection between the desired effect, namely to find terrorists and keep them under surveillance, and the invasion suggested. But this, according to Rikke Frank Jørgensen, is symptomatic of the Danish fight against terror.

"In other EU countries, the consequences of such an invasive measure are still being contemplated. Denmark is the only

country that has been in such a rush to mass register our citizens. One thing is that we will get a huge stack of data. Another is that it will be extremely difficult to roll back the tide of this surveillance," she warns.

And she is not alone. In Denmark, both Prosa (the Danish Association of Computer Professionals), the Danish Data Protection Agency, ITEK (the Danish ICT and Electronics Federation for IT, Telecommunications, Electronics and Communication Enterprises; part of the Confederation of Danish Industries), the IT-Political Association of Denmark, and the Internet and telecommunications sector have criticized the new directive; among other reasons, because it forces companies to act like policemen. Still, the directive has now entered into force, even though it may in fact not be of any help to police at all.

"In any case, should a terrorist wish to do so, it is easy to circumvent this surveillance, say, by using email services such as Yahoo or Gmail; or by accessing computers in public libraries, which are not covered by the directive. In short, this directive is way over the top," Rikke Frank Jørgensen maintains.

DIHR: MOVE ANTIQUATED PET CASES TO THE DANISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES

It is unacceptable that the Police Intelligence Service (PET) routinely refuses access to information on cases that date as far back as 25 to 30 years. This is what the Danish Institute for Human Rights told the daily newspaper Information on 10 September 2007. According to the European Human Rights Convention, Article 8, everyone has the right to respect for his "private and family life, his home and his correspondence"; this includes a right to access to information concerning oneself.

"This respect is not shown by PET when they refuse all applications on the standard grounds that releasing such information may pose a threat to national security. Some cases must be so old that they no longer constitute any threat," says Project Leader Christoffer Badse of DIHR. If you look at the PET website, you will find clear time limits on how long information may be stored. Cases concerning individuals and organizations have to be deleted when the cases are no longer current. According to the website, "At the latest, a case must be deleted if for the duration of 10 years there has not been added any information worthy of note." It is also mentioned, however, that certain cases have historic interest and therefore may remain in the Intelligence Service archives.

"When such information goes on to have historic interest, you may also ask whether it is any longer relevant to PET," says Christoffer Badse, referring to the fact that in many instances it may be a better solution to transfer the outdated information to the National State Archives, as has been done in Sweden. Here, a Strasbourg court decision from 2006 established that Sweden had violated the rights of four citizens to a private life by storing dated information which was no longer necessary to the work of the Swedish Intelligence Service. Based on this, the Intelligence Service transferred a number of old cases to the Swedish National State Archives.

"If the information is worth saving and no longer poses any real threat, and if the citizens in question are protected through, say, anonymization, this may be an appropriate way of preserving important information for posterity while also ensuring the greatest openness," Christoffer Badse concludes.

NEW TREATY WEAKENS RULE OF LAW

The Institute for Human Rights expressed concern over the new Prüm treaty, which was incorporated into Danish legislation in 2007. The treaty gives police in the different EU countries a variety of new weapons to use in the fight against terror and crime. For one thing, it gives police in the new member states from the former East Block the opportunity to gather Danish information on DNA profiles and fingerprints.

DIHR finds that many of these new provisions are very wide-sweeping and cause insecurity. When so many authorities throughout the EU can now suddenly amass personal information about Danish citizens, it also increases the risk that this information will be misused or end up in the wrong hands. DIHR finds that it remains much too fuzzy when the different measures can be used and emphasizes that there must be a connection between the gravity of the situation and the measures used by police. It is difficult to see such a connection in the new treaty. As a citizen, you have the right to know when you are under surveillance and why; this has now become more diffuse. For this reason, DIHR believes that citizens' rights have been weakened.

When it comes to an area such as discrimination based on ethnicity, the Institute is also of the opinion that the new treaty is a step in the wrong direction. The fight against terror often involves a risk that certain ethnic groups come into particular focus. But you cannot equate, say, a particular type of crime and an individual from a particular race or ethnic background. DIHR underlines that the new treaty does not rule out such unlawful ethnic profiling as a consequence. Therefore DIHR, in a Consultation Paper to Parliament, has suggested that specific guidelines are drawn up in order to minimize the discrimination of ethnic minorities.

The Prüm Treaty

The Prüm Treaty contains rules concerning the exchange of information; measures to prevent terrorist acts, including the use of so-called air marshalls; measures to counter illegal immigration; as well as other forms of cooperation between law enforcement agencies. The treaty also contains a number of different general provisions and rules on data protection.

CRITICISM OF PET COOPERATION WITH TORTURE STATES

The fight against terror is based upon extensive international cooperation. This includes countries known to violate human rights and use torture, according to the Head of the Police Intelligence Service (PET) Jacob Scharf thus implying a new development in Danish intelligence work. In 2007, this prompted the Danish Red-Green Alliance to pose a so-called Parliamentary Article 20 Question to Minister of Justice Lene Espersen. The party wished to know whether she concurs with the Head of PET in this assessment, i.e. that such collaboration is necessary. In her answer, the Minister writes among other things that terrorist acts against the West have increased the need for greater international cooperation. This may also involve countries that PET has not previously collaborated with. "The Police Intelligence Service cooperates with foreign partners in ways that fully conform with Danish legislation; thus I have full confidence that the Police Intelligence Service's collaboration with authorities in other countries is carried out in a manner that fully respects the rule of law," the Minister wrote in her answer from 2007.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights, however, views the matter differently. According to the Institute, PET must in principle desist from cooperating with states that use torture and thus avoid becoming dependent on their intelligence.

"That would be like eating the fruits reaped from a poisoned tree. Such cooperation must only be entered into with states that abstain from torture or with countries such as Jordan and Morocco, which have initiated processes of change in order to avoid torture," says DIHR Department Head, Birgitte Kofod Olsen. She points out that a clear and formal framework for any collaboration entered into with foreign intelligence services by PET should be set up. "And this of course must be based on human rights and the rule of law. As soon as PET has reason to believe that a cooperating country does not live up to these minimum requirements, the cooperation should, in principle, end."

INFO

See the rest of the interview at:

www.menneskeret.dk/nyheder/arkiv/nyheder+2007/imr+kritiserer+pet-samarbejde+med+tortur-stater

PET LOOKS OVER YOUR SHOULDER AT THE LIBRARY

According to the daily newspaper Nyhedsavisen (5 October 2007), PET no longer needs a warrant to find out what you bring home from the library. As part of the government's 'terror package', it has become easier for PET to gather information about individual borrowers, a fact which has enraged the Danish Library Organization.

There are, however, limitations as to what PET is and is not permitted to do. For instance, the Police Intelligence Service is not allowed to request a list of all citizens who have borrowed a certain book, but may only request information regarding specified individuals. And since libraries are still covered by rules from the Danish Data Protection Agency, they may only store such personal information for a maximum of one month.

Moreover, PET must have reasonable grounds, and collection of this data must be part of the prevention and investigation of terror. Nonetheless, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) finds that this is tantamount to a considerable encroachment on the right to privacy.

"You must be able to justify an encroachment of this nature. There has to be proportionality between what you wish to achieve with regard to fighting terror and the way you collect intelligence. You may well question whether that is the case here," says DIHR Project Leader Christoffer Badse.

He emphasizes that the fight against terror must not be used to excuse just any violation of the right to privacy.

"You have to ask yourself the question whether it is really necessary to know everything the individual citizen brings home from the library to read," says Christoffer Badse.

DIHR has previously pointed out that this Danish legislation, which was adopted with the 'Logging Directive' in September 2007, is too far-reaching and offers insufficient protection of the individual right to privacy.

INFO

See the DIHR Consultation Paper at:
www.menneskeret.dk/danmark/horingssvar

SURVEILLANCE BY GOOGLE INVOLVES RISK OF MISUSE

In 2007, In 2007, several media focused on the surveillance of individual Internet behaviour carried out by online search engines. The purpose of this surveillance is to help companies customize their marketing. Google takes this one step further, adding the possibility of monitoring game players, but this encroaches upon individual freedom, warns a DIHR expert.

In 2007, the well-known Internet giant Google patented a new system which can snoop on our behaviour in computer games such as Second Life or World of Warcraft. Thanks to this they are free to create a psychological profile of the game player, making it possible to customize targeted, precise marketing efforts more accurately than ever before. But this method of collecting and exploiting personal data is too far-reaching, says DIHR Ph.D. Fellow Rikke Frank Jørgensen.

"New technology and new virtual environments make a sweeping and detailed surveillance of each individual possible. You are simply turning surveillance up a notch when you start registering how we comport ourselves in certain virtual environments such as games," adds Rikke Frank Jørgensen, who is an expert in IT policy and the copyright issues arising from the information society. According to her, this is a development where companies are increasingly hoarding and exploiting the digital fingerprints and footprints we leave behind whenever we surf the Net and visit the virtual environments of computer games. This increases the need for protection of the individual's right to anonymity.

"This is the principle involved. Yet from a purely security point of view, other problems arise. For who will ensure that the information gathered by Google does not end up in the wrong hands? There will also be an increased risk of misuse or errors when you collect such reams of data about everyone. I am especially thinking about both technical and human errors," says Rikke Frank Jørgensen.

INFO

Read more about DIHR and technology at:
[www.menneskeret.dk/Nyheder/NYHEDSLISTER/
OVERV%c3%85GNING](http://www.menneskeret.dk/Nyheder/NYHEDSLISTER/OVERV%c3%85GNING)

CIVIL SOCIETY ENSURES PLURALISM

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has a number of Team Leaders responsible for special areas of initiative. Charlotte Flindt Pedersen headed the Civil Society Team and points out that democracy requires an ever-present multitude of voices able to participate in debates on relevant social issues.



So a vigorous civil society with capable organizations is important to democracy and upholding human rights?

"Yes, because it is capable of representing and expressing societal interests such as freedom of expression, consumer, labour market and minority interests, sports, etc. Top and lower tiers of society communicate through civil society and future decision-makers are often recruited from it. But a strong civil society is also crucial for maintaining an ongoing control with the government apparatus and, not least, a binding link to specially exposed groups which it also protects. Civil society ensures pluralism as well as a decentralization of power in society and promotes an aware, active and committed citizenry."

So DIHR's cooperation with civil society is a natural cornerstone in its international endeavours?

"Precisely. That is why we have, for instance, developed a regional strategy for West Africa encompassing all areas of DIHR's international work. Canadian 'Rights and Democracy' is an important strategic partner in this; as part of our cooperation, they have placed one of their staff with our team. So far, the focus is on Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. With regard to civil society, the focus in Niger is on capacity building within state institutions, cooperation with police and security forces, and support to NGOs offering training in human rights and documenting human rights violations; in Mali, we also support NGOs offering, among other things, legal aid and counselling to exposed groups in rural areas. Staff from DIHR have also contributed to identifying and formulating Danida's programmes for human rights and good governance in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali," Charlotte Flindt Pedersen explains.

INFO

Read the entire interview at www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/årsberetning

Genocide Tourism?

Since 2003, the Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (DIIS), assisted municipalities all over the country in arranging Auschwitz Day, a day of commemoration held each year on 27 January. Each year has a unique theme. In 2007, the focus was on the sites where the genocides took place.

As a prelude to 27 January, DIIS invited teachers and students from all over the country to participate in a number of theme days regarding the problems and dilemmas linked to the particular genocide sites – for instance, the Nazi extermination camps, the churches in Rwanda or the mass graves in Bosnia. Does 'genocide tourism' serve as prevention, or is it just a form of entertainment?

Questions like this were discussed by teachers and students as the theme days unfolded in the country's schools. A number of municipalities had planned additional arrangements which were open to the public. The commemoration day is a collaboration by municipalities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DIIS and DIHR.

INFO

See also www.27.1.dk and www.folkedrab.dk

REFORM OF LEGISLATION AND STATE INSTITUTIONS



The Danish Institute for Human Rights has a number of Team Leaders who are responsible for special areas of initiative. In 2007, Anders Buhelt headed the international work on reform of legislation and state institutions.

In January 2007, the Reform of Legislation and State Institutions Team began developing a team strategy covering most of the year and pinpointing four main initiative areas: the legislative framework; the institutional structure capacity in the justice system; value based planning for the state; and capacity and method development.

Anders Buhelt explains how DIHR started two new projects in Cambodia financed through Danish and Australian (AusAID) aid funds, a model court project and an indicator project for the justice sector aimed at measuring and evaluating sector results. Both projects are a result of the Institute's long-term partnership with decision-making bodies in the justice reform sector.

Then there is the Arab initiative. Is DIHR also active here? "We had great success with a dialogue conference in Yemen which was wrapped up by the Prime Minister with the promise of a follow-up meeting to carry out the conference recommendations and the legal analysis which formed the basis of the conference. In the new phase, it is expected that the state component will focus on field analysis with regard to implementing criminal justice, rights-based legal analysis of a new legislative area, as well as strategic planning with the Ministry of Human Rights."

"We also published an abridged edition of a handbook on openness in administration and the right to information. Efforts within this area are expected to gain momentum in 2008, both as an integrated part of existing projects (for instance, in the Ukraine and Afghanistan) and as a new component in the Arab-European dialogue between national human rights institutions," Anders Buhelt explains.

INFO

Read the whole interview at
www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/arsberetning

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1987 2007

HUMAN RIGHTS – EVERY DAY

In 2007, the Danish Institute for Human Rights was able to celebrate its 20th Anniversary as one of the first and largest national human rights institutions in the world. On 5 May 1987, a Danish Parliament majority decided to establish a Danish human rights centre to carry out research as well as inform and educate about human rights. By 2007, the Institute's Anniversary year, the 10 members of staff that started it all had grown to 100. Both current and former employees, board members and council members celebrated the Anniversary along with the Institute's many partners abroad and at home.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

The Anniversary date itself was marked by an international seminar, workshops and a reception on 3 May. Speakers included Director Morten Kjærum and Board Chair Claus Haagen Jensen as well as the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation Ulla Tørnæs and UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kyung-wha Kang.

The chamber chorus Hymnia sang DIHR's own Hymn to Human Rights, written by Francesco Cali and Jeppe Marsling. The Anniversary reception included debate tables where DIHR employees could inform about and discuss the following issues: Human rights and terrorism; human rights in the Arab world; human rights and development; the inclusive society; and human rights and business.

AN ACCESSORY THAT SUITS EVERYBODY

Jewellery artist Carolina Vallejo has designed a pin called INCLUSION. It symbolizes openness, diversity and the freedom to be different. Carolina Vallejo is an award-winning Danish jewellery artist whose work displays a high level of formal craft and equally high aesthetic qualities. With her jewellery, she is able to evoke emotions and meanings that invite reflection. This original piece of jewellery comes as silver-plate /copper or enamel and also comes in several colours. A small, yet unique jewellery pin to prick a little hole in a bigger problem. It is meant to champion a society which includes those who are weak. DIHR wishes a society that keeps its mind open to new ways of doing things. A society that remains outgoing, is global in its outlook and which greets people with openness.





EXCLUSIVE ART POSTER

In 2007, well-known Danish painter Leif Sylvester created an exclusive art poster to mark DIHR's 20th Anniversary. Leif Sylvester is also renowned throughout Denmark as a street performer, actor and musician, but he made his breakthrough as an artist in the late 1980s with popular, colourful pictures that reflect the artist's humane and positive view of life. The art poster entitled 'The Family' is still available as a limited edition item and signed copies can be obtained at the DIHR web shop.

EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL LIBRARY

Ever since it was established, the Danish Institute for Human Rights has published a large number of titles every year. There have been both books, pamphlets, consultation papers, research reports, posters, films and music in addition to informative content on various websites. An exhibition at the Royal Library displayed a selection of the more than 500 publications produced by DIHR. These were written by over 300 authors, who together produced in excess of 80,000 pages. The Danish President of PEN, Anders Jerichow, spoke about freedom of expression and literature, and all the writers and editors who have made their contributions over the years were invited to the opening of the exhibition.

BROCHURE ABOUT DIHR PUBLICATIONS

In connection with the Royal Library exhibition, a brochure was published listing all DIHR publications from the period 1987 to 2007. It shows a panoply of subjects from children's rights, freedom of expression, indigenous peoples, women, rights in developing countries, cases from the Court of Human Rights, philosophical debates and much, much more. The brochure can be requested from DIHR or downloaded at <http://shop.humanrights.dk/product.asp?product=1267>



OTHER PUBLICATIONS FROM 2007

TOWARDS NEW GLOBAL STRATEGIES: PUBLIC GOODS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

*Editors: Erik André Andersen and Birgit Lindsnæs,
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2007*

This book aims to contribute to the debate on global public goods, a debate which has been taking place for some time in the UN and the World Bank, among the regional development banks and bilaterally among states and donors. There is a need for new visions and strategies and to examine global infrastructure on the basis of the idea that global public goods, including human rights, contribute to cohesion at local, regional and international levels. The book investigates the possibilities and disadvantages of applying the idea of public goods in a global context. It explains the history of the concept and its significance for human rights. The authors include, in addition to academics, representatives from public institutions, civil society organizations, independent consultants, the media and the private sector.



APPLYING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AN INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

*Jakob Kirkemann Boesen and Tomas Martin,
Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2007*

Rights based approaches (RBA) offer new perspectives and solutions to traditional development projects. This guide hopes to offer practical ideas and inspiration to civil society organisations wanting to apply this approach in their day-to-day work. Although we hope that this publication may be of interest to a wider range of those involved in development assistance, the booklet is primarily aimed at staff and directors of smaller organisations in countries challenged by poverty. Since it is intended for people who are busy doing, it has been kept short and simple and aims to inspire rather than direct.



TOWARDS PARTNERSHIPS – WORKING IN PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Jakob Kirkemann Boesen and Lisbeth Garly Andersen, Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2007





The Presidium of the Danish Parliament, performers and the new citizens sing the Danish National Anthem 'Der er et yndigt land' on Parliament's Citizen's Day 27 April 2008.

DIHR RESEARCHER:

REVIEW DANISH RULES ON CITIZENSHIP

Gaining citizenship in Denmark is very difficult. More difficult than in many of the countries that Denmark usually compares itself to. This was what Eva Ersbøll, a jurist and researcher with the Institute for Human Rights told the auditorium on 23 November 2007 when she defended her Ph.D. dissertation on citizenship and citizenship trends in Europe. She feels that the Danish rules in this area are peculiar in many ways and are in need of being modernized.

"None of the countries we usually compare ourselves to has a law on citizenship as old as Denmark's. Most countries have recently reformed their legislation, and even though the Danish law on citizenship has since been altered a number of times, the law itself is still from 1950. There have been no changes accompanied by thorough investigation contemplating actual reform," Eva Ersbøll explains.

She also points out that contrary to most other European countries, it is the politicians elected to Parliament who decide who is to receive citizenship and who is not. The procedure is that the Minister of Integration proposes a bill to Parliament listing the names of the foreigners who are to be granted Danish citizenship.

"But there are ways this could be done differently, even within the framework laid out in the Constitution. I investigate these possibilities in my dissertation, among other things," says Eva Ersbøll.

So that leaves the question whether Denmark is in need of modernizing legislation in this area. If you ask Eva Ersbøll, there is no doubt in her mind.

"We have seen momentous changes in our society since the 1950s. Instead of a country people emigrate from, Denmark has become a country that people immigrate to. Therefore citizenship has also acquired a lot more meaning. We have become members of the EU and we are obliged to honour many international commitments within the legal areas concerning human rights and citizenship. So in many ways we have undergone a development just like many other Western European countries, meaning that the question of reforming citizenship law has become more urgent."

INFO

Read more about the dissertation here:

www.menneskeret.dk/Nyheder/NYHEDSLISTER/STATSBORGERSKAB

www.imiscoe.org/natac

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

The Danish Institute for Human Rights held 88 conferences, seminars and meetings in 2007. Focus areas included the UN, democracy movements and discrimination. Below you will find some excerpts from the public arrangements.

DENMARK'S SOCIAL FORUM

On 29 – 30 September 2007, the Institute participated in the conference *Denmark's Social Forum* with two workshops. Under the heading 'A Different World is Possible', the conference challenged the political trends dominating the world today. There were debates, workshops, films and music. Denmark's Social Forum is the Danish arm of the World Social Forum.

The two workshops organised by the Danish Institute for Human Rights focused on the themes of equal treatment and the inclusive society. In Workshop 1, DIHR participants Birgitte Kofod Olsen, Nanna Margrethe Krusaa, Søren Laursen and Mandana Zarrehparvar, discussed how we can promote equal treatment and protect against discrimination.

Workshop 2 participants included Bente Bondebjerg from the Danish Refugee Council, Bo Lauritsen from Guldberggade Elementary School and Mandana Zarrehparvar and Eva Ersbøll from DIHR in a debate about 'Co-Citizenship – does that include ethnic minorities?'

THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN CHINA

2008 saw China as host of the Olympic Games; starting in 2007, this occasioned significant debate including the subject of forced evictions and displacements to clear Beijing to make room for official Olympic venues. Therefore, DIHR hosted a debate meeting on 18 June on the topic 'The Beijing Olympics – In the light of human rights'. One of the researchers who has worked for several years on the social implications arising from the Olympics preparations in Beijing is Consultant David Westendorff from the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva, Switzerland.

David Westendorff discussed the social costs of hosting the Olympics in Beijing along with DIHR Senior Researcher Hatla Thelle.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

A series of seminars on international human rights work based on tangible experiences. There were eight meetings, the first of which dealt with the globalized world with the focus on DIHR strategies, partnership concepts, human rights conventions and capacity building as the cornerstones of cooperating with third world countries. Another meeting focused on legal reform, a third one on complaints treatment, and a fourth on reform of public institutions. Also on the agenda were national human rights institutions and the role of civil society in strengthening human rights. The seventh meeting was entitled 'National strategies and indicators' and examined development trends in the human rights field and the benefits of using indicators as a measurement tool. It asked whether it is possible to measure not only results but also effects and influence. The last meeting was headlined 'Dialogue about human rights'; here, the dialogue focused on the death penalty and torture, methods for ensuring a fair trial and how social and economic rights can contribute to making it possible for other countries to take gradual steps towards improving these rights.

Department Head Birgit Lindsnæs was chairperson and a total of 26 internal and external speakers participated.

THE UNIVERSAL RIGHTS

On 27 January 2007, in cooperation with the Danish branch of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), DIHR hosted a seminar on universal human rights. Keynote speakers were Professor Chris Peter Maina from the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania; DIHR Head of Research Hans-Otto Sano; and the President of Danish ICJ, Attorney Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, who is also member of the DIHR Board. Hans-Otto Sano presented his book from 2006 'Human Rights in Turmoil' at the seminar.

HOUSE OF DISCRIMINATION

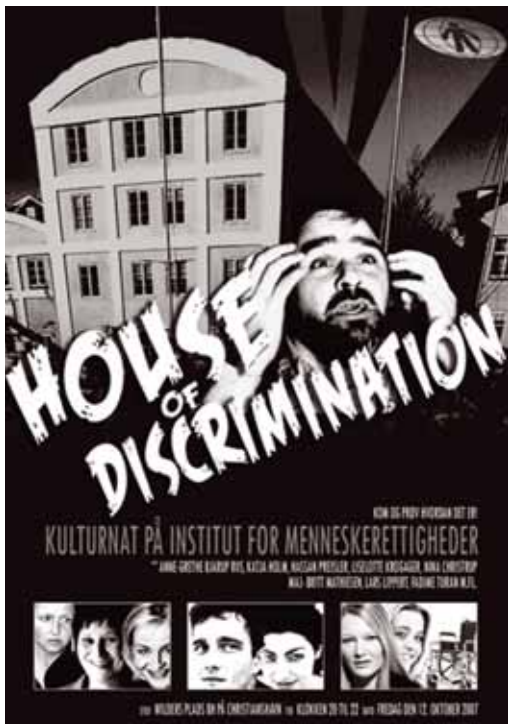
When the Danish capital was clothed in darkness for the 2007 annual Night of Culture event, thrills and horror again greeted guests who ventured to visit the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). Here, Culture Night spectators were treated to a different and spooky experience as the Institute changed its name for the evening to the 'House of Discrimination'.

Guests were labelled with the identity of people who most often encounter discrimination in society. Then they embarked on a tour to face a variety of unpleasant situations where actors and experts did their best to ensure that the guests experienced at first hand what it was like to be discriminated against by the surrounding world.

You might, for instance, be dragged through job interviews and your first day on the job; children over 10 could visit the mysterious 'changing room' where they were greeted by actors like Anne-Grethe Bjarup Riis. Other actors participating were Hassan Preisler, Katja Holm, Lise Lotte Krogager, Maj-Britt Mathiesen, Lars Lippert and Fadime Turan.

"The Night of Culture is a different way to teach about an important part of the Institute's work, namely the fight against discrimination. You may, for instance, learn something about what you yourself would do, where you can turn to if you saw someone being discriminated against, or if you experienced the very unpleasant situation of being discriminated yourself," explains Special Adviser with DIHR Mandana Zarrehparvar.

A number of organizations participated with expert advice, i.e. the Danish National Association of Gays & Lesbians, the Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment, the Danish Association of Senior Citizens, the Equal Opportunities Centre for Disabled Persons, the Equal Treatment Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Danish Youth Council, the Women's Council in Denmark and the Islamic-Christian Study Centre.



CHARTER 77 CELEBRATES ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY

On 27 November 2007, the Danish Institute for Human Rights hosted a seminar celebrating the 30th anniversary of Charter 77 in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic and Danish PEN. Among the speakers were Mogens Lykketoft and Anders Jerichow while the former president of the Czech Republic Václav Havel sent a special video greeting to the seminar. The music was arranged by Palle Mikkelborg and Helen Davis.

The Czech Ambassador Ivan Jancarek opened the tricentennial anniversary seminar together with DIHR Director Morten Kjærum. Actor Tom McEwan read excerpts from 'Charter 77', and Anna Sabatova and Anders Jerichow organised a debate on the current situation in Belarus and Burma in which democracy advocates and authors from these countries participated.

Debaters at the Burma session were Ambassador Jiri Sitrler from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sabe Amthor Soe from the Prague Burma Centre. At the Belarus session, debaters were Jan Ruml, President of Civic Belarus; Ales Bialiatski, the leader of Viasna, Belarus; and writer and journalist Svetlana Aleksijevic. Charlotte Flindt Pedersen from DIHR was chairperson.

RESEARCHERS HOLD A SERIES OF SEMINARS

In the spring of 2007, the DIHR Research Department once again hosted a series of seminars. The theme this time was the European Court of Human Rights, more specifically, 'The Changing Dynamics of the Court of Human Rights'. The first seminar was an introduction to the Court System, presented by Board Member Jonas Christoffersen and Researcher Stéphanie Lagoutte. The second seminar concentrated on the Court and economic and social rights and was chaired by Researcher Ida Elisabeth Koch. For the third seminar, Professor Françoise Hampson from the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex spoke about representing clients in the face of the Court apparatus. The fourth seminar presented two former Strasbourg judges on the dais, who explained how judges' minds work and provided examples of select Court decisions. At the sixth seminar another team, Ralph Wilde from the Faculty of Laws at University College London and Peter Vedel Kessing from DIHR participated. At the seventh seminar, Senior Researcher Marie-Bénédicte Dembour from Sussex University lectured about which human rights school was closest to the European Court of Human Rights.

The series of seminars was concluded by Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Head of the European Council's Human Rights Intergovernmental Programmes Department, speaking about future prospects for the Court in Strasbourg. DIHR researchers Stéphanie Lagoutte and Eva Maria Lassen arranged this series of seminars which were part of DIHR's engagement in the European Master's Degree in Democracy and Human Rights.

INFO

Read more about the European Master's Degree here: www.menneskeret.dk/forskning/european+master's+degree+in+human+rights+and+democratisation

THE YEAR OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The UN established its new Human Rights Council in 2006. On this occasion, DIHR arranged an open meeting on 26 June 2007 presenting a status of the Council's first year of existence as well as the opportunities and challenges lying ahead. Switzerland and Denmark were among the first initiators behind establishing the Human Rights Council; both countries were represented in the panel. Participating in the debate were Wolfgang A. Bruehlhart, head of the Human Rights Policy Section of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Kim Vinthen, Senior Consultant in the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and DIHR Director Morten Kjærørum.

WHAT USE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS TO US?

On 13 November 2007, DIHR held an after-work meeting focusing on the role of human rights institutions, also known as the national human rights institutions (NHRIs), in old and new democracies. An NHRI is an institution mandated according to the Paris Principles approved by the UN and (in the case of DIHR) set up by Danish legislation. Ph.D. Fellow Gauthier de Beco from the Centre for Philosophy of Law, Catholic University of Louvain, addressed the meeting about NHRIs in the old democracies; Fergus Kerrigan, Senior Consultant with DIHR, spoke about NHRIs in the new democracies.

MIA CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY

What are the requirements for making diversity a success? And how do you manage diversity? IBM played host when the Institute for Human Rights focused on these questions at the conference headlined 'When the labour force diminishes and diversity rises'; this marked the starting point of the fourth annual conference on the MIA Award – Denmark's only business award for diversity and equal opportunities.

Keynote speakers were DIHR Director Morten Kjærørum; CEO of IBM Denmark Lars Mikkelsen; Nicolai Wammen, Mayor of Århus Municipality; Deputy CEO Birgitte Bruun of Nykredit; Laundry CEO Pernille Lundvang from Midtvaske (formerly known as Århus Amts Vaskeri); Human Rights Adviser Soraya Ramoul from Novo Nordisk A/S; Chief Consultant Kurt Møller from the Danish Emergency Management Agency; and Susanne Nour from DIHR. The conference was chaired by business journalist Mogens Rubinsten, and it consisted of two rounds of speeches and a panel debate.

COURSES AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has a number of Team Leaders, each responsible for select areas of focus. In 2007, Lone Lindholt headed the international work on Education and Universities.



This team was established at the end of 2006 as a combination of the former Education Team and the university programmes from civil society. The idea was that the university partners could contribute to and benefit from the education activities in a multitude of areas; this vision has proven to work, Lone Lindholt informs, and she goes on:

"In the beginning of 2007, the entire education concept compared to the former education programmes was revised and relaunched. First of all, the international courses were 'put on sale' and this gave a positive result both financially and, not least, in light of a high and committed level of participation."

"At the same time, we set criteria for participation in the different courses, making it clear to potential participants that admittance to the specialist courses required prior knowledge of human rights, while the basic course would be for participants with no advance knowledge of human rights."

In 2007 you held a number of courses for DIHR's international partners. Will this continue in 2008?

"Yes. We have evaluated our experiences and during 2008 there will be, among others, a basic course on human rights and a repetition of the course 'Integrating Human Rights in Development'. Moreover, there will be workshops including strategic planning for state partners and a reflection seminar on the cross field of HIV, AIDS and human rights. These workshops should be seen as a further development of the specialist courses; yet with the benefit of experience, they will have greater focus on an intense mutual exchange between participants rather than old-fashioned instruction. With regard to the university programmes, both 2007 and 2008 will see different programmes in East and West Africa, Iraq and Yemen. At the end of 2007, two new programmes within this area started in Vietnam and Laos, respectively", Lone Lindholt explains.

INFO

Read the entire interview at:
www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/årsberetning



CASE IN POINT: DISCRIMINATION

Smith, Jones or White – if your name is run-of-the-mill, you will have no trouble using the Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) self-service check-in at the airport; if, however, your name has a foreign ring to it, a ring that according to SAS does not sound Scandinavian or English, well, then you may look forward to being singled out for enhanced scrutiny of your visa. But this practice is illegal and discriminatory, according to the Complaints Committee for Ethnic Equal Treatment, which has treated a complaint about this from a passenger.

"In our assessment, this practice is not a necessary and beneficial method for inspecting travel documents; it therefore amounts to differential treatment of passengers based on their names and thus indirectly based on their ethnic origin," the Chair of the Complaints Committee Professor Claus Haagen Jensen points out. In the specific case from 2007, the passenger was

not allowed to use the SAS self-service check-in at Copenhagen Airport; instead being referred to the ordinary counter. Here he was told that travellers with 'strange names' were not permitted to check in themselves; and that this was standard airline policy. The passenger complained to the Complaints Committee, which is part of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and which initiated an investigation of SAS.

The subsequent investigation of the airline's visa checking procedure revealed that the company applies

ethnic profiling to all its passengers. This, according to the Committee, is tantamount to indirect discrimination and therefore unlawful. At the same time, the Committee concluded that SAS's management has also broken the law by illegally instructing its staff to discriminate. According to the Committee, this has been done by requiring staff to prevent travellers whose names had a foreign ring from availing themselves of the self-service option. Now the Committee has recommended that the complainant be granted free legal aid so he may sue SAS.

INFO
Read more about
the Complaints
Committee here:
www.klagekomite.dk

ACCESS TO RULE OF LAW

Team Leader

Fergus

Kerrigan tells

about how

the building

up of a state

governed

by the rule

of law is

basically

about

the justice sector's ability to live up to promises made on principles like equality before the law and justice as well as the population's faith in the justice sector and the state. Therefore the Team's strategy is based on the pivotal supposition that the people's co-ownership of these mechanisms and ensuring responsibility in the justice system are crucial to both the realisation of human rights and the strengthening of states governed by the rule of law.

You choose to focus on openness and efficiency in justice mechanisms and on a preventive use of these mechanisms – how?

"True. In cooperation with a Ukrainian NGO, 'Kherson Regional Charity and Health Foundation' and 'Redress', and with support from Denmark and Canada, DIHR held a conference in Kyiv, the Ukraine, in March 2007 with providers of legal aid from four continents. Participants discussed ways and methods to go about this and adopted a declaration about greater recognition of legal aid as a right. A follow-up conference has been planned in 2008 focusing on Africa.



Why Africa?

In poor countries with a weak or underdeveloped justice sector where legal council is rarely provided in cases that go before court, a more comprehensive educational effort, legal education and access to lay defenders are important. NGOs play an important role with regard to providing legal aid, and partnerships between the public and the private sector should be encouraged. Therefore, DIHR emphasizes support for legal aid networks as collaboration partners for public institutions in many countries, particularly in Africa.

DIHR has worked in Rwanda for many years and is still involved there?

"In January 2007, a study was published with basic data concerning legal aid in Rwanda. Additional Dutch funding ensured continued support for the civil society network 'Rwanda Legal Aid Forums' until the end of 2009. This forum works to create common approaches to education and training, supervision and evaluation, mechanisms for case referral and advocacy for better access to legal aid. It also administers a fund that member organizations can apply to for legal aid projects."

INFO

Read the whole interview at
[www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/
arsberetning](http://www.menneskeret.dk/om+os/arsberetning)

Mindeord:

A SPIRITUAL MENTOR

It was with deep regret that Isi Foighel's colleagues at the Danish Institute for Human Rights learned of his sudden death in 2007.

For the last 10 years of his life he was an esteemed, beloved and highly competent member of staff at the Danish Institute for Human Rights. His academic knowledge boosted work in our Research Department. His practical know-how was used in his many trips to our overseas projects, where he regaled people all over the world with his ability to explain difficult legal issues, which made the complexities of UN and European Council Conventions appear crystal clear to his audience. Professor, former minister and judge, Isi Foighel was a preeminent communicator and also a raconteur, which made his speeches riveting and his many books a pleasure to read. His most recent book was published in the summer of 2007 and was a serious reminder that everyone bears a personal responsibility to choose to follow the powers that be or respect the dignity of the individual human being. This dilemma was a matter of urgency in 1943 when all Danish Jews – including Isi – faced deportation to the death camps of Germany. Some individuals, however, chose to follow their personal belief system and risked their lives to rescue the Danish Jews by helping them to flee to Sweden. Isi Foighel was a powerful force for humanitarianism. For this reason, his colleagues at the Danish Institute for Human Rights think of Isi with the deepest respect, but he also leaves us all with a strong personal sense of loss.

Each year in December, DIHR will hold an Isi Foighel Lecture in memory of this great human rights defender.



RESEARCH PROJECTS 2007

Erik André Andersen:

International Criminal Law in an Historic and Current Perspective.

Eva Ersbøll:

Danish Citizenship in an International and Historic Context.

Rikke Frank Jørgensen:

Ph.D. project funded by the National Research Council for Culture and Communication: Internet - Remixing Public and Private. Commenced February 2007.

Peter Vedel Kessing:

Fighting Terror and Human Rights – with a special focus on the right not to be subjected to random incarceration and torture or inhuman or degrading treatment.

Kim U. Kjær:

- An article with the working title "Soft Law in Danish Asylum Law".
- Article about a case notoriocally dealt with incorrectly by Danish Courts as well as ECHR.
- A follow-up article on the PET procedure.

Ida Elisabeth Koch:

The Indivisibility of Human Rights – socio-economic rights as elements of civil and political rights.

Stéphanie Lagoutte:

- The European Human Rights System – The Reform of the European Court of Human Rights.
- The "processualization" of human rights within the European human rights system.
- Religion and Human Rights – The relationship between the freedom of religion and other human rights.
- Methodological deliberations concerning human rights research – Law, legal pluralism and a cross-sectional approach.

Eva Maria Lassen (Research Head):

- The Creation of the Universal Declaration in 1948.
- The History of Human Rights in Denmark from 1946 until today.
- The Limits to Freedom of Religion from a Danish and a European Perspective.

Maria Ventegodt Liisberg:

Scandinavian Disability Legislation and Labour Market Policies – Analysis and proposal for reform.

Henrik Nielsen:

- Human Rights Efforts in So-Called Fragile States.
- Capacity Building in Human Rights Efforts in Africa.

Hans-Otto Sano:

- Rettighedsbaseret udvikling
- Metodeudvikling af menneskeretsindikatorer

Line Vikkelsø Slot:

Ph.D. Project: A sociological inquiry into the character and extent of institutional discrimination with regard to assignment of training and educational positions.

Peter Scharff Smith (Head of Research):

- When Punishment Strikes the Innocent – Children of inmates, their problems and human rights.
- The History and Harmful Effects of Solitary Confinement.
- Prisons and Human Rights.

Hatla Thelle:

Legal Aid and Access to Complain in China.

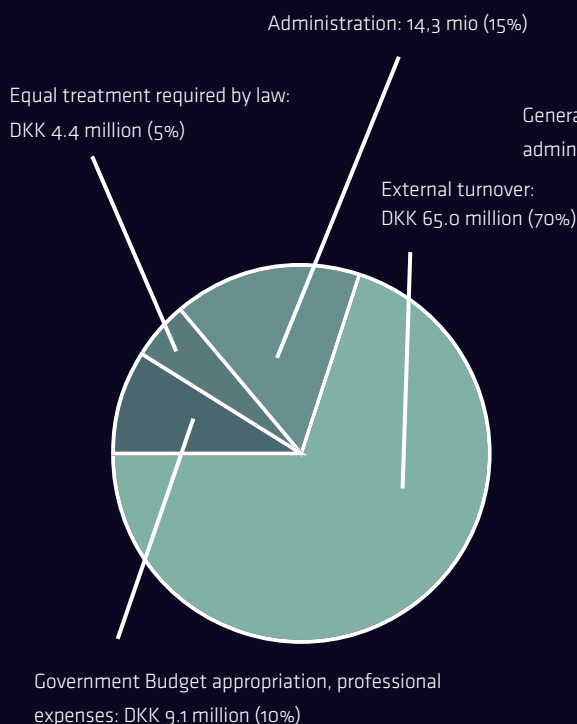
INFO

Read more about DIHR research at www.menneskeret.dk/forskning

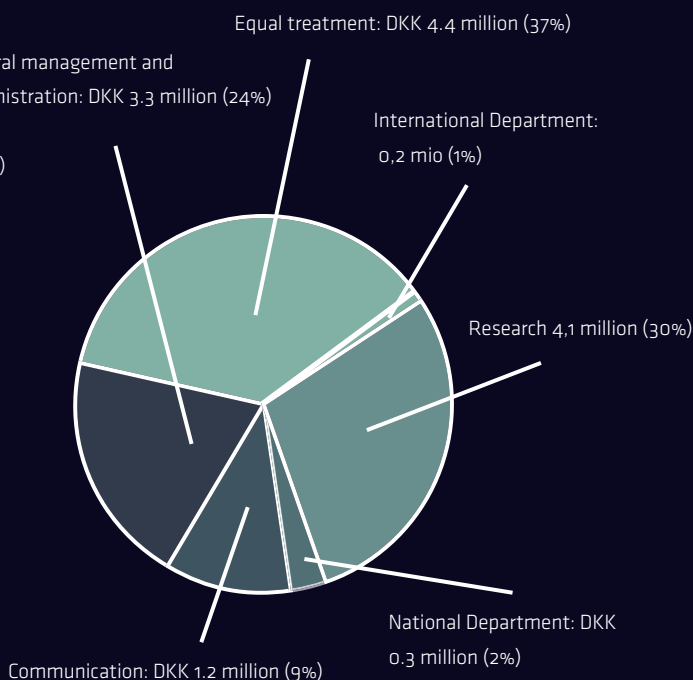
FINANCES

Total turnover in 2007 of DKK 92.8 million comprised DKK 27.8 million from national work and approx. DKK 65.0 million from international work.

Financing from Government Budget appropriations vs. external turnover and administration.



Expenditure of Government Budget appropriations for professional purposes and equal treatment activities in 2007, DKK 13.5 million according to purpose.



We thank the following for their contribution and cooperation in 2007:

ADI, Association for Democratic Initiatives
 British Council
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 The Royal Danish Embassy, Katmandu
 The Royal Danish Embassy, Managua
 The Royal Danish Embassy, Maputo
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 Tryg Fonden
 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 The Ministry of Education
 UNDP
 UNHCR
 Université Catholique Louvain
 WHO
 Aarhus University

FACTS ABOUT DI

Research and Consultancy

Number of researchers, external financing

4 researchers at DIHR with external financing of salary at least 50 %

Number of affiliated guest researchers and students

1 guest researcher

Number of research partners and EMA students

8 researchers financed by the Research Partnership Programme and students under the European Master's Programme

Country context reports and -strategies

All important reports and strategies including major programme documents containing important analytical elements, published (website or other):
6 reports

Projects and Programmes

Number of ongoing partnership projects and programmes:

54 projects and programmes implemented in cooperation with a partner – excluding consulting

Number of published evaluations and reviews of partnership programmes

4 external evaluations. Published reviews, i.e. progressive surveys either externally or internally in DIHR – often published on the Web

Number of successful project applications

12 project and programme applications approved by the relevant donor

Number of strategic cooperation agreements entered into

Includes strategic cooperation agreements with all types of institutions including 'co-partners' in programmes, but not cooperation agreements with local partners
4 cooperation agreements

Number of larger documents prepared in cooperation with partners

Includes strategies, education materials, analyses, manuals, etc.
7 documents

Consultancy and other externally financed projects

Number of ongoing consultancies and commissioned tasks

54 consultancies and commissioned tasks: Specific tasks – usually time-limited – on purely business terms

Number of other ongoing, externally financed projects

34 externally financed projects

Conferences, seminars and lectures

Number of conferences and seminars – Danish

53 conferences and seminars in Denmark with DIHR as arranger or co-arranger

Number of conferences and seminars - international

35 conferences and seminars outside Denmark with DIHR as arranger or co-arranger

Number of conferences and seminars where DIHR is invited as panellist, discussant, chair, etc.

46 conferences and seminars where a DIHR employee is invited as an active participant. Not including lectures. Participation both in Denmark and internationally.

Number of lectures or talks, external/Danish

66 lectures and talks in Denmark where DIHR is not arranger or co-arranger

Number of lectures or talks, external/international

40 lectures and talks outside Denmark where DIHR is not arranger or co-arranger

Public meetings: 7

Responses to public e-mail enquiries: 212

Professional memberships and networks

Number of memberships of international delegations, working groups, networks or committees
27 memberships

Number of memberships of national delegations, groups, networks or committees

24 memberships

HR

Number of memberships of national boards

10 memberships

Number of memberships of international boards

13 memberships

Number of memberships of legislative committees

2 memberships

Education and training

Number of courses and workshops, Danish

74 courses

Number of education rounds at DIHR courses by DIHR employees, Danish

70 education rounds

Number of days for course participants, Danish

Number of days for course participants with a national aim, i.e. directed at Danish conditions:

15 days for course participants with 351 participants

Number of courses and workshops, international

28 courses/workshops

Number of participants at courses and workshops, international

10 courses with a total of 474 participants

Number of days for course participants, international

83.5 days for course participants with an international aim, i.e. directed at international conditions:

Number of participants: 1346

Number of education rounds at DIHR courses by DIHR employees, international

All types of courses or lectures at courses or workshops aimed at international conditions where DIHR is arranger or co-arranger:

Number of courses or workshops with an international aim with DIHR partners as arranger or co-arranger outside Denmark

43 workshops/courses

Complaints Treatment

Number of specific complaints received: 32

Number of cases opened at own initiative: 3

Number of statements from the Complaints Committee: 13

Information

Number of media mentions, TV and radio: 72

Number of media mentions, print press: 603

Number of new publications: 18

Sold publications: 303

News coverage on international websites: 64

Number of website visits

menneskeret.dk	372,293
nhri.net	76,374
humanrights.dk	247,892
Complaints Committee, Equal Treatment	6,594
miapris.dk	24,926
mangfoldighed.dk	10,589

Total	738,668
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The Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) was originally established as The Danish Centre for Human Rights on 5 May 1987 by an Act of Parliament. In 2003, DIHR changed status by Act no. 411 on the Establishment of The Danish Centre for International Studies and Human Rights as of 1 January 2003. The Institute works along the lines of the UN Paris Principles on national human rights institutions; DIHR works with research, information, education, project activities and documentation about Danish, European and international issues. DIHR is a Danish centre for knowledge about human rights and cooperates with NGOs and public authorities in Denmark and other countries as well as intergovernmental organizations such as the Nordic Council, the European Council, the EU and the UN.

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