Program News

**Satellites Document War, Destruction From Outer Space**

"If your town was bombed out of existence, would anyone care? If you live in one of the dusty, poor corners of the world, maybe not. Carnage in developing countries often goes unnoticed in the more wired, wealthy parts of the world. That's where the American Association for the Advancement of Science's [Geospatial Technology and Human Rights Project](link) comes in. It is charged with using the latest in technology, primarily high-resolution satellite photography, to detect and call attention to possible human rights violations." Read the full article [here](link).

**Summit Promotes Wireless Technology as Human Rights Tool**
"For citizens of the developed world, wireless communications are a way to log on to the Internet from a favorite coffee shop, schedule a meeting via Blackberry, or check sports scores on a cell phone. But for the developing world, experts said at a recent AAAS forum, wireless technology offers a unique chance to address more weighty concerns such as the promotion of free expression and democracy." Read the full article [here](#). To learn more about our Wireless Communication Technologies and Human Rights project, please visit the [project website](#).

Science and Human Rights Coalition

**June Planning Meeting Report**

**Next Planning Meeting: September 15, 2008**

The report of the Coalition's fifth planning meeting (June 9th) is [now available](#).

Working toward a public launch in January 2009, the Coalition will hold its sixth planning meeting on Monday, September 15 at 8:45am-1:00pm at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. Meeting participants will consider two final sets of recommendations for Organizational Structure and a Plan of Action (2009-2011), and do a final review of the full set of foundational documents to be presented at the Launch: Mission and Goals; Membership; and five Areas of Activity. You can register for the planning meeting online [here](#).

**Introducing our Areas of Activity:**

**Service to the Scientific Community**

"Service to the Scientific Community" is one of the Coalition's five areas of planned activity. The primary goal of this area is to build the commitment and capacity of scientific associations to contribute meaningfully to human rights issues and activities. Proposed activities include: providing human rights training for interested scientific associations; providing guidance to members of scientific associations who want to establish human rights committees, sections or working groups; and encouraging scientific associations to organize human rights workshops, trainings, and presentations at their annual meetings. Details about the rationale, objectives, and which liquid biofuel production can be made compatible with full respect for the right to adequate food for all."

**Claiming the Millennium Development Goals: A Human Rights Approach**

UNOHCHR[link](#)

"This publication sets out a human rights approach to the MDGs, the primary purpose of which is to outline a clear framework of analysis for the development sector, relevant also to the needs of human rights practitioners, identifying entry points at the policy level as well as for country-level programming and advocacy. Practical illustrations are provided throughout, along with suggested additional indicators for particular MDGs, as contributions to sectoral strategies and MDG monitoring and reporting."

**Strengthening Engagement with the International Human Rights Machinery: A Practitioner's Guide**

UNDP Oslo[link](#)

This Guide "written primarily for the non-human rights expert, provides guidance on how to strengthen engagement with the international human rights machinery, specifically with UN Treaty Bodies and UN
content of this area of activity are available [here](#). If you wish to find out more about this area of activity and how your association can participate, please contact Brad Miller (American Chemical Society) and Jessica Wyndham (AAAS Science and Human Rights Program).

**Introducing our Members:**

**American Educational Research Association**

"The American Educational Research Association (AERA), founded in 1916, is concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results." Among its Special Interest Groups, two are concerned with human rights. The purpose of [Critical Educators for Social Justice](#) is to "teach, promote, and implement the principles of critical pedagogy in order to establish and educational movement grounded in the struggle for social and environmental justice, human rights, and economic democracy." The [Peace Education](#) group promotes "dialogue and disseminates research on peace-related issues including work in the areas of conflict, conflict resolution, human rights, social justice, violence, and prejudice." [Read more](#).

For more information about the Coalition and how you or your organization can become involved, please visit our [website](#). To receive the latest information about the Coalition, please sign-up for our [Coalition Listserv](#).
From the Human Rights Community

**Broken Laws, Broken Lives: Medical Evidence of Torture by the US**

Physicians for Human Rights

"This report provides first-hand accounts and medical evidence of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of eleven former detainees who were held in US custody overseas. Using internationally accepted standards, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) conducted medical evaluations of the former detainees to document the severe, long-term physical and psychological consequences that have resulted from their torture and ill-treatment." [Read more](#).

**Climate Change and Human Rights: A Rough Guide**

International Council on Human Rights Policy

"This report discusses a spectrum of human rights concerns raised by anthropogenic climate change and by the strategies devised to address it . . . [I]t pinpoints areas where climate change will have direct and indirect human rights impacts, and where human rights principles might sharpen policy-making on climate change, including in the two core policy areas of adaptation (preparing for the unavoidable and foreseeable effects of climate change) and mitigation (reducing GHG emissions in order to curb climate change)." [Read more](#).
**From the UN**

*Enforcing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - A New Mechanism is Created*

On June 18, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Protocol will allow individuals to petition the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights about violations of rights guaranteed in the ICESCR, including the right to the benefits of scientific progress. Before coming into force, the Protocol must be approved by the UN General Assembly and then ratified by ten States. The General Assembly is expected to grant final approval later this year. Read more.

**Torture Persists, Devastating Millions**

In a statement marking the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon decried that "60 years since the adoption of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights], torture persists, devastating millions of victims and their families." He emphasized the significance of the Day as "a call to speak out and take action against all those who commit torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment." Read more.

**About the SHRP Newsletter**

The Science & Human Rights Newsletter is issued monthly by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program. Through the newsletter we strive to keep scientists and human rights practitioners informed with news items, program updates, new resources, and upcoming events at the intersection of science and human rights. Submissions to the newsletter are welcome and can be made via our online submission form.

Please visit our website to learn more about our programs as well as our past accomplishments.