

April 2008



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## Science and Human Rights Program Newsletter

### Program News

#### International Summit for Community Wireless Networks - May 28-30, 2008



The AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, New America Foundation, CUWiN Foundation, and the Acorn Active Media Foundation are sponsoring the 2008 International Summit for Community Wireless Networks to be held at AAAS Headquarters, Washington, DC, on May 28-30, 2008. The Summit will bring together wireless activists, community networking visionaries and human rights practitioners to shape the future of the wireless movement and explore options for using these technologies to improve human rights work on the ground. [Registration](#) for the Summit is now open. To learn more about our Wireless Communication Technologies for Human Rights Project please visit our [website](#).

#### Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project - funded to expand work on Burma

SHRP has been notified that it will receive a second grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI) Burma Project to

#### SHRP EVENTS

*May 28-30, 2008  
Washington, DC  
[International Summit for Community Wireless Networks](#)*

*June 9, 2008  
Washington, DC  
[5th Science and Human Rights Coalition Planning Meeting](#)*

#### PUBLICATIONS

***Statistical Methods for Human Rights**  
Jana Asher, David Banks, and Fritz J. Scheuren (eds.) ([link](#))*

This edited volume "is intended as an introduction to applied human rights research. It describes the statistics that underlie social science research in human rights and includes case studies, methodology, and research papers that

support the work of the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project. This grant follows previous funding from OSI which facilitated the use of satellite imagery to assess the impact of ongoing military campaigns against people in Karen State and other areas in Burma. The new grant will attempt to expand assessment activities to include resource extraction projects, such as dams, pipelines, and logging, and will also be used to develop tools for linking ground and space-based observations.

## Science and Human Rights Coalition

### Planning Meetings

The report on the Coalition's fourth planning meeting (March 3rd) is [now available](#). The next planning meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2008. You can register for the planning meeting online [here](#).

### Introducing our Members: Association of American Geographers

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) is a nonprofit scientific and educational association with members from over 60 countries. The AAG promotes discussion among its members and with scholars in related fields, in part through the activities of its specialty groups, including the Ethics, Justice and Human Rights Specialty Group (EJHRSG). The EJHRSG aims to foster research, improve teaching, and help the discipline address its own ethical, justice and rights issues. It supports and encourages inclusive and informed discussion throughout the discipline on normative concerns including applied, theoretical, and professional. [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](#).*

## In the News

discuss the fundamental issues of measurement."

***The Law and Ethics of Medical Research: International Bioethics and Human Rights***  
Aurora Plomer ([link](#))

The book focuses on the ethical and legal debate surrounding medical research involving human subjects. The objective of the book is an analysis of the evolution in the form and content of international instruments regulating biomedical research, particularly the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. The author explores the strengths and weaknesses of the Convention and its ability to guarantee the fundamental rights of the individual in some of the most controversial areas of biomedical research.

## ***"Geospatial Technology: Mapping for Human Rights"***

PingMag

14 March 2008

"Geospatial technologies using satellite imagery, internet-integrated mapping or GPS aren't just for spyware - these



days they are employed to detect, map and analyze human rights violations to help NGOs like Amnesty International. Using widely available tools such as Google Earth, Lars Bromley, director of the Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has been digitally capturing atrocities against civilians in Darfur, Zimbabwe, North Korea, the Gaza Strip and Burma. He tells PingMag all about geospatial technologies." [Read full article](#). Please also visit our [Geospatial page](#) for the latest project updates.

## ***"AAAS Leads Planning for a Science and Human Rights Coalition"***

AAAS News

2 April 2008

"Through its Science and Human Rights Program, AAAS is leading plans for a new collaboration on human rights involving many science associations. The Science and Human Rights Coalition, scheduled for launch early next year, is meant to broaden the scientific community's involvement with human rights. Organizers say that could include more attention to the right of all to share in the benefits of scientific progress." [Read full article](#)

From the UN

## ***The Impact of Climate Change Mitigation Measures on Indigenous Peoples***



At its Sixth Session, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) appointed experts to investigate the impact of "climate change mitigation measures on indigenous peoples." In this report, "the authors summarize the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples, review mitigation and adaptation measures, and then analyze the impacts of these measures on indigenous peoples." [Download full report](#)

## **New UN treaty to protect equal rights of persons with disabilities**

On 3 May 2008, the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) will come into force as will its [Optional Protocol](#) permitting individual communications to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. According to the UN, "the Convention marks a 'paradigm shift' in attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as 'objects' of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as 'subjects' with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society." [Read full article](#)

## Request for Scientific Expertise

### ***Human Rights Dimensions of Climate Change - Draft Report***



The International Council on Human Rights Policy has drafted a report on climate change and human rights. In particular, the [draft report](#) addresses the question of how the human costs and impacts expected as a result of climate change might better be refined and understood in the future. "The report suggests that in order to identify optimal policy choices, policy makers will need a better handle on expected human costs, and that human rights techniques can provide a

good basis for identifying both the costs and the relevant policies." Comments on the draft report are welcome and should be directed to Stephen Humphreys, research director, International Council on Human Rights Policy ([humphreys@ichrp.org](mailto:humphreys@ichrp.org)).

## 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](#).*

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