

Uprooted People

A Newsletter of the World Council of Churches in solidarity with people compelled by severe political, economic and social conditions to leave their land and culture.

1. A note from the editor

Uprooted People is a publication of the International Relations team of the World Council of Churches and is intended to provide information on current developments to churches and related organizations in support of their work.

Uprooted People is distributed four times a year by e-mail. If you would like to receive the publication or to contribute news affecting uprooted people in your region, please contact Elizabeth Ferris (egf@wcc-coe.org)

2. Network News

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches met in early September. Among other issues, the governing body adopted changes recommended by the Special Commission on Orthodox participation in the WCC, deliberated over financial shortfalls, and adopted a number of public statements, including a minute on the situation in Colombia, the threat of war against Iraq, the consequences of 11 September, and a policy statement on South Asia.

The annual meeting of the Global Ecumenical Network on Uprooted People met in Geneva from 22-24 September with participants coming from ecumenical organizations working with uprooted people in all regions. The Group considered the deteriorating situation facing refugees, migrants and displaced people throughout the world. Particular efforts were made: to strengthen a new UNHCR Code of Conduct intended to prevent sexual exploitation of refugee children; to urge governments to provide adequate resources to UNHCR in light of its financial difficulties and to agree to monitor implementation of the Agenda for Protection. The GEN meeting also agreed to focus more attention on the questions of spiritual care for refugees and asylum-seekers in camps and detention centers and to stay in close contact with one another should threatened military actions be undertaken against Iraq. Finally, the GEN meeting recognized the importance of working with local congregations to raise awareness about the needs of uprooted people. The report of the GEN meeting will soon be available from egf@wcc-coe.org.

The 9th meeting of the Ecumenical Network for Refugees, Migrants and Displaced in Latin America met in Lima, Peru from 12-15 August. Comprised of representatives of ecumenical organizations working with uprooted people in six Latin American

countries, the network heard reports on the situation facing uprooted people in the region, reviewed research on the present legal situation in the countries represented, and met with diplomats from Chile, Ecuador and Peru to discuss new and impending legislation. The Working Group adopted the “Declaration of Lima” which underlined the necessity of continuing to struggle for the ratification and implementation of international and national instruments to protect migrants, refugees and displaced; rejected Plan Colombia and its expansion in the region, and noted the deteriorating reception conditions for refugees and migrants in Latin America. The group also addressed a letter to the World Council of Churches asking that the issue of the deteriorating situation in Colombia be placed on the agenda of its forthcoming Central Committee meeting.

The Joint MECC/WCC Working Group on Refugees, Displaced and Migrants held its annual meeting from 17-19 September in Damascus, Syria with representatives from churches in the region, the Christian Conference of Asia and the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy. The US military threats against Iraq were a major concern as was the continuing struggle for self-determination of the Palestinian people and difficulties with the US Resettlement Program. The Working Group identified a number of issues for advocacy, including the ratification of the 1990 convention on the rights of migrant workers, advocating with Asian governments to improve their protection of their nationals’ rights overseas, arbitrary detention of migrants, and the need for a campaign on the dangers and injustices on trafficking. The group also stressed the necessity for skill building regarding ministry to uprooted people, including targeting students in theological institutes and asked that more attention be given to the social and spiritual needs of uprooted people. The Working Group reaffirmed the importance of the annual meeting.

SEDHU in Uruguay is organizing a seminar on “Refugees and Human Rights” in Montevideo from 14-15 October. The seminar will include presentations on asylum in Uruguay, regional initiatives and the role of civil society in protecting refugees. A round table with legislators and delegates of the Human Rights Commission will also be part of the programme.

The Middle East Council of Churches has published a Survey on Female Migrant Workers in the Middle East (including Gulf states) which provides a statistical overview of foreign workers in the Gulf states, the legal context, the role of recruiting agencies and employers, working conditions, legal problems, financial issues, trafficking of female migrant workers in the Middle East and suggested actions. Available from MECC at meccs@cyberia.net.lb.

The CCME General Assembly will be held in Athens, Greece from 31 October-4 November 2002. There will be a conference prior to the assembly which is sponsored by the Greek Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Public Order on 1 November. Among other issues to be discussed at the Assembly is the question of the future relationship between CCME and the Conference of European Churches.

The CCME Working Group against Racism and Discrimination in collaboration with the Conference of European Churches hosted a Round Table on Racial Violence from 19-22 September in the Netherlands. Representatives from 14 countries developed

strategies for actions against and prevention of racial violence for churches at local, national and European levels. For more information, contact ccme@wanadoo.be.

In a message sent to the Organization of American States, the Vatican stated that there is a “just right emigrate.” The letter signed on behalf of John Paul II by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State, says “all men and women of the region must enjoy the just right to emigrate, which includes the right to live worthily with one’s own family, to preserve and develop one’s own cultural patrimony, including the religious patrimony, and to be treated in every circumstance in keeping with one’s own human dignity. The limits of the ethical obligation to accept immigrants cannot only be determined by the mere defense of one’s own well-being.”

The May meeting of the Amman process, which brings together church representatives from Southern Europe and the Middle East, met with European Commission officials, members of the European Parliament and representatives of the Spanish EU Presidency to learn about the EU’s approach to migration and Mediterranean cooperation and to share their own experience in the daily work with migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean region. The group concluded that “if the EU is serious about human rights, it has to start combating root causes of forced migration instead of combating migrants in their attempts to reach EU territory.” The next meeting of the Amman process will be in Beirut in May 2003.

The information and communication rights of refugees and displaced people in the Pacific region was the theme of a workshop held in Fiji from 7-9 May. The workshop brought together communicators representing the media and the ecumenical community from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. Among the issues discussed were media representations of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people, the politics, impact, coverage and regional consequences of the Pacific solution being implemented by Australia and the quality of reporting of issues related to refugees and displaced people. Keynote speaker Nic Maclellan concluded “There are over 1,500 refugees in detention in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. That’s 1,500 stories waiting to be told.”

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is expanding its “Justice for Our Neighbors” ministry through immigration clinics which are staffed by a combination of legal advisers, immigration specialists and local volunteers. Many who come to the clinics are frightened and vulnerable. “They not only need immigration counseling, but need to be with people who they know care for them as children of God,” explained Lilia Fernandez, founder of the programme.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have developed materials on “treasuring diversity in neighbours” for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, launched in early October. The message being promoted is that churches have an obligation to welcome asylum seekers and refugees and be enriched by their lives and gifts. For more information, see www.ctbi.org.uk/news/

The Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes and the Australian Catholic Social Justice council released a detailed working paper proposing new solutions to the reception, processing and care of asylum-seekers. The paper calls for an end to the long-term, mandatory detention of asylum-seekers and the creation of a

commissioner for refugees independent of government. Under the proposal, asylum-seekers would be detained for a maximum of 60 days in low-security reception centers close to major cities.

3. International Developments

The annual meeting of the UNHCR Executive Committee, from 30 September-4 October, endorsed the “Agenda for Protection” which was the result of an almost 2 year process of Global Consultations for International Protection. The Agenda includes the Declaration of States Parties, adopted at the conclusion of the December 2001 Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention in December 2001 and a programme of action with six main goals: 1) strengthening implementation of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, 2) protecting refugees within broader migration movements, 3) sharing of burdens and responsibilities more equitably and building of capacities to receive and protect refugees, 4) addressing security-related concerns more effectively, 5) redoubling the search for durable solutions, and 6) meeting the protection needs of refugee women and refugee children. (Available on UNHCR’s website: www.unhcr.ch)

The Executive Committee meeting also discussed the implications of UNHCR’s funding shortfall. The total 2002 budget is US\$1,030 million of which US\$202 million is for Supplementary Programmes. Most of the increase over the 2001 programme was the result of the major repatriation programme to Afghanistan. The 2003 approved budget is US\$837 million. The High Commissioner noted “I find it difficult to explain to African governments, in particular, why their refugees should receive much lower levels of assistance than Afghan refugees.” The High Commissioner reported that the number of people of concern to UNHCR has dropped from 21.8 million to 19.8 million – largely due to the return of some 2 million refugees and IDPs in Afghanistan. The High Commissioner also reported that UNHCR has taken several steps, including development of a new UNHCR Code of Conduct, in response to the report on sexual exploitation in West Africa. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has called for a new approach, which he calls “Convention Plus” to supplement the Convention in areas that it does not adequately cover. This could include comprehensive plans of action in cases of massive outflows, agreements on ‘secondary movements’ and better targeting of development assistance in regions of origin and helping refugee-hosting countries to facilitate local integration. UNHCR will also create a Forum of experts to develop new tools to complement the Convention although it was stressed that this is not intended to replace UNHCR’s governance structures.

At an earlier meeting of the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council in Copenhagen in mid-September, Mr. Lubbers spelled out some new agreements which could supplement the 1951 Convention. These include new mechanisms aimed at providing protection nearer to the origin of refugee movements, UNHCR support for finding a common EU-wide interpretation of the definition of refugees, creation of an EU-wide advisory body to monitor the jurisprudence of national refugee status determination bodies, establishment of an efficient system for providing governments with up-to-date information on countries of origin; UNHCR support in identifying groups of asylum seekers for whom simplified, accelerated appeals procedures could

be applied; and the use of tripartite agreements between UNHCR, the host country and the country of origin to facilitate returns.

Doudou Diene, the new Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance has taken up his functions. He was appointed by the Commission in April and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council in New York. Mr. Diene, a former Senegalese diplomat, has a mandate to examine all incidents which are manifestations of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In releasing its 2001 Global Refugee statistics, UNHCR reports that the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR has remained virtually unchanged at 12 million, with half a million people fleeing their countries during the year and nearly as many returning home. Refugees from Afghanistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were the largest groups fleeing their country during the year. There were also a number of new large-scale movements in Africa during the year with some 188,000 fleeing to neighboring countries although some 267,000 African refugees were able to return home. UNHCR also reports on other persons of concern, including asylum-seekers (940,800), returned refugees (462,700) and internally displaced people (6,328,400) For full 2001 statistics, see www.unhcr.ch/statistics.

4. National News in Brief

Controversial return movements by Rwandan authorities are continuing with the expedited repatriation of 17,000 Congolese refugees living in Gihembe camp in Northern Rwanda. An average of 450 refugees are reportedly leaving every day. Approximately 8,000 had returned by mid-September. The refugees have lived in Rwanda since 1996. Despite guarantees of security from the Congolese authorities, refugees are fearful of the proximity of Interhamwe forces and have reported being forced to return. UNHCR reported that conditions for the returnees are difficult, with some returnees complaining that there were only 3 latrines for a population of over 8000. (JRS, no. 118, 119)

More than 3,000 Burundian refugees fled to Tanzania during September – a nearly tenfold increase from August when only 350 new Burundian refugees were registered in Tanzania. Many of the new refugees say they are leaving Burundi after a period of internal displacement inside the country. Refugees continue to report an escalation of conflict between Burundian military and rebel groups inside the country. Meanwhile the number of refugees returning home from camps in Tanzania has dropped dramatically. Since the beginning of the year, more than 45,000 Burundian refugees have returned home.

In mid-October, Burundi authorities reported increasing arrivals of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo fleeing fighting in south Kivu. UNHCR reported that it is extremely worried that possible fighting for Bukavu or a counter-offensive for Uvira could lead to further population displacement into Burundi – which is itself fragile from years of conflict – or into southwestern Rwanda.

Liberian fighting continues to displace tens of thousands of people, adding to the 100,000 refugees in Guinea and a similar number of internally displaced people inside Liberia. Sierra Leone now hosts some 60,000 refugees who have fled fighting in Liberia with 46,000 arrivals this year alone. About 38,000 are in camps, 16,000 awaiting transfer at the border and a further 8,000 are living in urban areas. An estimated 130,000 Liberians are internally displaced, most in the greater Monrovia area. There are also some 10,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in camps in the Monrovia area.

The outbreak of fighting in the Ivory Coast in mid-September has displaced refugees and other West African nationals who have been targeted in the fighting. International organizations are meeting daily to follow up the situation and to organize new facilities in case of a sudden increase in the number of foreign nationals fleeing the fighting or destruction of their homes. UNHCR reports that the situation inside the country remains volatile and unpredictable. The government policy of burning shanty towns in the so-called “precarious” districts – particularly around government buildings and military installations – is continuing to displace people. The UN estimates that more than 6000 people have now lost their homes and are displaced in Abidjan alone. Thousands of people are reported fleeing the war-affected zones daily and the humanitarian situation is deteriorating. Some movements of people from the Ivory Coast, mainly foreigners, have been reported in bordering countries. Presently some 70,000 refugees live in Ivory Coast.

Planned repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan has been suspended as a result of tensions between the two countries. In early October, rebels believed to be from the Sudan People’s Liberation Army attacked towns in Sudan and the border was closed, forcing UNHCR to suspend its planned repatriation. In May 2002, UNHCR declared the cessation of refugee status for Eritreans at the end of the year. More than 100,000 refugees still live in camps in eastern Sudan making this the oldest large-scale refugee situation in the world with which UNHCR is involved. Since the return movement started in May 2001, UNHCR has facilitated the repatriation of more than 50,000 camp-based refugees.

UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) have announced that there is a serious lack of food aid and insufficient funding for Western Sahara refugees living along Algeria’s border with Western Sahara. Some 155,000 Western Saharan refugees are almost entirely dependent upon humanitarian aid provided through WFP. WFP reports that by October the refugees will only get 11 percent of their daily food aid requirements –about 231 kcals per person. UNHCR’s budget for this group of refugees is also underfunded with only \$1.5 million received out of the \$4.6 million required. Presently an estimated 35% of the children suffer chronic malnutrition and 13 percent are acutely malnourished. Earlier this year, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers told the UN Security Council “Western Sahara is an example of a protracted refugee situation where there are few immediate prospects for durable solutions, and where programmes to assist and protect the refugees remain severely under-funded.”

The Australian authorities are closing or phasing down two detention centers: Curtin and Woomera and are moving detained asylum seekers to the new centre at Baxter in South Australia and to Port Headland.

Almost 2 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan this year – far more than the 400,000 returns which UNHCR had anticipated from Pakistan. UNHCR has assisted some 1.6 million refugees to return while an additional 400,000 people have gone back on their own to their communities. The number of returnees from Pakistan reached a high of 375,000 in the month of July and while the number of returnees has decreased since then, refugees are still continuing to return home. Because of a lack of funds, UNHCR has reduced assistance to returnees, eliminating distribution of blankets, jerry cans and buckets (although family kits will continue to be distributed.) UNHCR has halved its shelter programme from a planned 97,000 units to some 41,000. UNHCR faces a shortfall of US\$20 million to meet its US\$271 million budget and the World Food Programme is similarly short of funds. In addition to the more than 1.5 million people who have repatriated from Pakistan in the past seven months, more than 396,000 others have been turned away after it was determined that their interest in repatriation was not genuine and that they were merely seeking the aid package inside Afghanistan. Beginning in early October, UNHCR has started testing iris recognition technology as an additional measure to help prevent the “recycling” of individuals seeking the multiple disbursement of UNHCR’s return assistance package. The Afghan operation is the largest repatriation UNHCR has been involved in since 1972 when more than 9.8 million Bengalis from East Pakistan returned to Bangladesh.

Sri Lankan peace talks, which concluded in Thailand on 18 September, raise hopes for an eventual return of refugees. The Tamil Tiger rebels are no longer insisting on a separate state but now accepting limited autonomy. A joint task force will now create a framework for humanitarian aid and reconstruction. UNHCR announced that an estimated 180,000 internally displaced people had returned home since a Norwegian-brokered truce between the government forces and the LTTE rebels was announced last February, while another 1,000 had spontaneously returned from India. UNHCR is appealing for US\$10 million to help Sri Lankans to return home. An estimated 800,000 Sri Lankans have been internally displaced by the violence.

UNHCR has announced that effective 31 December, 2002, UNHCR will end refugee status for all East Timorese who fled their homeland in 1999. More than 207,000 East Timorese refugees have returned, mainly from camps in neighboring Indonesian West Timor. Some 50,000 refugees still remain outside their homeland. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers said that “UNHCR believes that the situation in East Timor has normalised and that there’s no longer a valid reason for the remaining refugees not to come home.”

Thousands of Indonesians working illegally in Malaysia have been deported to Nunukan, a small island in East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia since March 2002. An estimated 100,000 returned persons are living in deplorable conditions in those camps. As there are still an estimated 600,000 illegal migrant workers from Indonesia in the Malaysian state of Sabah, most of whom will be sent back to Nunukan, the situation is likely to deteriorate. ACT reports that conditions in Nunukan are deplorable, with many people having to sleep in the open. There are no sanitary facilities. While more than 70 persons have already died from illnesses and many are seriously ill, there is only one community health center with 10 beds. ACT has issued an appeal to assist the returnees. See www.act-intl.org.

In August, the Malaysian authorities began deporting Filipinos from Sabah. Reportedly there are 500,000 Filipinos who have been living in Malaysia for more than 30 years, many of whom are Moro/Muslim people who escaped from the conflicts in Mindanao in the early 1970s. Many believed that they needed no travel documents. The Filipinos reported hardship during detention by the Malaysian authorities and upon return faced shortages of food, medicine and shelters.

The Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants reported on a growing number of “stranded workers” – Filipinos who cannot get employed legally in Saudi Arabia but who also cannot leave the kingdom. The practice of employers keeping foreign workers’ passports is partly responsible for an average of more than 200 stranded workers per month. Between 850,000 and 950,000 Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia. (for more information, contact apmm@hknet.com).

The total number of displaced people in Colombia is over two million and the number of newly displaced in 2002 surpasses 100,000. Although the displaced can register with the government to become eligible for 3 months emergency aid, the government is criticized for excessive bureaucracy and slow action and most displaced persons are either unaware of the assistance programmes or choose not to register because they are afraid. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe has asked the US government to provide legal status in the US for Colombian citizens. Nearly 230,000 Colombians left their country on tourist visas in 2000 and stayed abroad, many in the United States. Andrés Pastrana, former Colombian president, had similarly asked the US government to provide temporary protected status to Colombians living in the United States.

UNHCR has issued a set of guidelines on the eligibility of Colombian asylum-seekers in response to the deteriorating situation in Colombia, concluding that due to the growing violence and numerous human rights violations that are taking place all across the country, many Colombians who escape abroad are indeed in need of international protection. In recent months, the number of Colombian asylum-seekers has risen sharply.

El Salvador’s National Assembly has passed the Law on Refugee Status Determination, establishing clear procedures under which refugees can request asylum and have their case reviewed by national institutions according to the standards established in the 1951 Refugee Convention. The new law also creates the Commission for the Determination of Refugee Status that will be overseen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Ministry of Interior. In previous years, UNHCR had carried out refugee status determination. El Salvador acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol in 1983.

UNHCR reports that Ingushetian authorities have given assurances that Ingushetia will remain a safe haven for people displaced from neighboring Chechnya. The government announced its plans to improve conditions for those displaced who will spend another winter in Ingushetia. Approximately 150,000 displaced Chechens currently live in Ingushetia. In May the Russian authorities had announced a plan to resettle the displaced to Chechnya and pressure of various types, including electricity cuts and withholding of government food aid, was applied. All humanitarian

activities carried out by the UN in the Northern Caucasus were suspended in September in solidarity with two abducted workers and to underline the increasingly difficult security system.

The Greek government has dismissed criticisms of its readmission agreement signed with Turkey in November 2001. Since its implementation, Greece has almost systematically sent back to Turkey vessels carrying “irregular migrants” without trying to find out whether there were any asylum-seekers among them. Amnesty International and UNHCR have strongly criticized this readmission agreement. Although Turkey is party to the 1951 Convention, it has not lifted the geographical reservation and is therefore not bound by the Convention in cases of asylum-seekers from non-European countries, such as Iraqi Kurds or Afghans. (Forum Réfugiés, July 2002).

The British government announced in late July that asylum seekers whose asylum applications were being processed would no longer be allowed the right to work. In 1986, asylum-seekers were granted the right to ask for a work permit if they had received no decision on their case after 6 months. The British Home Office claimed that decisions were now being made more quickly and that the backlog of asylum applications had been reduced to some 35,000 cases.

The governments of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom, together with UNHCR, have signed an agreement setting out a detailed framework for the voluntary repatriation of Afghans residing in the UK and their reintegration back into Afghanistan. UNHCR has agreed to provide information to potential Afghan returnees and to monitor the voluntariness of the repatriation. For the most part, such returns will not be considered before the end of the winter months. The UK government has committed itself to pay for the transport of Afghans and to provide assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects.

The French government has agreed to close the controversial Sangatte Red Cross Center which is a short distance from the Channel tunnel. The Center currently shelters some 2,000 people. Afghans who decide to go home voluntarily will be given €2,000 plus €500 for each child.

The new Italian immigration and asylum legislation came into force on 10 September. This law introduces measures such as mandatory detention of asylum-seekers, the finger-printing of immigrants applying for resident permits, the binding of residence permits to work contracts and increased powers to the Navy to monitor and block ships from entering Italian waters. Employees and irregular migrant workers have 30 days to legalize their situation and there are reports of many irregular workers being “fired” by employers unwilling or unable to comply with the new law. Employers who continue to employ irregular migrants face up to 3 months in prison or a fine of €5,000.

Jean-Daniel Gerber, Director of the Swiss Federal office of Refugees, called for the creation of a new international organization to elaborate the “rules, principles and guidelines” to deal with international migration other than refugees. He noted that refugees who are protected by international conventions, only make up a small percentage of the world’s migrants, perhaps 10%, while the rest have little or no legal

protection. He noted that Switzerland has the largest per capita migrant population in the developed world. His remarks were made at a public session on “Human security in an interdependent world” at the end of a Political Round Table at the International Center for Initiatives for Change in Caux, Switzerland. (for more info, contact media@caux.ch).

Austrian NGOs are concerned about the impact of a new governmental directive which will exclude many asylum-seekers from federal care. Asylum-seekers from some countries will be excluded from federal care. From other countries (such as Russian, Georgia, Azerbaijan) asylum-seekers with a negative first decision will be excluded from care. No federal care will be granted to asylum-seekers who are unlikely to be granted asylum because of their country of origin (e.g. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh.)

The Czech Republic has changed from a country of transit migration to a country of destination for asylum-seekers as the number of asylum-seekers has more than doubled in the past year, from 8,880 to 18,082. (Forum Réfugiés, July 2002).

The Canada-US “Safe Third Country Agreement,” signed by the two governments in June, was approved by the Canadian cabinet and is awaiting final approval by the US government. This agreement would allow Canada to deny entry to refugee claimants who arrive via the US. Last year about 14,000 refugee claimants – about 35% of the total - entered Canada through US border crossings. Critics charge that the agreement would increase bureaucracy, prevent family reunification, and decrease the ability of asylum-seekers to avail themselves of Canadian refugee determination procedures.

The US government reports that asylum applications rose 3% in the first 9 months of 2002, compared with 2001 from 49,346 to 51,060. During this time period, asylum rejections jumped 24 percent from 9,318 to 11,509 compared with the previous year. Human rights activists report that asylum-seekers have become increasingly vulnerable since 11 September.

In June 2002, the US President announced plans for the creation of a new cabinet Department of Homeland Security which would reorganize 22 federal agencies. Separate offices for Border Security and Immigration Services would report to an Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security. This office would include all the functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and there is concern that the focus on the prevention of terrorism would mean that services to immigrants will be given low priority. There are already large processing backlogs of persons eligible for citizenship and permanent residency. Different versions of legislation are being considered by the US Congress.

5. Upcoming Meetings

The International Council of Voluntary Agencies will hold its Conference and General Assembly from 14-17 February 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka with the theme *Strengthening NGO Partnerships in a Globalising World: From Global Rhetoric to Local Reality*. The General Assembly, which will bring together ICVA members, will review the past three years’ work of the organization as well as set the workplan for the organization for the coming three years. For more information, see

www.icva.ch. To receive ICVA's regular publication, Talk Back, send an e-mail to talkback@icva.ch with the message <subscribe.>

The Migrant Forum in Asia is holding its 8th Regional Conference on Migration and the MFA General Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-15 October.

The Hemispheric Summit on the Human Rights of Migrants and Trafficking in the Americas will be held from 20-22 November in Santiago, Chile under the joint sponsorship of the International Organization on Migration and the UN Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean. This is part of a follow-up to the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec.

The Lutheran World Federation is organizing an Inter-Faith Peace Summit in Africa from 14-19 October in Johannesburg, South Africa. Religious communities expected to participate in the event include Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i, Hinduism and traditional African religions. A wide range of issues will be covered including the role of inter-faith dialogue in promoting a culture of peace, conflict resolution and mediation techniques, and relations between religious communities and the State in the context of conflict resolution and peace promotion.

The Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) along with several of its network members is organizing a 3-day event from 6-8 November in Bangkok known as Partners in Change. This will be a unique gathering in that many of the participants belong to the so-called marginalized groups/trafficked women, domestic workers and sex workers. Partners in Change is intended to celebrate and analyze those courageous efforts and discuss future collaborative strategies. For more information, contact gaatw@mozart.inet.co.th or visit www.inet.co.th/org/gaatw.

The Canadian Council for Refugees will convene its annual Fall Consultation from 21-23 November in Calgary, Canada. For more information, contact CCR at www.web.ca/~ccr/

The first International Congress on Child Migration will be held in New York from 27-31 October and will include presentations on a range of issues from a multi-disciplinary approach. For more information, see www.nottsc.gov.uk/child_migrants.

The Cicero Foundation is organizing a conference on European Migration and Refugee Policy: New Developments to be held in Rome from 14-15 November which will include an overview of recent developments in Italian and European refugee and migration legislation.

6. Past meetings

The Conference on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was held in Brussels from 18-20 September. This meeting, organized by the International Organization for Migration under the EU STOP programme, brought together some 1400 participants. Some 66 conference papers were prepared for the meeting with working sessions on prevention of trafficking, victim protection, and police and judicial cooperation. The Churches Commission on Migrants in Europe (CCME)

together with Caritas Europa submitted a statement to the conference in which both organizations underlined the need for durable and comprehensive assistance for the victims of trafficking and the need for cooperation between authorities and NGOs in such assistance measures. The final Declaration of the conference aims to create a roadmap of best practices designed to generate a comprehensive and coordinated European approach to ending the human rights abuses associated with trafficking in human beings. The draft declaration will soon be available at www.iom.int.

The First International Symposium on Post-Primary Education for Refugees was held in Geneva from 18-19 September at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies. The meeting included workshops on access to post-primary education for refugees and the quality of post-primary education with an opening plenary session chaired by Olara Otunnu, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. For further information see www.RefugeeEducationTrust.org.

IOM organized a third South American Conference on International Migration in Quito, Ecuador in mid-August to discuss the possibilities of harmonizing migration legislation. Representatives of 12 South American countries participated in the Conference. This was paralleled by the first South American meeting of Civil Society on Migration which resulted in the creation of a network which will work for the rights of migrants, refugees and displaced. The network is composed of 75 organizations from 14 countries. The network's Declaration of Quito was presented to the governmental representatives. It includes a call that governments guarantee free intraregional migration between South American countries.

7. Resources

Amnesty International Report 2002 provides a comprehensive overview of the human rights by country and a listing of the status of international instruments and conventions on human rights. The introduction to this year's report highlights the particular effects of the backlash on refugees. Available from www.amnesty.org (Note that Amnesty also has websites in Spanish, www.edai.org, French, www.efai.org, and Arabic www.amnesty-arabic.org.)

Refugee Resettlement: An International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration is now available from UNHCR's website: www.unhcr.ch (under protecting refugees, legal protection, and resettlement). The Handbook has been published by UNHCR and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and is intended as a resource to help in the development of sound programmes for the integration of resettled refugees. The handbook addresses issues such as the initial reception of resettled refugees, ways of preparing receiving communities, language training, education, employment and the special needs of children and will be of interest to those working with asylum-seekers and migrants as well as resettled refugees.

The Asian Migrant Centre and the Migrant Forum in Asia have published Asian Migrant Yearbook 2001 which includes a regional overview of migration issues in Asia as well as country reports on individual Asian countries. The publication includes a wealth of detailed information on national situations as well as regional trends. Available for US\$50 (\$25 for NGOs upon request) plus postage from the

Asian Migrant Centre (amc@asian-migrants.org or visit the website at www.asian-migrants.org.)

The April-August 2002 edition of People on the Move includes the proceedings of the Fifteenth Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People as well as the XI International Seminar of Catholic Civil Aviation Chaplains and Chaplaincy Members. Available from the Pontifical Council, at office@migrants.va.

The Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers has analyzed the impact of widespread ethnic profiling of migrant and refugee communities of Arab origin or belonging to the Muslim religion in Europe as a result of post-11 September security measures. Their latest newsletter, Kababayan (available from cfmw@open.net) also reports on a June conference on “The Filipino Seafarer in the 21st Century: Issues and Interests Aboard and Ashore” and on efforts to press the Filipino government to enact an Absentee Voting Bill.

Working with refugees and asylum-seekers in Moldova: The role of NGOs has been published by UNHCR and the Italian Consortium of Solidarity and includes an overview of NGO work in this field, inter- and cross-sectoral relations, the legal and fiscal environment for NGOs as well as conclusions and recommendations.

Prison Guard or Parent? INS Treatment of Unaccompanied Refugee Children has been published by the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children. The report details the findings of a Women’s Commission investigation that visited detention facilities used by the INS in four US states. The delegation found a disturbing lack of regard for the rights and needs of children asylum-seekers. In recent years, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service has taken approximately 5,000 children into its custody annually. (see www.womenscommission.org).

The 2002 Global IDP Survey provides a wealth of information about the situation of internally displaced people in 48 countries, more than half of which are in Africa. The survey finds that national governments do little to protect IDPs because they lack resources or political will. For information on the publication, see <http://www.idpproject.org/publications.htm>

A new ICVA website on “Protecting Rights through Humanitarian Action” is now available at www.icva.ch/cgi-bin/brows.pl?doc=HRHA. The pages share information about training programmes, modules and manuals, practical guidelines and other materials related to the interface between human rights and humanitarian action in an effort to help organizations avoid “reinventing the wheel.” The web pages also host the recently-released IASC publication, Growing the Sheltering Tree: protecting rights through humanitarian action.

Refugees International provides a website, www.refugeesinternational.org which provides information about its advocacy work and assessments of the conditions of refugees and internally displaced people. In the past year, assessments have been carried out on Afghanistan, Congo, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Angola, Indonesia, the Balkans and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

www.TheHagueLegalCapital.nl is a new website which brings together all activities in the Hague related to international justice, security, and peace, particularly as implemented through international law and/or international relations.

The Center for International Health and Cooperation, in cooperation with Fordham University, the University of Geneva and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland will hold one-month intensive residential courses for workers in the humanitarian field, the International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance. In 2003, courses will be offered in Geneva from 26 January to 22 February and in New York from 1-28 June. For more information, see www.idha.ch.

Shattered Dreams: A Report on Trafficking in Persons in Azerbaijan by the International Organization for Migration is based on interviews with victims of trafficking. The study finds that the majority of the trafficking victims are young women aged 19 to 35 trafficked mainly to Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The report also confirms that female migrants depend entirely upon traffickers in their migration abroad. During the interviews, the victims complained that they often suffer from indebtedness, extortion, isolation, violence, health risks and freedom of movement. IOM has also released a situation report on Kosovo which includes a focus on Moldova and a psychological analysis of the trauma suffered by victims. Both reports are available from the IOM website: www.iom.int.int.

The Institute on Church and Social Issues of the Philippines distributes newspackets of the OFW Journalism Consortium which provide monthly updates on Philippine migration issues. To receive the updates, contact Jeremaiah M. Opiniano at jopiniano@yahoo.com

TransActions is an annual newsletter of the Dutch Foundation of the Religious Against Trafficking which includes news summaries about issues of trafficking, with a particular emphasis on the response by the Catholic Church. For more information or to receive copies, contact cos@tref.nl.

Resources on trafficking include the second annual "Trafficking in Persons Report" submitted to the US Congress which includes reports on trafficking in 89 countries. See <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2002/>. A Global Anti-Trafficking Info Calendar can be found at www.womenaid.org. Anti-Slavery International provides information on campaign initiatives among organizations which have an interest in combating trafficking in people. www.antislavery.org. The Vital Voices Trafficking Alert publishes a regular newsletter on trafficking in women and girls. For more information or to receive the newsletter, see www.vitalvoices.org.

Amnesty International has released Afghanistan: Continuing Need for Protection and Standards for Return of Afghan Refugees which details concerns of insecurity, crime and banditry, factional fighting between warlords, human rights abuse of women, the presence of landmines and unexploded ordinance and the continued bombing campaign by US-led coalition forces as presenting clear dangers to returning refugees. See www.amnesty.org.

The Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University now offers a Certificate program in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies for Masters

level students. The course provides an academically rigorous program as well as career guidance to students in the Certificate program. For more information, see www.georgetown.edu/sfs/programs/isim.

IOM has launched a new anti-trafficking website focusing on trafficking in women from the Baltic region. Available in 5 languages – English, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Russian – the website can be found at www.focus-on-trafficking.net.

GISTI in France has announced its training sessions for 2003, including 5-day sessions on la situation juridique des étrangers en France, les conditions d'entrée et de séjour, le droit d'asile, la protection sociale des étrangers en France. For information on dates and costs, contact GISTI at 3, villa Marcès, 75011 Paris.

International Alert has published 3 new reports, including “Afghanistan since the Bonn Agreement,” “More than Implementers: Civil Society in Complex Emergencies,” and “The Peacebuilding Dimension of Civil-Military Relations in Complex Emergencies.” See www.international-alert.org/publications.htm.

IOM has published Moroccan Migration Dynamics which shows that well over a million Moroccans are now officially resident in the 15 EU states. Many more live and work in the EU without valid documents. The report points to 4 main causes for continuous emigration from Morocco: the increase in population pressure resulting in unemployment, the crucial role of remittances for the Moroccan economy, the lack of social security for the majority of the Moroccan population and pull factors created by extended networks of family and friends in Europe. The study is available at www.iom.int.

The Nowhere People, edited by Siby Tharakan looks at the situation of internal displacement in India. The book focuses on development-induced displacement and its impact on communities. Available for US\$12.00 from bfc@actionaidindia.org.

Culture Divides: the Gospel Unites? edited by Martin Affolderback and Heike Vierling-Ihrig is the final report and documentation of the 3rd European Conference on Migrant Churches held in Hamburg, Germany from 4-7 October 2001. The report includes biblical-theological background, keynote contributions and country reports from 10 European countries. Available from ccme@wanadoo.be.

Migration: A European Journal of International Migration and Ethnic Relations has resumed publication after several years. The current issue focuses on globalization and diasporas. For further information, see www.emz-berlin.de

The Sphere Project is in the process of revising its handbook. The handbook includes a set of universal minimum standards in core areas of disaster response: water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and site planning, and health services. The revised version will be published in late 2003. The first edition of the handbook, handbook feedback forms, and additional information can be found at www.sphereproject.org.

The Global Alliance against Traffic in Women has put together a set of fact sheets on trafficking which provide basic information. Available at: www.inet.co.th/org/gaatw/doccen/factpack.pdf

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking has just been issued as an official document of the UN Economic and Social Council and can be accessed at: www.unhchr.ch/Huridoca.nsf/TestFrame/caf3deb2b05d4f35c1256bf30051a003?OpenDocument

The International Human Rights Law Group has produced an Annotated Guide to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; the Trafficking Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Available at: www.hrlawgroup.org/initiatives/trafficking_persons.

As of July 2002, the Brookings Institution and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies have joined hands to create the Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement. Francis M. Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced will continue as Co-Director of the Project, together with Roberta Cohen, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Migratory Trends in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is a new report published by IOM which covers migratory developments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan through 2001. The report concludes that recorded migration flows are generally decreasing within the region as new states tighten their borders. The full report can be found on the IOM website at: www.iom.int.

Sanctuary is a newsletter on asylum and refugee matters from a religious perspective which is issued by the Refugee Project of the Irish Bishops' Conference. Available from refproject@eircom.net.

Christian Connections for International Health has issued a special issue of the CCIH Forum on "Refugees and Displaced Persons: People in Broken Places" with a number of articles focusing on Christian work with refugees. See www.ccih.org/forum/0205-00.htm.

The Jesuit Refugee Service Resource Base for Refugee Education has constructed a new website which includes book lists, key documents, past newsletters and other resources of interest to educators, especially for distance learning. See: www.jrsafricaeducation.org.

The International Organization for Migration has created a new website in the framework of the IOM Information Campaign in favour of People in Need of International Protection. See: www.iom.int/InternationalProtection.

John H. Ehrenreich has written A Guide for Humanitarian, Health Care, and Human Rights Workers: Caring for Others, Caring for Yourself which is a manual intended to help those who have frequent contact with traumatized people act in ways that both

help the traumatized cope with their own situation and meet their own emotional needs. Available on the internet at: www.mhwwb.org/disasters.htm.

Relations with Migrant Churches by Irene M. Pluim and Elza Kuyk describes how in 3 Dutch cities a local Dutch church and a Christian immigrant community or immigrant church have developed closer relationships. Available from e.kuyk@sowkerken.nl.

Bonded Labor in Israel, a report by Kav La'Oved, details the human rights abuses in Israeli policies toward foreign workers. According to the Israeli Minister of Labor, trade in foreign workers "is the most profitable business in Israel, estimated at about \$3 billion." While it is illegal for employers to confiscate passports, this practice is reportedly common. To see this report and other reports on the situation of migrants in Israel, see www.kavlaoved.org.il

Human Rights Watch has a new website which provides information on their migrants rights campaign. Two recent reports include "Discretion Without Bounds: The Arbitrary Application of Spanish Immigration Law" and a commentary on the European Commission proposal for victims of trafficking. See: www.hrw.org/campaigns/migrants.

War and Accountability is the theme of the latest in ICRC's FORUM series of publications. It focuses on the questions of how accountability works in practice, who is accountable to whom, how will accountability relationships evolve in the future and should those who benefit be more involved in their own aid. To order, see www.icrc.org/eng/ihf.

World Disaster Report 2002 focuses on reducing risk, examines preparedness and mitigation initiatives from disaster-prone countries and discusses who should take responsibility for protecting vulnerable populations from disaster. The online version is available at www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2002.