

// Welcome to the first issue of the **Right to Food Quarterly!** This new publication aims to provide experts, activists and other interested persons with information and analysis on the right to food in particular and on general important trends concerning ESC rights.

In recent years the right to adequate food has gained momentum. It is one of the most relevant instruments for the struggle against hunger because it allows people to hold their governments accountable to the internationally recognized standards of human rights. Negligent governments and lack of political will to take action on national situations of hungry people are the core reasons why chronic hunger is so persistent in the world. The current wave

of globalisation generates additional challenges for the fight against hunger from the right to food perspective.

The time is right, therefore, to launch a regular publication that is exclusively dedicated to the right to food. This first issue in 2006 coincides with FIAN's 20th anniversary. With 20 years experience in the struggle for the right to food, we want to review lessons learnt and at the same time identify major challenges and ways of further addressing the realisation of the right to food. The *Right to Food Quarterly* seeks to encompass these reflections and to provide a platform for the analysis of current developments and aspects of the right to food. Furthermore, information on the justiciability of the right to food as

well as analyses of selected cases from FIAN's work will be presented. News from the FAO and UN system, information on upcoming events, new publications and interesting websites and reports on activities of FIAN Sections worldwide will round up the scope of the *Right to Food Quarterly*.

We hope you find the *Right to Food Quarterly* useful, and welcome any comments, articles and relevant information that contribute to make this publication a valuable tool for human rights work. We are thankful to the FAO-Right to Food Unit for supporting the *Right to Food Quarterly* publication. |

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RIGHT TO FOOD QUARTERLY



CATASTROPHIC RECORD *by Michael Windfuhr*

Hunger Eradication – hardly any progress made during the last decade.

// The 90s was a decade that represented a sudden new start and enthusiasm in international relations. After the end of the Cold War the United Nations tapped into this and organised a series of global conferences. In November 1996 the World Food Summit took place in Rome. At the summit a ten point declaration (The Rome Declaration on Food Security) and a Plan of Action were adopted. Today, ten years later, the progress of implementation can only be described as catastrophic.

The Rome Plan of Action contains seven key commitments, 27 objectives and 181 specific targets. One general target set was to halve the number of hungry and malnourished people by the year 2015. Yet the number of people suffering from hunger has largely remained the same, it has even risen slightly – today there are 852 million people suffering from hunger. In 18 countries the number has gone down, but in most of the other countries, especially in the poorest developing countries, the number has risen. In Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa in particular this increase has been drastic. An analysis of the groups and persons suffering from hunger and malnutrition is revealing. A United Nations team of experts whose specific mandate it is to oversee the implementation of the hunger eradication target presented a detailed analysis of the most affected groups. Nearly 80 percent of hungry and malnourished people still live in rural areas. Barely ten percent are victims of natural or human catastrophes. The vast majority suffer from structural hunger. A good 50 percent of hungry and undernourished people are smallholders and very small farmers and their families, who, to a considerable extent have to operate in extremely marginalised conditions. 22 percent are landless and farm workers, families who live from natural resources such as fishers and nomads constitute a further eight percent.

Ambivalent Plan of Action

The Plan of Action adopted in Rome in 1996 contains plenty of good approaches and recommendations. The first of the core obligations demands measures to improve the situation of some of the most affected groups and persons. Amongst other things, landless should get better access to land and productive resources. Securing access rights for women is also demanded. The second commitment emphasises income transfers for particularly poor people without access to land. The third commitment makes a plea for supporting and promoting sustainable agriculture. From the outset, the Plan of Action was unfortunately not geared enough towards the actual people suffering from hunger. Many commitments are far too focussed on promoting agricultural output, expanding irrigation agriculture et cetera. The erroneous assumption that hunger eradication depends on output and harvest is still widespread. It is however becoming evident that hunger eradication is about people being able to feed themselves. In societies where the majority of the population lives in rural areas the fight against hunger

should be concentrated on rural areas. Moreover, there are a lot of people who can not help themselves because they are too young (AIDS orphans for example), too old or ill. The second commitment in the action plan does mention this issue but fails to prioritise it within its package of measures.

Marginalised Groups Ignored

While the Rome Plan of Action included the right approach, the majority of the recommendations however failed to address the issue and target groups. The core of the Plan of Action, and above all its implementation to date, focus too heavily on promoting traditional agricultural subsidies and agricultural exporting enterprises. Most donor countries still focus on these areas. The new Africa Strategy by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is a prime example of this continued focus – it deals exclusively with agricultural subsidies and completely fails to address the issue of rural development.

The United Nations team of experts concedes that strategies to combat hunger have overlooked the plight of marginalised small farmers up to now. The team also concluded that possibly the most important improvement to its work involves supporting these groups. Agricultural research focuses exclusively on high-potential agricultural areas without providing any sort of assistance to poor and underfinanced agricultural families. Such assistance is particularly precarious for women-led households. Discrimination against women comes in many forms: they have difficulty gaining access to credit for example, and it is particularly difficult for women to secure land titles. Especially after the death of their husbands widows, together with the rest of the family, are still ignored when it comes to inheriting land.

Strengthening the Right to Food in Rural Areas

Only one area of the Rome Plan of Action has seen considerable progress: the demand that the international community should precisely define the content of and state obligations with regard to the right to food and – as further elaborated at the Rome+5 summit – the demand for Voluntary Guidelines on the implementation of the right to food developed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The reasons behind this progress rest with the high level of commitment on the part of civil society and the extraordinary pressure it exerted.

The last decade can be described as a lost decade in the fight against hunger. Available resources for bilateral and multilateral rural development were cut. The strategies for improving the situation of hungry and malnourished people still focus too heavily on market integration and the privatisation of agricultural services. Neither strategy helped particularly disadvantaged segments of the population; on the contrary, these people were often exposed to higher risks. It is necessary to focus national agricultural policy and international

development on supporting rural areas. Recently, initial signs of change have become apparent. Bi-lateral donors have established a new donor platform for rural development. The World Bank is also considering a revitalisation of the rural development issue. Since it has not been possible to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger, the international donor community is starting to reconsider its strategies.

The conditions for hungry, marginalised small-scale farming families need to be sustainably improved. More secure land titles, access to agricultural advisory services and credits, marketing assistance etc. can contribute to improving their income. High agricultural income in rural areas could lead to a sustained increase in jobs outside of the agricultural sector (for example, food production or agricultural advisory services).

One key is the right to food. It provides criteria by which state action can be evaluated and monitored. Some states are more committed and were able to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger, others could not. Making states accountable – that is the chance that we as civil society have. The right to food and the Voluntary Guidelines that FIAN also helped to develop are sound instruments with which to challenge governments and reprimand the negligent. /

The author is the General Secretary of FIAN International

EXCITING TIMES AT THE UN?

By Sandra Ratjen

A view on the new HR-Council

As Coordinator for UN Affairs at FIAN International, the author has spent two weeks in June this year at the UN in Geneva, in order to observe the creation of the new Human Rights Council. Here, she presents her personal experience gathered during this decisive momentum.

// At the inaugural session of the new UN Human Rights Council from 19 to 30 of June 2006, feelings of hope were mixed with feelings of frustration. Indeed, there seems to be space to create a better system and to strengthen the "acquis", some states actively campaigned for an "optimization" of the system. However, as the decision on the procedural reform will be taken in the coming months once work by the UN Working Groups has been completed, it is still very unclear how civil society will be able to interact with the new system. The adoption of two new instruments has helped alleviate the deep feeling of insecurity about the future of NGO work within the UN Human Rights system. The first one is the long-discussed Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the second one is the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance. Remarkably, within two weeks the states were able to (a) successfully complete three major "building sites" in the protection of human rights; (b) adopt resolutions on pressing issues; and (c) move forward the concrete implementation of the General Assembly resolution creating the Human Rights Council. The two main issues that were of strategic interest for FIAN work and for the right to food in particular – the mandate of the Working Group on the Optional Protocol (OP) to the International Covenant on ESC-Rights and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food – were dealt with in two resolutions.

Concerning the OP-ICESCR, the mandate of the working group was renewed and drafting can start. The most single important achievement is that negotiations on a draft OP will start at the next session of the Working Group which should take place early in 2007. The resolution was adopted by consensus which explains the difficulty in finding a formulation that satisfied both the very supportive states and the skeptical ones. With the newly adopted mandate, the Chair of the working group will be able to come with a draft OP.

Concerning the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, a resolution was adopted by consensus to extend all mandates and special procedures of the former Human Rights Commission for another year – however, there is uncertainty as to what will happen to them in the future. The majority of voices heard during advocacy talks seem to be confident concerning the renewal of the Right to Food mandates. Definitely, the Special Rapporteurs will present their reports to the second session of the HRC from September 18 to October 6. / For more information see

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>

THE CURRENT FOOD AID REGIME NEEDS A SUBSTANTIAL OVERHAUL

by Michael Windfuhr

Food Sovereignty and Right to Food should be the guiding principles for the reform

// Food aid is in many situations a necessary element to guarantee the right to freedom from hunger for people who are affected by acute hunger and malnutrition and whose government is unable or unwilling to take the necessary measures to resolve the situation. If a government is unwilling to support people living on its territory in a situation of need, this can be judged as a gross violation of the human right to adequate food. In such situations, international food aid can guarantee that the affected persons and communities do not starve, but the international community must also press the government to use the maximum of resources available to guarantee that nobody dies from hunger. If governments are unable to do so for lack of resources or of available food stuffs, the international community is obliged to help. Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights describes the important role international cooperation has to play in such situations and the obligation to assist.

Reasons of hunger and malnutrition

It is important to highlight that the natural and man-made catastrophes which trigger food aid are currently responsible for around 10 percent of all hungry and malnourished people in the world. 90 percent of the hungry suffer from chronic malnutrition. The majority of these live in extremely marginal conditions, in remote areas without secure access to productive resources, credit, and markets and without any formal support by way of extension services etc. Absence of land reform forces poor and marginal farm households to use land in high-risk areas vulnerable to catastrophes such as floods or draughts. National and international agricultural policies have often forced them to migrate to these high-risk areas. What is therefore needed is to combat the marginalization of the affected communities and people.

CSOs / NGOs have been criticizing food aid usage for decades

Food aid, often sourced in donor countries partially as a means of surplus disposal, can undermine local production and trade because it negatively affects local markets and the prices poor small-holder farmers receive for their production. Such tied aid often comes too late and is more expensive than local or regional surpluses. Moreover food aid programmes are often funded according to political and commercial objectives of donor countries rather than the needs of the people at risk. The old rule still prevails: the availability of food aid increases when donor surpluses are large and international prices are low and vice versa. Alternative forms of help could be cash transfer programmes, livelihood support programmes or broader food security oriented programmes.

Food aid may undermine food sovereignty

As this short summary of civil society criticism illustrates, food aid could potentially undermine food sovereignty. Local markets are severely hit when food aid is used as an indirect form of export dumping. The selling of food aid to finance development projects (monetization) is also often a dangerous way of destroying local farm prices. It can contribute to changes in diet and consumption patterns. In the case of GM-food aid, the consumer priority has often been ignored and GM food aid offered without discussion. Food aid should respect the principle of food sovereignty.

The current WTO agricultural negotiations are heading towards the establishment of a 'safe box' for emergency food aid that is exempt from standard trade disciplines. While it is right to make such an exemption, it should not be the role of the WTO to define 'emergency food aid' or to manage such a 'safe box'. In our view this goes far beyond the mandate and the competencies of that institution and should be done by institutions such as the FAO.

What can and should be learned from the Right to Food debate

Important criteria for a renegotiation of the Food Aid Convention, or for any other form of institutional setting in which Food Aid is organized in future, can be drawn from the Right to adequate food. The text of the "Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security" (VG-RtF) contains important criteria on how food aid should be organized and how it should be integrated into long term rehabilitation and development objectives (Guideline 15.4). The VG make clear that food aid must be based on a sound needs assessment and that it must be targeted especially to vulnerable groups: "...donor states should provide assistance in a manner that takes into account food safety, the importance of not disrupting local food production and the nutritional and dietary needs and cultures of recipient populations." The VG highlight that a clear exit strategy must exist and that no dependency should be created.

Moreover, civil society organisations recommend that any food aid commitment should be denominated in amounts of food or nutritional equivalents. These commitments should be allocated to needs assessments using internationally accepted methods. Guideline 16 expands the context by highlighting that food aid delivery must respect the standards of international humanitarian law and that refugees and internally displaced persons should also have access to adequate food at all times.

A new governance structure for food aid is needed

Any renewed FAC or other organisational arrangements need to overcome the present organisational limitations of the current FAC. The membership must be broadened to include new food aid donors as well as ensuring representation from food aid recipient countries. Participation should also be guaranteed for input from other stakeholders, particular non-governmental organisations and social movements. Any new setting should fully integrate the aspects of humanitarian law as well as the perspective of disaster preparedness and of early warning systems. We still believe that a firm commitment to deliver genuine food aid is needed, particularly if agricultural surpluses continue to decline and the demand for energy crops continues to increase. /

The author is Secretary General of FIAN International

JUSTICIABILITY OF ESCR AT THE DOMESTIC LEVEL:

The new book of the Maastricht Centre on Human Rights. *By Ana María Suárez Franco*

FIAN International will include in its Right to Food Quarterly reviews and analysis on the latest research developments on the justiciability of ESCR; case analysis of tribunal decisions on these rights at both national and regional level, as well as news on the justiciability activities of FIAN sections and partner organisations.

// In this first edition, we present a review on Professor Fons Coomans most recent publication: *Justiciability of Economic and Social Rights: Experiences from Domestic Systems*¹. In this compilation Coomans brings together descriptive and analytical papers written by eminent authors on the justiciability of ESCR in 11 countries world wide.

Countries from different regions were chosen for the study: from Asia (India and the Philippines); from America (Argentina, Canada and Colombia); and from Europe (Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, and UK). The diverse legal systems include industrialized and developing countries, countries with a different constitutional context with regard to ESC-rights; states with courts and tribunals that represent both progressive and traditional approaches in the judicial protection of ESCR.

The authors analyse the constitutional and legal framework, public policies, articulation of international human rights norms and standards in domestic law and their impact in the national implementation, the legal remedies available for enforcing ESC-rights, the way the courts have been deciding cases on violations of specific rights such as the right to work, right to health, right to housing, right to social security and right to food, and the obstacles and opportunities to the justiciability.

The diversity of the analysed legal systems and in particular the differences in their legal culture provide the reader with a comprehensive picture of the justiciability of ESCR. Common trends and specific differences in the work of judges can be identified. Moreover it can be observed how the European courts have maintained a traditional position towards the judicial protection of ESCR based on the old objections against the justiciability of ESCR, while the judges in the Southern countries have been trying to establish a social protection system by implementing constitutional norms and adopting ingenious solutions to give meaning to these rights, especially in order to fulfil the realization of their core content.

With regard to the political aspects, this work provides guidelines on how to define the role that law and legal strategy can play as social change instruments and facilitators for the emancipation of vulnerable groups, on the basis of the realization of ESCR. /

The author is Colombian, responsible for justiciability issues at FIAN International and candidate for PhD at the Faculty of Law at the University of Mannheim, Germany.

¹ COOMANS, Fons. *Justiciability of Economic and Social Rights. Experiences of the Domestic Systems*. Intersentia – Maastricht Centre for Human Rights. Antwerp–Oxford, 2006. ISBN-10:90-5095-582-7. To be ordered at: www.intersentia.com.

THE RIGHT TO FOOD – CASE TO CASE By Rolf Künemann

// As a genuine human rights organisation, FIAN's core task is to address violations of the right to food. This includes the right not to be deprived of access to food and the unconditional right of hungry people to get food – but it means more than that. Access to productive resources and feeding oneself are seen as an integral part of the right to food.

Violations of the right to food suffered by people in different places all over the world, are addressed by FIAN on a case-to-case basis. FIAN's first priority is to defend the rights of the victims and their efforts to obtain remedy vis-à-vis the respective duty-holders. Another task – due to the weak state of international and national right to food regimes – is to carry out lobby and advocacy work to strengthen these human rights regimes and the (quasi-)legal tools available for addressing violations. Human rights education and right to food trainings aim to empower victim and their support groups to claim their rights.

In the 20 years of its existence FIAN International adopted 105 cases for long term case-work carried out by local FIAN groups in different countries. At crucial junctures during an adopted case and on demand of the victim groups, FIAN intervenes by launching international protest letter campaigns, the so-called urgent actions. Moreover, many urgent actions are launched without being directly related to an adopted FIAN case. The

violations addressed in the almost 400 Urgent Actions sent out over the past two decades are always carefully analyzed: For FIAN, a violation of the human right to food is a breach of the respective state's obligations leading to or maintaining right to food deprivation. Among the many forms of deprivation under the right to adequate food, FIAN has a focus on hunger and malnutrition.

FIAN's analysis is based on the classical approach of respect-, protect- and fulfil-bound obligations, always taking into consideration possible gender discrimination in the implementation of these obligations. As with other human rights – for example in the civil and political field – respect-bound obligations are fairly clearly determined, so violations can be identified rather easily. Protect-bound obligations sometimes provide more difficulty. They require an analysis as to what extent it was reasonable to expect the state to prevent the act of a third party, like for example a corporation or a landlord, who destroys access to food or resources. Fulfil-bound obligations are even more challenging to analyze, as states have a considerable margin of discretion and act under limits of resources. Art.11.2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights puts states parties under the obligation to take the respective measures to the maximum of available resources. Identifying a failure to take such qualified measures demands a careful case analysis,

NEWS FROM FIAN SECTIONS

At this space, a selection of the various activities of FIAN Sections and Coordinations countries in Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe will be presented.

// In this issue, the focus is on FIAN's Indian sections and the workshops that were carried out on different acts of the Indian Constitution.

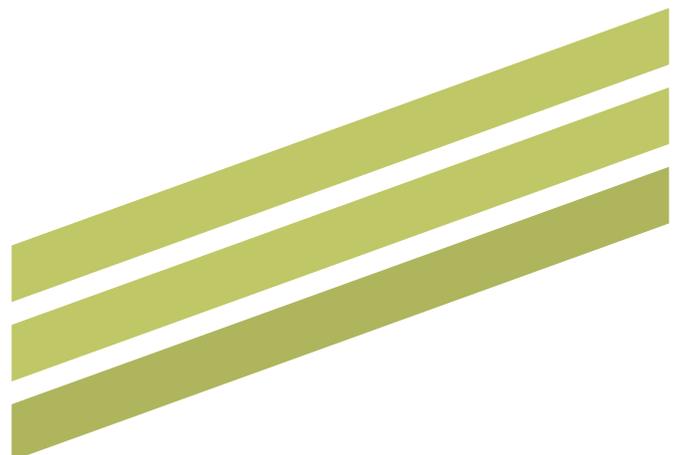
FIAN Karnataka at the end of July 2006 held a workshop on the "National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" (NREGA). This act has been introduced in some areas in the Indian State of Karnataka in 2005. It is considered to be a milestone for the eradication of poverty and to be the fulfilment of the directive principle of the Right to Work enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The act seeks to enhance the livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. However, the organizers felt that there is widespread ignorance about the act and that therefore implementation was lacking. Activists and NGOs came together in a two day workshop to plan a grassroots' campaign for the implementation of the NREGA.

More information at fiانشraya@sancharnet.in

FIAN West Bengal, at the end of June 2006, organised a two day workshop on the Right to Information Act, which was implemented in 2005, too. This act is aimed to provide for the setting out of the practical regime of the right to information for citizens, to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. The main purpose of the workshop was to create awareness about the key provisions of this act and to discuss about the current status of implementation of the Act in the state. /

More information at fiانwestbengal@sify.com

Prepared by Wilma Strothenke



which cannot be replaced by just pointing to persons suffering hunger and malnutrition. In its work on agrarian reform and basic food income, FIAN has been pioneering to identify certain minimum standards in the fields of resource and income transfers and thus providing indicators for analysis.

In the following issues of the *Right to Food Quarterly*, we will present some in-depth analyses of selected FIAN cases with a different focus, e.g. on extraterritorial obligations – state obligations towards persons outside the respective state's territory, be it directly or through multilateral organisations such as the international financial institutions. Destructive mining, prevented access to water, or malfunctioning state social transfers are some of the backgrounds for such cases in the work of FIAN. /

The author is the Human Rights Director at FIAN International Secretariat.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

The Revitalisation of ESC Rights

FIAN France in cooperation with the University of Grenoble invited speakers like Philippe Texier, member of the UN Committee on ESC-Rights, Pierre Spitz, international food security expert, and Christophe Golay, assistant of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, to talk about the revitalisation of ESC-Rights.

The seminar will take place on December 7, 2006, and will be accompanied by information and cultural activities during the whole week.

Contact: fianfrance@no-log.org

With Human Rights Against Hunger: Challenges in Times of Globalisation

With a basis of 20 years of experience in the fight against violations of the right to food, FIAN has invited internationally renowned experts to discuss how the human rights approach affects the work of development institutions, the United Nations, and other agencies. With reference to particular cases new challenges in the relations to Asian, African, and Latin American countries will be discussed.

The one-day symposium will take place on September 13, 2006, in Heidelberg, Germany. More information at www.fian.org

REVIEW

The Right to Food –

Putting it into Practice. *By Kofi Yakpo*

// The newly-established Right to Food Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has just released an excellent publication entitled the *The Right to Food – Putting It Into Practice*. The publication, which was jointly organised and financed by the FAO, the German Federal Government and the German GTZ, includes amongst many other renowned experts a contribution from FIAN General Secretary Michael Windfuhr. The publication deals with the implementation of the right to food in signatory states of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and within international legal regimes in straight-forward, simple language which is bolstered by an impressive 4-colour lay-out in detachable four-pager briefs. The publication will certainly be of great value to decision-makers in government, supra-national organisations and civil society alike.

Clearly, the negotiation and signature of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food have provided the backdrop to a renewed impetus towards the implementation and operationalisation of the right to food. Beyond a succinct introduction into the content and objectives of the Guidelines, this publication therefore places its focus on the practical aspects of the Guidelines: The legal and institutional structures as well as the policy content that is needed in order to deliver upon the right to food commitment of states. Here, more than ever, the cross-cutting and interlocking character of the struggle against hunger within the human rights framework manifest itself. We therefore find briefs on policy areas as diverse as economic development, agriculture and food, nutrition and consumer protection as well as disaster prevention and hunger emergencies, besides a brief that touches upon legal and structural issues. Most helpful is the short bibliography at the end of each brief, which allows the avid reader to delve further into individual topics.

Certainly, this publication is a welcome and timely contribution to the growing literature on the right to food. What sets it apart from other, more academic publications, however, is its practical value, its action-orientation. By covering the right to food, one of the most complex human rights notions, in such handy way, the publishers of *The Right to Food – Putting It Into Practice* have achieved a magnificent tour de force. /

To be ordered at www.fao.org/catalog/inter-e.htm.

The author is the Coordinator of the Africa Desk at FIAN International Secretariat.

PUBLICATIONS

The Right to Food in Malawi

Report of the international fact finding mission to Malawi, April 2006. The mission was guided by Rights and Democracy and FIAN International, 2006

Written by Carole Samdup

64 pages, to be downloaded at www.fian.org and at www.dd-rd.ca

Investigating some alleged violations of the right to food in West Bengal and Orissa (India).

Report of the Fact Finding Mission to the Indian states of West Bengal and Orissa, carried out in December 2005 by FIAN International, 2006

Edited by Ashwini Mankame and Bastiaan Colombaroli, FIAN International with written contributions by Michaela Magerl, Ujjaini Halim and the Fact Finding Team

20 pages, soon to be downloaded at www.fian.org

Beyond the Nation State – Human Rights in Times of Globalization

Edited by Michael Windfuhr

Uppsala: Global Publications Foundation, 2005

277 pages, ISBN 91-973739-4-X

Beyond national borders : States' human rights obligations in international cooperation

Written by Sigrun Skogly.

Antwerpen [u.a.]: Intersentia, 2006.

222 pages, ISBN 90-5095-434-0

WEBSITES

www.eldis.org

// The Eldis homepage <http://www.eldis.org> calls itself the Gateway to Development Information – and definitely meets this claim.

Eldis is provided by the Institute of Development Studies of Sussex and offers information to researchers, development practitioners and policy formers at national and international levels. At a quick glance, the Resource Guides catch the eye of the visitor – a quick access on 30 subjects like Ageing Populations, pastoralism and forestry, but also Manuals and Toolkits, Influencing Policy and Statistics. All of them provide key documents, organisations, research themes, discussions and other key resources. Under the button Food Security, e.g. you will find again a quick access bar with various sections, among them the Right to Food, Food Aid or the Role of small producers, with latest news, key websites and a comprehensive data-base of online documents. Alike, there is a quick access on country profiles, offering material of the database arranged by country, with links to briefing services of other websites.

All in all, there is a base of 18.000 editorially selected and abstracted full-text online documents, selected by Eldis' editors from more than 4,500 different publishers. All documents are available free of charge.

A News Section on Events and Jobs as well as Newsletter and Newsfeeds Services complete this extraordinary project and make this homepage a real treasure trove.

Prepared by Wilma Strothenke



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