

Human Rights News

SPRING 2011 ISSUE

Latest News of the International Human Rights Committee

UN Millennium
Development
Goals
In Namibia

Judge
Thomas Buergenthal to
be Committee Luncheon
Speaker at the
2011 DC Meeting

BOOKS
FOR
AFRICA

Leveraging Our Assets
to Help Others Achieve

MEET THE
COMMITTEE
LEADERSHIP

the
fall
meeting

MOVING TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE
UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Books For Africa

“We needed to raise \$5500 to cover shipping-related expenses for all these books, which we did.”

The ABA has partnered in the past with Books For Africa to send West law books to African recipients. This past year IHRC led a successful effort to raise funds to expand the number of law books and the number of legal recipients in a BFA container going to Zimbabwe. Thanks to all SIL members who supported and contributed to this project! The following is excerpted from an email regarding this shipment. Because of transit delays the container is now scheduled to arrive in Harare, Zimbabwe in mid-April.

The container of books bound for Harare left the Atlanta warehouse on December 21st.

Funds were for two West Core Law Library units in the container.

However, the Core Law Library is intended as a resource in its entirety, to be available whenever possible at one law library location. Three pallets of the books are law books. Most of the other 17 pallets are primary, secondary and post-secondary math, and some science or general reading books. The container will arrive sometime in February 2011.

Because of the expense of shipping to Harare (rather than a coastal port), the few shipments that BFA is able to send to Zimbabwe compared to other countries, and the strong need to further the rule of law in Zimbabwe, BFA embarked on its own fundraising effort to cover our costs so that we could send additional West books to you in this container. Luci Ascoli, who had provided support for a full container at Arnold Tsunga's request a few years ago, provided a matching grant, and we owe her sincere thanks. Several individuals, includ-

ing 8 with the ABA Section of International Law, then contributed and we made the match that Lucy had offered.

They are: Bob Alsdorf, Steve McHale, Donald Ruth, Nancy Stafford, Olufunmi Oluyede, Ani Ajemian, Royce Murray, and Elissa Villasenor.

As a result, I am very excited to share with you the details! All the law books are latest edition, new West books donated by Thomson Reuters. A more detailed description of the books in the core library and each module is at <http://www.booksforafrica.org/law/law-book-donations.html>.

The intent is that the Law Society and the University Law School each have one full core law library, and that each of the other listed entities have modules as described. All are in Harare except #7, which is in Mutare. A staff member came from that organization and is now studying in the Humphrey Fellow program at the University of Minnesota, near the BFA headquarters. I will provide you with contact information so that the Peacebuilding organization can receive their books.

Beyond the seven recipients which are able to receive these legal reference books, I am especially excited that law school is also getting one “classroom teaching module,” for classroom use. Rather than 1 title of many books for reference, this is 50 copies of 13 titles. Per information on their website these books were chosen based on subjects being taught at the law school. I have attached that list so you can let the law school administration know that they will be coming. We hope these books will

provide professors and law students with significant learning assistance. These are the exact books that law schools in the US are currently using. Attached below is a list of the library units or modules of the library being sent and the anticipated recipients. The Thomson Reuters book donation included:

1. *Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, one human rights module*
2. *Law Society, (bar association) one West Core Law Library*
3. *Legal Resources Foundation one human rights module; one Nutshell module*
4. *Women's Law Institute one human rights module; one Nutshell module*
5. *University of Zimbabwe Law School one West Core Law Library; one classroom teaching module*
6. *High Court one human rights module; one Nutshell module*
7. *Peacebuilding & Capacity Development Foundation one human rights module*

Lane Ayres, JD is Director of The Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative of Books For Africa. Visit www.booksforafrica.org/law.

