American Anthropological Association
Committee for Human Rights (CfHR)
Five Year Evaluation Report
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Committee Background, Mission and Objectives

The AAA has involved itself in human rights issues sporadically for most of its existence, beginning with Franz Boas. The Camelot debate of the 1960s and the Thailand issues of the early 1970s are the most prominent AAA human rights events of more recent times. In 1990 the AAA appointed a Special Commission, chaired by Terence Turner, to investigate the acutely jeopardized homelands of the Brazilian Yanomami. The report of the Special Commission (1991) and subsequent AAA intervention appears to have played a role in stopping the appropriation of all but small, isolated reserves in the Yanomami area and precipitating Brazilian agreement to a very large, contiguous Yanomami homeland. The Yanomami action added momentum to the idea that the AAA have a permanent mechanism to deal with human rights matters. In 1992, the AAA Executive Board approved formation of the Commission on Human Rights, issuing three: to develop a human rights conceptual framework and identify relevant human rights issues, to develop human rights education and networking, and to develop and implement mechanisms for organizational action on issues affecting the AAA, its members and the discipline. The Commission carried out these charges through their active involvement in human rights cases, in presentations and forums at the AAA’s annual meetings, in building networks of human rights anthropologists, and in the publication of statements. The work of the Commission led to the formation of the Committee for Human Rights (CfHR), established in 1995 as the permanent successor to the Commission.

The CfHR is a permanent committee of the AAA that reports to the Executive Board and whose efforts are reviewed by the Association Operations Committee every five years. The CfHR is composed of 10 members, 8 of which are elected by the AAA membership and serve three-year terms, with another 2 ex-officio members (the AAA President and the AAA President-elect). The committee chair is elected by its members. The committee is staffed by the AAA Director of Government Relations, and receives pro bono counsel from an anthropologist/human rights lawyer. See attachment ?A? for a list of current and past CfHR members, staff and counsel.

With respect to the American Anthropological Association, the Committee’s work falls broadly into internal and external categories. The Committee’s internal mission is to stimulate informed involvement in the human rights area among professional anthropologists through publications, panels, and network building. The Committee’s external mission is to gather information on selected, anthropologically relevant, cases of human rights abuse and to propose action in the name of the Association to the Association’s leadership. Committee goals, objectives and implementing strategies, and are posted as ?CfHR Guidelines? on the CfHR website. At their April 1, 2000 meeting the CfHR further refined their guidelines to include the following objectives:

promote and protect human rights;
expand the definition of human rights within an anthropological perspective;
work internally with the membership of the AAA, to educate anthropologists, and to mobilize their support for human rights;
work externally with foreign colleagues, the people and groups with whom anthropologists work, and other human rights organizations to develop an anthropological perspective on human rights and consult with them on human rights violations and the appropriate actions to be taken; influence and educate the media, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, and decision makers in the private sector; and, encourage research on all aspects of human rights from conceptual to applied. CfHR efforts to achieve these objectives occur at the biannual meetings of the CfHR, at the annual conference of the AAA, and throughout the year, through committee task force work, and through case-specific requests for urgent action. The CfHR has posted their operating guidelines on their website, and periodically reprints these in the Anthropology newsletter. These guidelines include procedures for submitting human rights cases to the CfHR, and operating procedures for responding to membership issues and complaints.

This report briefly describes those actions and activities taken by the CfHR in the first five years of its life that represent evidence of effort to achieve the above objectives. It also includes a brief summary of actions taken in 1995, the last year of the Human Rights Commission whose members were then appointed to the first year of the new CfHR (1996). This summary is taken from the annual reports of the Human Rights Commission and its predecessor, the Committee for Human Rights. A more complete description of these efforts and the supporting documents (letters, reports and other briefing documents) can be found in the annual reports and supporting documents posted on the CfHR website. Finally, as evidence of activity addressing the internal and external commitment to promote and protect human rights, this report includes a summary of relevant human rights-related publications prepared by members of the CfHR during their years of service (attachment 2).

Activities and Actions of the AAA Commission for Human Rights in 1995

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 1995

The Human Rights Commission finalized its ?Planning Document? outlining the need for and a AAA Committee on Human Rights, identifying the Committee mission, and identifying procedures to implement this mission. The Planning Document supported the establishment of a permanent Committee for Human Rights, approved by the Committee on External Relations and the Administrative Advisory Committee in May 1995 and the Executive Board in early October 1995. The new Committee for Human Rights will commence operations the day after the 1995 AAA annual meeting ends. The Committee will have a new chair and some new members, although a few members from the Commission will remain on the Committee to provide continuity. Initially the new members will be appointed by the AAA President with advisory input from the Commission.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the Membership - 1995
The Human Rights Commission continued to develop a guide to teaching resources on anthropological aspects of human rights. Solicitation by the Commission of human rights bibliography, syllabi, and list of key issues and questions.

Human Rights Commission events at the 1995 annual meeting.
The Human Rights Commission hosted an Open to organize working groups focused on regions and issues. Working groups provide additional regional and topical expertise beyond the Human Rights Commission (and soon to be established Committee for Human Rights). Working groups are meant to act as as a special interest group of anthropologists independent from the AAA and Commission, or advisory to the Commission which can then recommend some action by the AAA to the President or Executive Board.


The Human Rights Commission sponsored a workshop on "Field Applications in Human Rights" organized and chaired by Carole Nagengast.

EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 1995

Case Actions: During 1995 the Human Rights Commission recommended action and AAA President Jim Peacock sent letters of concern on the cases of Chiapas in Mexico, the Karinya in Venezuela, and proposed congressional cuts in the budget of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Activities and Actions of the AAA Committee for Human Rights in 1996

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 1996
CfHR members in 1996 include Tom Greaves (chair), Robert K. Hitchcock, Ellen Messer, C. Patrick Morris (deceased), Carole Nagengast, Jennifer Schirmer, Leslie Sponsel, and Terence Turner.

The CfHR continued to refine their mission, objectives and procedures, noting that the CfHR provides leadership in bringing human rights issues to the attention of the AAA membership, in facilitating dialog, and in stimulating membership decisions with respect to AAA involvement in human rights matters. Outside the organization, the CfHR identifies issues and initiatives, assembles the relevant support information, and proposes AAA actions where they may be appropriate and useful. Meeting these responsibilities requires efforts year-round involvement by the CfHR. In fulfillment of these activities we maintain a close working relationship with the AAA president and executive staff. The CfHR's work occurs under the purview of the AAA Executive Board, which has assigned to the Committee on External Relations responsibility for the annual review of our activities.

The CfHR reported the recent death of one of its members, Patrick Morris (September 1996). Patrick Morris also played a leadership role as a member of the Commission on Human Rights that generated the CFHR. His inspirational leadership was a catalyst in the growing anthropological commitment to human rights, especially as it affects the world's indigenous peoples.

Directory of Anthropologists interested in Human Rights. The Committee completed prior work on a directory containing 117 individuals, full contact information, and their specific interests within the
human rights field. This currently is used internally by the CfHR for identifying consultation sources, candidates for service on its task groups, and candidates for service on the committee itself. The directory is computerized and indexed by HR (human rights) topic. A parallel, indexed directory of several dozen cognate HR organizations is nearly complete.

A frequently updated Contacts Guide used by committee members to contact each other, AAA officials, and cognate human rights organizations has been compiled to facilitate the continuous working of the committee.

The committee has identified liaisons with 14 other organizations to exchange information and to alert us to occasions where joint efforts between the AAA and other groups maybe useful.

The CfHR’s spring meeting was held at AAA headquarters on May 10-11, 1996. President Moses participated fully in our deliberations and in the formulation of our plans for subsequent activities. Six of the eight CfHR members were, by design, members of the previous Commission for Human Rights. At the rate of two each year, the remaining six carry-over members will be replaced as the CfHR transitions to a system of 4-year terms. At the spring meeting the schedule for completing the terms of office was agreed upon and set in motion. Also, the status of emeritus members was established to maintain access to the assistance of former members of the CfHR in service to its goals. Drs. George Appell and Victor Montejo are now emeritus members.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the Membership - 1996
AAA CfHR Home Page Planning. Web-based publication is an essential tool in keeping the AAA membership informed of the CfHR’s activities and encouraging member feedback and input to the committee. The CfHR has begun compiling AAA letters and study reports generated by its activities, its directory (where individuals have given permission for a public listing), reports of CfHR activities and current projects, and information on CfHR-initiated events at the Annual Meeting to place on the web site, once the AAA policy regarding the content of the web site has been clarified.

Statement on Human Rights and Anthropology. The CfHR is drafting a statement defining the connections between human rights and the practice of professional anthropology. Our intention is eventually to propose this statement to the AAA membership for adoption as an AAA position statement. The draft statement will be circulated for initial comment and input at the San Francisco meetings in 1996.

The CfHR is working with papers from the 1995 meeting session on Human Rights: Universalism and Relativism. Selected papers from that session, plus others specially commissioned, are to be submitted to the Journal of Anthropological Research as a special issue, edited by Terence Turner.

CfHR events at the 1996 Annual Meeting. In addition to its own meetings the CfHR will conduct four events in San Francisco: a panel, a workshop, a "dialog," and an open forum/report to the membership. In addition, the CfHR has endorsed two additional panels which have been accepted in the program.

Curriculum Project. The Committee has assembled a core collection of course syllabi, a bibliography exceeding 100 pages, videos and associated materials. The resource has been distributed in response to requests, and is intended primarily for AAA members wishing to develop courses or course sections dealing with the anthropology of human rights. Our intention is to make this material available through the AAA web site.
EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 1996

White Papers and Task Groups. As a means of fostering the development of position statements on certain recurring varieties of human rights abuse, the CfHR has established a commitment to drafting white papers and to appointing Task Forces on specific issues. The underlying purpose of these efforts is to address not only specific, compelling cases of human rights abuse, but also varieties of abuse that, sadly, occur repeatedly and in widely separated places. The CfHR has identified ‘ethnic cleansing’ as its first Task Force topic and will be commissioning a task group consisting of committee and non-committee members, to generate an extensive report linking professional anthropology with the specific rights abuse, and a concise position statement. The report and the statement are to be vetted at an AAA annual meeting and eventually submitted as a position statement and background report of the AAA.

Human Rights Case Interventions. The CfHR’s work in developing AAA responses to specific cases of human rights abuse attracts much public and member attention, although these activities are only one component of our work. Indeed it is imperative that the Committee not permit a large number of compelling abuse cases to threaten its attention to its other missions. While the CfHR retains flexibility in how it responds to specific HR cases, the following steps have been drafted to guide the deliberations and actions of the CfHR:

1. A proposal to take up a specific case is considered by the CfHR. The CfHR’s process of case selection takes into account not only the relevance of the case to anthropology, but also the potential of the AAA’s intervention to attenuate the abuse. If approved,
2. An investigative report (“briefing document”) is developed, drawing on consultations with colleagues who are familiar with the specifics of the case.
3. A plan for an appropriate AAA response is developed. Where appropriate a letter of protest, list of addressees, links to other associations and organizations, and other actions may be included.
4. These materials are conveyed to the AAA executive director who may append comments and send the proposal to the AAA president for approval and action in the name of the AAA.
5. Once approved, the CfHR may assist in the dissemination of the report and AAA letters, in their conveyance to appropriate colleagues and networks, and, where relevant, to overseas anthropological colleagues and associations.
6. The CfHR may continue to follow developments on the case and issue subsequent updates on its first briefing document and proposed additional AAA actions.
7. Report of the action is made to the membership in the CfHR’s annual session at the annual meeting. It is hoped that the AAA web site can be an additional locus of the briefing document, letters, and associated materials.

Human Rights Cases taken up by the CfHR and acted upon by President Moses in 1996:
Nigerian executions (AAA letter of protest)

Murder of Lucina Cárdenas Ramirez in Guatemala (AAA letter seeking an official investigation and punishment as justified)
Human Treaty Rights implications of Federal budget continuances to Bureau of Indian Affairs budget. (AAA letter pointing out the consequences for treaty obligations and human rights)
Brazil’s Decreto 1775 opening native reserves to land challenges (Briefing document, plus AAA letters to Brazil and others, plus follow up study and additional letters)
Threatened removal of Bushman and Bakgalagadi people in Botswana (Briefing document, AAA letter of protest, plus follow up study)

Activities and Actions of the AAA Committee for Human Rights in 1997
ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 1997
Terms of committee membership are for four years, ending and beginning on the final day of the AAA annual meeting. CfHR members are Robert Hitchcock (Term ending 11/97); Terence Turner (Term ending 11/97); Carole Nagengast (11/98); Ellen Messer (11/98); Jennifer Schirmer (11/99); Tom Greaves, chair (11/99); Linda Rabben (11/00); James Peacock (11/00). Ellen Gruenbaum was elected by AAA ballot to the committee for a term running from November 1997 to November 2001. Barbara Johnston was appointed to the Committee by President Moses for a term running from November 1997 to November 2001.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the Membership - 1997
Annual Meeting Events. In addition to our two committee working meetings scheduled during the 1997 AAA annual meeting, the CfHR sponsored a two-part panel organized by Leslie Sponsel, "Mining, Oil, Environment, People and Rights in the Amazon." The CfHR helped arrange a workshop and session on the application of forensics to human rights abuse documentation by Karen Ramey Burns (cosponsored by AAA and AAAS). The CfHR held an Open Forum during the meeting to get broad membership input on: (1) a question of how privatization is shifting development projects to agencies and corporations which are not accountable for human and cultural rights, with specific reference to the case of World Bank/IFC funding of a hydroelectric dam in Chile involving the involuntary displacement of indigenous peoples and (2) on the plans of the Task Group on Ethnic Cleansing.

Committee Web Site. The CfHR reviewed draft plans for a CfHR webpage on the AAA website. Plans address five general functions: (1) information on how to contact members of the committee to convey human rights information and concerns, (2) information enabling members to ascertain the role, scope, history and activities of the committee, (3) information helpful to AAA members seeking to work or teach in human rights issues, or to collaborate with others doing the same, (4) information prepared by the committee on specific cases of human rights abuse and (5) bibliographic and teaching resources for the anthropology of human rights. Arranged in a hierarchy of linked elements, the Committee agreed to a site that includes:

- roster of all members of the Committee and how to reach each of them.
- A copy of the Committee’s operating guidelines
- The Committee’s annual reports since 1996.
- Founding documents of the Committee’s predecessor, the Commission for Human Rights.
- Briefing Reports Prepared by the Committee on specific cases of Human Rights abuse.
- A directory, with self-reported topical interests and contact information, of anthropologists working in human rights areas.
- Sample syllabi for courses dealing with the anthropology of human rights.
- A major bibliography of sources dealing with anthropology and human rights.

EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 1997
In reviewing human rights case work to date, the CfHR observed that the Committee has generally taken action in two types of cases. One is where anthropologists or their associates are themselves threatened because their professional work reveals an officially embarrassing instance of human rights abuse. A second is where a specific ethnic and minority group is subjected to human rights abuse, or threat thereof, targeted as a result of its cultural distinctiveness.

In 1997 the CfHR has information on two instances where an anthropologist has been threatened for revealing human rights abuse, and on eight instances where the human rights of cultural and indigenous
minorities are at issue. The cases on which we have gathered data in 1997 are located in Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Japan, Sudan, Uganda and Venezuela. Confidentiality considerations inhibit our ability to report on the specific groups involved until the Committee has formally completed its review of issues, prepared recommended actions, and the AAA President has decided upon a course of action.

The Committee is also monitoring developments in the struggle over the draft Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, currently stalled in the UN, and a similar effort within the OAS.

Draft Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights. The Committee has finished work on a concise statement on Anthropology and Human Rights. This declaration has been forwarded to the AAA leadership with recommendation that it be adopted as an AAA position statement.

Task Groups on Human Rights Abuse. The committee has inaugurated two working units we call "task groups." Their purpose is to provide a means by which the Committee can address human rights abuses which are, regrettably, "generic"—that is, of a type that occurs repeatedly. Task groups are intended to work over an 18 month period to define their area, assemble scholarship on the issue, consult relevant colleagues on the matter, and draft a white paper and proposed position statement for Committee review and then forwarding to the AAA leadership. The two task groups are (1) the Task Group on Ethnic Cleansing, co-chaired by Carole Nagengast and James Peacock, and (2) the recently established Task Group on the Human Rights of Women, chaired by Ellen Gruenbaum. Our Ethnic Cleansing task group will be seeking membership input at the Committee's Open Forum at the 1997 Annual meeting. The Task Group on the Human Rights of Women will be accomplishing preliminary organization at the 1997 meeting.

Activities and Actions of the AAA Committee for Human Rights in 1998

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 1998
The Committee's membership for 1998 has been Carole Nagengast (11/98); Ellen Messer (11/98); Jennifer Schirmer (11/99); Tom Greaves, chair (11/99); Linda Rabben (12/00); James Peacock (12/00); Ellen Gruenbaum (12/01); Barbara Johnston (12/01); Megan Biese (2002); Lucia Ann McSpadden (1999).

Transitioning Under the AAA Reorganization Plan. At the end of 1998 the CfHR will cease being a group of members serving four-year terms, half elected and half appointed, and begin to transition to the AAA's new, all elected, three-year term standard. Thus in December, 1998 Carole Nagengast and Ellen Messer will end four years of committee service. Their places will be taken by Megan Biese who was elected to a four-year term on the 1998 ballot, and Lucia Ann McSpadden who was appointed to a one-year term ending in December, 1999. As each committee position becomes open it converts to a three-year elected position.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the Membership - 1998
The Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights. The AAA Executive Board, at their spring 1998 meeting, directed that the proposed Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights be published in the Anthropology Newsletter (appearing in the September 1998 issue). The draft declaration was published in the conference newsletter in November 1998, and was publicly discussed in sessions and meetings of the CfHR. The declaration will be placed on the AAA membership ballot of 1999. If approved by the membership, the Declaration will take its place among eleven policy statements of the AAA that serve to articulate professional perspectives on matters important to anthropology and anthropologists.
Events at the Annual Meeting. At the 1998 annual meeting of the AAA the CfHR sponsored

a special event panel entitled "Women?s Human Rights: Developing the Agenda" (chaired by Ellen Gruenbaum);
an Open Forum special event entitled "Human Rights, An Anthropological Imperative" to publicly discuss
the proposed Declaration on Anthropology and Human Rights; and
an invited session ?The Anthropology of Genocide? organized by Alex Hinton.

The Human Rights Directory. In January the CfHR established a list of 118 anthropologists who agree to
be listed in a directory maintained by the Committee for consultation in connection with its work. Sixty-
two of this group have allowed their listing to be placed on-line in the Committee?s website where they
may be contacted by colleagues, journalists, or others using the on-line directory to seek information or
assistance. During 1998 the CfHR Chair, with student internship assistance, contacted all Directory
members to update their listings. They also contacted colleagues who presented human rights-related
papers at AAA meetings, producing some 50 new individuals to be added to the on-line Directory
update.

Task Groups on Women?s Rights and Ethnic Cleansing. Agenda and structure for the Women and
Human Rights group chaired by Ellen Gruenbaum were developed during a special event at the 1998
annual meeting, and further discussed at the CfHR Open Forum and Business meetings. Agenda and
structure for the Ethnic Cleansing group chaired by Jim Peacock were discussed at the CfHR Open Forum
and Business meetings.

The Committee?s Web Site was established in 1998 as an extensive domain within the AAA?s website
location. Content includes: Committee members and how to contact them; CfHR Mission and Operating
Guidelines; Resources, including Contacts of Human Rights Organizations, The Human Rights Directory,
A major Human Rights Bibliography, and Course Syllabi for Teaching Human Rights; and Actions and
Documents of the Committee (including annual reports).

EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 1998

The Pehuenche Case. The details of the Pehuenche case are recounted in detail in documents of the
CfHR?s website. To summarize: The Pehuenche of southern Chile are being threatened by a series of
hydroelectric dams planned for the Bio-Bio river. One dam has been built, and another, entailing the
removal of about 1000 Pehuenche, is in final stages of preparation prior to ground-breaking. The initial
dam was financed by the International Finance Corporation, a section of the World Bank Group. When
problems developed, the IFC hired anthropologist consultant Theodore Downing to investigate, and
then, prodded by the owner-power company, ENDES, S.A., refused to allow Downing to disclose his
findings to the Pehuenche, effectively preventing the Pehuenche from learning about plans affecting
their cultural survival. The CfHR held both an open and a closed session at the 1997 AAA meetings in
which we heard from Dr. Downing, from World Bank officials, from a Chilean sociologist, and others. The
CfHR appointed Barbara Johnston and Terence Turner to co-author a briefing document, which was
then, with the consent of the authors, augmented by Committee contributions. AAA President Jane Hill
reviewed and then conveyed the report to James D. Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank Group
with a March 19th letter asking for the Bank?s response to various failures and proposed a dialog to
address the ethical bind which Bank policies had perpetrated on Dr. Downing. Apart from a brief
acknowledgment of receipt, nothing further was heard from the Bank. The CfHR then involved the
Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility of the AAAS, which held an all-day meeting on the
matter (09/09/98) to explore the case, the ethical predicament of the anthropologist, and the situation
of the World Bank. Members of the CfHR presented information on the case. The AAAS committee followed several days later with a letter to the Bank expressing concern with several aspects of the case and urging that the Bank not delay further its response to the AAA. Johnston and Turner published an overview article of the case in the AAAS newsletter. President Hill also sent a second letter renewing the AAA’s request. On October 21st President Hill received a reply from James Wolfensohn. The letter can be accessed on the CfHR website (third letter in the sequence).

The Chiapas Letter. On June 2, 1998 the CfHR received a memorandum from Dr. June Nash and others asking for the Committee’s intervention in the worsening situation in Chiapas, Mexico. Among the triggering concerns were a major massacre perpetrated on Mayan villagers at the village of Acteal, the expulsion of foreign human rights observers, and a disregard for the Accord of San Andres which committed the Mexican Government to negotiations. The CfHR alerted the officers of the AAA’s SLAA, and we drafted a letter for President Hill’s consideration. SLAA polled its board of directors and lent its support to the text. President Hill approved the letter for signature and Rudolfo Stavenhagen agreed to support and circulate it in Mexico. The letter was sent to President Zedillo in August. A reply is not expected. A letter of this sort joins letters from other groups and individuals, hopefully enhancing the attractiveness of pursuing a negotiation path and making it clear that credible international groups are observing with great concern.

Coercive Conservation. Coercive Conservation refers to the imposition of conservation efforts in ways that abuse basic human rights. The CfHR reviewed reports of coercive conservation in Zambia, and AAA President Jane Hill wrote a letter to the President of Zambia expressing concern and requesting additional information on efforts to investigate the allegations.

Dominique Gallois and the Waiampi (Brazil). On January 14, 1998 President Hill sent a letter to the President Cardoso of Brazil, his minister of justice and the president of FUNAI (Brazil’s Indian affairs agency) to express grave concern over the expulsion and harassment of Dr. Dominique Gallois of the University of Sao Paulo from further work with the Waiampi of the Brazilian state of Amapa. Our letter was also communicated to Brazilian anthropologists. The Waiampi were resisting to an invasion of gold miners, disrupting their efforts to establish a sustainable forest products project. The miners were supported by the Amapa governor, the state prosecutor, and a national congressman from the zone. They ordered her expulsion and launched 3 lawsuits against her at ruinous financial cost to her. Dr. Gallois was blamed for fomenting the Waiampi’s resistance, a claim denied by her. The AAA letter has received no reply (none expected). The function of the letter is to increase the pressure on the federal government to, in turn, constrain the state officials, and to signal that an external group is monitoring the situation. At last report (11/98) the lawsuits have been dropped but we have not yet learned whether she has been permitted to re-enter the Waiampi area. The CfHR also brought this case to the attention of the AAAS? AAASHRAN system (“AAAS Human Rights Network”) which broadcasts worldwide alerts when scientists suffer unjust repression in doing their work. A case alert was distributed recommending a vigorous international letter writing campaign, and widening awareness of the case.

Assassination of Monseñor Juan José Gerardi Conedera (Guatemala). On May 14, 1998 President Hill sent a letter to the President Arzu of Guatemala protesting the assassination of Monseñor Juan José Gerardi Conedera, director of Guatemala’s Recovery of Historic Memories project days after he had made public an historic report detailing human rights abuses against Guatemala’s indigenous citizens. The Gerardi assassination was taken by others as a warning of the consequences to be suffered by any intending to increase public comment on the human rights abuses, especially against Mayans, during the Guatemalan war. No response has been received (or expected), but one notes that there have been
few acts of repression in the months since the assassination, and that there has been some easing of
tension and perceived threat.

Activities and Actions of the AAA Committee for Human Rights in 1999

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 1999
CfHR elected members (1998-1999) include Tom Greaves, chair (term ending 6/99); Robert Hitchcock
(6/99 -12/99); Lucia Ann McSpadden, co-chair (term ending 12/99); Jennifer Schrimer (12/99); Linda
Rabben (12/00); Jim Peacock (12/00); Barbara Johnston (12/01); Ellen Gruenbaum (12/01); Megan
Bieseale (12/02).

To ensure that the CfHR continues to attract members with human rights expertise, and the time to
serve on a committee with year-round responsibilities, the CfHR reviewed and committee membership
descriptions published in the Anthropology newsletter and proposed revisions to the nominations
committee.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the membership - 1999
The AAA membership approved by overwhelming majority adoption of the Declaration on
Anthropology and Human Rights.

Task Group on Women’s Rights. Incoming CfHR member Sheila Dauer has joined Ellen Gruenbaum to
cochair this Task Group. Contacts developed from the 1998 agenda-setting panel led to the formation of
a scientific session on Women and Human Rights at the 1999 meeting. In this session, and at the
subsequent Open Forum, the Task Group met and agreed to continue efforts to develop a white paper on
?Anthropology and Women’s Human Rights; develop a preliminary book proposal; and encourage a
publication series on recent research.

Task Group on Anthropology and Ethnic Cleansing. The Task Force presented a draft report to the CfHR
prior to the Fall 1999 meeting. CfHR members agreed to review and revise the paper.

CfHR sponsored events at the 1999 Annual Meeting include, in addition to the two half-day business
meetings:

CfHR invited session ?Human Rights and the Anthropology of Trouble? (Barbara Rose Johnston and Ellen
Messer);
?Cultural Struggles for Women’s Human Rights? cosponsored by the CfHR and the Association for
Feminist Anthropology (Ellen Gruenbaum and Ilsa Glazer);
CfHR special event panel ?Refugees and Human Rights: The Emerging Agenda (Lucia Ann McSpadden);
and

EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 1999
The Pehuenche Case and follow up on World Bank Resettlement Policies. In 1999 the CfHR and the
Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) worked to coordinate efforts to voice concerns and encourage
meaningful response from the World Bank and its International Finance Corporation regarding their
involvement in the Pehuenche case. Discussions included finding ways to influence the procedures for
internal review and analysis of proposed, ongoing, and completed projects. Barbara Johnston developed
a draft comment on proposed revisions to the World Bank policies on involuntary resettlement. The
draft comment was endorsed by the CfHR, signed by President Jane Hill and sent to the World Bank on
November 2, 1999. The AAA comment was placed on the World Bank website.

Raposa Serra do Sol (Brazil). On April 2, 1999 President Jane Hill sent a letter to President Cardoso of Brazil (with copies to the Brazilian Minister of the Justice, President of FUNAI, Governor of Roraima, the Conselho Indigena de Roraima, the Brazilian ambassador to Washington, and Brazil? s director of the Secretaria Nacional dos Direitos Humanos) expressing deep concern regarding reports of violence aimed at indigenous people and their supporters in Roraima since the government announced demarcation of 1.6 million hectares of the Rapose Serra do Sol indigenous area in December 1998.

Assassination of Hernan Henao Delgado (Colombia). On May 4, 1999, Colombian anthropologist and University of Antioquia professor Hernan Henao was assassinated. Dr. Henao was the director of the Instituto de Estudios Regionales, a university research center coordinating studies of conflict, community development, environmental policy, and cultural diversity in the region surrounding Antioquia. He had most recently been working with the ? displacados? -- some 1.5 million campesinos in the northwest Caribbean coast who had been forcibly evicted from their lands by paramilitary forces working in collaboration with large landowners. On May 21, 1999 President Jane Hill, in cooperation with Joanne Rappaport, President of SLAA and in coordination with the Colombia Support Network sent a letter of concern to Colombian, Brazilian, and US Government officials. A copy of this letter was issued as an action alert to AAA members on the CfHR human rights list serve. Dr. Henao was the seventh professor at the University of Antioquia to be murdered in the past ten years.

Proposed Revision of OMB Circular A-100. CfHR members responded to the AAA Executive Board request that AAA members review and comment on proposed revisions of OMB Circular A-100, which would have allowed public access to the underlying data of federally funded research through a Freedom of Information Act request. Individual committee members wrote letters of concern. The effort was successful.

Forced Removal of Andaman Islanders (India). The CfHR was asked by Terry Turner, emeritus member of the Committee, to express concern over proposed removal of a nomadic Jarawa tribal group in the Andaman Islands from their land, for the purposes of relocation on another island to be sedentarised. A public interest litigation suit had been filed before the Calcutta High Court Bench in the Andaman Islands requesting removal of the Jarawa. The CfHR recommended a letter of concern be sent. Terry Turner drafted a letter strongly opposing the forced resettlement that was signed by President Jane Hill and sent on August 11, 1999.

Activities and Actions of the AAA Committee for Human Rights in 2000

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS - 2000
CfHR elected members (1999-2000) include Barbara Rose Johnston (chair), Jim Peacock, Megan Bieseke, Sheila Dauer, John Haviland, Linda Rabben, Ellen Gruenbaum, Linda Green. Members who retire at the end of the November 2000 meeting are Linda Rabben and Jim Peacock. Members whose terms begin after the end of the November 2000 meeting are Janet Chernela (chair-elect) and Ruben Mendoza. CfHR ex-officio members: AAA President Louise Lamphere, AAA President-elect Don Brenneis. AAA Staff is Peggy Overbey. The CfHR pro bono counsel is Paul Magnarella

Committee guidelines include goals, objectives and implementing strategies, and are posted on the CfHR website. At their April 1, 2000 meeting the CfHR further developed guidelines to include the following
objectives: promote and protect human rights; expand the definition of human rights within an anthropological perspective; work internally with the membership of the AAA, to educate anthropologists, and to mobilize their support for human rights; work externally with foreign colleagues, the people and groups with whom anthropologists work, and other human rights organizations to develop an anthropological perspective on human rights and consult with them on human rights violations and the appropriate actions to be taken; influence and educate the media, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, and decision makers in the private sector; and, encourage research on all aspects of human rights from conceptual to applied.

Pro Bono Counsel for Human Rights. Recognizing that the work of the CfHR often involves sensitive legal issues, and that CfHR documents and related materials often contain discussion of controversies and alleged human rights abuse, the CfHR has taken actions to strengthen the review process of their public materials to insure concerns are raised in legally defensible ways. During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR agreed to accept anthropologist/lawyer Paul Magnarella's offer to act as pro bono counsel for the human rights committee. Counsel duties include reviewing committee minutes, reports, and action items (letters, statements, etc) before public release (on the website, to agencies or organizations, etc); and other duties as identified and deemed appropriate by the pro bono counsel and the CfHR.

During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR confirmed their traditional biannual business meeting schedule (one half day before and one half day during the AAA annual conference, and one day in the spring of each year) and to advertise these meeting obligations as part of the call for nominations to committee membership.

During the Fall 2000 meeting the CfHR discussed communications and case development procedures and agreed that there is a strong need to revise and publicly disseminate case submission and investigation policies that include reference to confidentiality mechanisms and communications protocols. Sheila Dauer agreed to draft a revised set of case procedures for consideration at the Spring 2001 meeting.

INTERNAL ACTIONS: Addressing the Membership - 2000
Communications: CfHR list serve. At the November 1999 meeting of the CfHR, the committee agreed to establish a self-moderated list-serve for AAA members interested in human rights issues. During the spring of 2000 the CfHR worked with AAA staff to develop list rules and advertise the formation of the list serve in the Anthropology Newsletter and through email postings. The list serve has been in operation since April 2000. The list is intended for discussion of anthropology and human rights among the members of the AAA and the AAA's Committee for Human Rights. Topics may include, but are not limited to, discussion of cases of human rights abuse, identification of anthropologists working in areas where human rights issues are raised, and consideration of activities of the Committee for Human Rights.

Task Force on Womens Rights. At the November 2000 meeting task force chairs Ellen Gruenbaum and Sheila Dauer reported that the Task Force has developed a draft "white paper" on women and human rights. This paper is being expanded to constitute a "handbook" that will focus on broad issues (cultural relativism vs. Universal human rights issues). The handbook will include case studies emerging from scientific sessions sponsored by the CfHR and the AFA over the past three years. The target audience for the handbook is people who work on WID (Women in Development), human rights community, AAA members, human rights students. The handbook will also provide tools (information to understand organizations, issues, declarations).
Task Force on Ethnic Cleansing. During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR agreed to continue the Ethnic Cleansing Task Force efforts to development a position paper and explore various ways to communicate Task Force findings. At the November 2000 meeting of the CfHR, Ethnic Cleansing Task Force chair Jim Peacock reported on the Ethnic Cleansing Statement. The document defines ethnic cleansing, indicates causal factors, and suggests what anthropologists can do. Omission of forensics component noted. The statement emphasis on prevention was recognized by Sheila Dauer as an important contribution, as many NGOs work reactively, not with prevention in mind. The CfHR accepted the document and Task Force contributions were gratefully acknowledged. The CfHR agreed that future use of the document will involve additional editing and refinement, and will include authorship as "a CfHR document with contributions from... " (task force contributors). The CfHR agreed to further edit the statement text to develop two versions -- one with language and tone for a disciplinary audience (published in AN and on our website); one with language and tone for media (brochure used in press kits). Revised drafts of the document will be prepared for review and comment at the Spring 2001 meeting of the CfHR.

Possible task force on Coercive Conservation. During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR agreed to pursue further research on coercive conservation as an international issue. The CfHR agreed to explore establishing a new task force on human rights dimensions of implementing environmental policy or conservation agreements during the November 2000 meeting. Should the new task force recommend it, the CfHR agreed to post their efforts in this area on the CfHR website. During the Fall 2000 meeting, the Anthropology and Environment section leadership expressed interest in co-sponsoring a task force examining conflicts between human rights and conservation agendas. The goal of the task force would be a position paper and summary statement of concern. Barbara Johnston will do follow up with Megan Biese, A and E President Pete Brosius, and A and E President-elect Bonnie McCay. A task force proposal will be submitted at the spring 2001 CfHR meeting.

Language Rights as Human Rights. At the Spring 2000 meeting of the CfHR, John Haviland agreed to examine interest in a "Language Rights as Human Rights" Task Force with members of the Linguistics Section. At the Fall 2000 meeting, Haviland reported on mixed reception to the idea of a cosponsored task force, and suggested refocusing efforts on developing a session for year 2001 meetings. Interest in a session included forensic issues (language rights as part of the due process), how to guarantee process without language protection. Language policies. Refugee language rights issues (UNHCR using linguists to confirm ethnic identity). Nonstandard language rights. Haviland will do follow up work on the viability of an organized session for year 2001.

Education and Outreach: Anthropology Newsletter Articles. During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR agreed to expand efforts to educate membership with regular columns published in the Anthropology Newsletter. In addition to human rights committee announcements and updates authored by Barbara Johnston, the Anthropology Newsletter published the following articles from CfHR members in 2000: "Update from the Beijing Conference on Women and Human Rights" by Sheila Dauer (October 2000); "The Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in International Law" by Paul Magnarella (April 2000); "Forensics for Justice" by Linda Rabben (May 2000); "Language Rights and the AAA Committee for Human Rights" Society for Linguistic Anthropology Column by John Haviland (September 2000).

Human Rights events at the 2000 Annual Meeting. In addition to their business meetings, the CfHR helped organize and/or cosponsored the following events at the AAA annual conference:
Scientific session "Militarization, Democracy and Everyday Life: Anthropological Perspectives" (CfHR member Linda Green coorganizer with Lesly Gill).

CfHR Special Event panel "Fieldwork in High Conflict Zones: Praxis, Ethics and Human Rights" (former CfHR member Lucia McSpadden, organizer).

Special Event "Ethical Issues in Field Research Among the Yanomami: Part 1" (organized by the AAA President and President elect and cosponsored by the CfHR and the Committee on Ethics. Panel was chaired by CfHR's legal counsel Paul Magnarella).

Special Event "Ethical Issues in Field Research Among the Yanomami: Part II" (organized by the AAA President and President elect and cosponsored by the CfHR and the Committee on Ethics).

CfHR cosponsored with Anthropology and Environment Scientific Session "Indigenes, Indigenists, Environmentalists and Human Rights: Computabilities and Incompatibilities, Advocacy and Environmental Anthropology" (former CfHR chair Les Sponsel, organizer).

CfHR sponsored Scientific Session "Taking Action: Women and Human Rights" (CfHR members Ellen Gruenbaum and Sheila Dauer organizers).

Presidential Session/public lecture entitled "Uncovering the "Disappeared": Clyde Snow and Forensic Anthropologists' Work for Justice" and a public reception. Session chaired by Jim Peacock. Public lectures by Clyde Snow, Fredy Peccerelli and Mimi Doretti. In addition to the initial organizing efforts, the CfHR played an active role in raising funds for this event and developing local media and NGO outreach efforts.

Special Event "CfHR Open Forum" (chaired by Barbara Rose Johnston).

EXTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES - 2000

During year 2000 the CfHR has continued to follow up on human rights issues involving the peoples of the Kalahari, land rights and related issues in Brazil, US Congressional funding for Columbia and related impacts on indigenous peoples, and large infrastructure development projects in Brazil, Chile and the Congo. New cases brought to the attention of the CfHR include possible involuntary resettlement associated with an expansion of an international commercial satellite launch site in Alcantara, Brazil; human rights abuses directed towards forensic anthropologists and others working towards reparations in Guatemala; alleged involvement of anthropologists and other scientists in the abuse of Yanomami human rights; and allegations of new instances of coercive conservation in Africa.

Coercive Conservation. During the spring 2000 meeting, the CfHR agreed to pursue further research on coercive conservation as an international issue. The CfHR agreed to explore establishing a new task force on human rights dimensions of implementing environmental policy or conservation agreements during the November 2000 meeting. Should the new task force recommend it, the CfHR agreed to post their efforts in this area on the CfHR website.

Update on the issues involving the peoples of the Kalahari. Megan Biese1e reported to the CfHR at the Fall 2000 meeting new instances of human rights abuse associated with conservation policies in the Kalahari game reserve. Recommended action points: (1) develop a CfHR 1 page position on "coercive conservation" with specific reference to the AAA human rights declaration. This statement could be used as a problem statement for the task force (item 3); and, used to accompany case-specific reports highlighting alleged abuses (mailed to NGOs and Anthropological organizations). (2) In the Kalahari case, letters of support and concern for alleged abuses should be drafted and sent to several bodies. Materials will be reviewed and additional follow up action taken at the spring 2000 meeting.

The Pehuenche Case. The CfHR continued to follow events associated with hydroelectric dam development on the Bio-Bio River, and the related plight of the Pehuenche People. In May 2000 CfHR
member Linda Rabben attended a meeting at the IFC introducing the newly created Office of the Ombudsman to the NGO community. Rabben raised questions concerning the status of involuntarily displaced indigenous peoples on this IFC-funded project. In October 2000 the CfHR provided copies of its briefing paper "The Pehuenche: Human Rights, the Environment, and Hydrodevelopment on the Biobio River, Chile" and associated AAA-World Bank correspondence to Claudio Gonzalez, a Chilean sociologist working with Pehuenche peoples displaced by Panguel and Ralco Dams on the BioBio River in Chile. Gonzalez used these materials in support of his request for intervention by International Finance Corporation (IFC) Ombudsperson Meg Taylor to examine the case of involuntary displacement experienced by the Pehuenche family Sotomayor Riquelme. No additional action was requested at this time. In July 2000 the CfHR provided a copy of its briefing paper "The Pehuenche: Human Rights, the Environment, and Hydrodevelopment on the Biobio River, Chile" to the World Commission on Dams for consideration during its July 2000 meeting in South Africa. This document included a critical review of the Pehuen Foundation-- a public/private profit sharing mechanism-- and the case study helped inform the WCD's recommendations on social impact mitigation and equity participation in future dam development.

Guatemala Reparations and Human Rights concerns. At the April 2000 meeting of the CfHR Linda Rabben and Peggy Overbey reported on a presentation by Clyde Snow on the role of forensic anthropology in reparations processes in Guatemala and Argentina. The CfHR agreed to pursue the possibility of a public lecture on this topic for the year 2000 annual meeting. The CfHR, with other members of the AAA, helped raise funds for the event by soliciting cosponsorship agreements and worked with bay area-based NGOs to promote the event. In October 2000, CfHR chair Barbara Rose Johnston gave a presentation on the legal basis for reparations in human rights law at a UC Berkeley public event on Guatemalan Reparations and Human Rights. On November 2, 2000, following CfHR recommendations, a letter of concern for growing incidence of abuse of human rights workers, especially those involved in Guatemala's truth and reconciliation process, was signed by AAA President Louise Lamphere and mailed to appropriate parties. On November 16, 2000 the CfHR acted as cosponsor of the Presidential Session/public lecture entitled "Uncovering the "Disappeared": Clyde Snow and Forensic Anthropologists' Work for Justice." This session was chaired by CfHR member Jim Peacock with presentations by Clyde Snow, Fredy Peccerelli and Mimi Doretti.

Alcantara, Brazil Case. This case was brought to the CfHR attention in October 2000, shortly after the US signed a treaty with Brazil to provide funding to allow expansion of an existing military base to support commercial launching of satellites. Expansion will allegedly displace a number of afro-brazilian villages and further impact previously displaced peoples. The CfHR agreed that additional efforts were needed to corroborate alleged abuses and to identify specific actions the AAA might take. Linda Rabben agreed to play a continued role as CfHR-emeritus with this case, including, if warranted, drafting a summary of the issues and call for closer examination. The CfHR discussed strategies to inform advocacy organizations concerned with forced relocation, with the goal of introducing this concern on their advocacy agenda.

CfHR concerns over social impacts of studying the Yanomami. At the spring 2000 meeting the CfHR approved an Open Forum for the November 2000 meetings involving emeritus members of the CfHR who would update the membership on human rights issues previously dealt with by the CfHR. CfHR chair Barbara Johnston was charged with contacting emeritus members for input and suggestions and developing an Open Forum agenda. In August 2000, emeritus member Terry Turner responded to the emeriti with a request to the CfHR chair to use the Open Forum time at the upcoming AAA meetings to address allegations of human rights abuse resulting from the Napoleon Chagnon's work with the
Yanomami--published in a forthcoming book by Patrick Tierney (Darkness in El Dorado: How Scientists and Journalists Devastated the Amazon). Turner reported that excerpts from the book would be printed in a forthcoming issue of the New Yorker. Barbara Johnston alerted the CfHR and the AAA leadership as to the forthcoming publication, and the CfHR assisted AAA leadership in identifying background documents, and anthropologists who have worked in the region. The CfHR assisted AAA leadership in developing organizational responses, including a panel discussion of the book. At their November 2000 meeting, the AAA Executive Board established a committee to review the "Darkness in El Dorado" book with specific reference to the relationship between allegations and AAA human rights and ethics statements. AAA President Louise Lamphere appointed retiring CfHR member and past AAA President Jim Peacock as committee chair. Three CfHR members and three Ethics Committee members were also appointed to this committee. The Committee will present their report and recommendations to the Executive Board at their February 2001 meeting.

Attachment 1: Committee for Human Rights Membership

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Deceased Member
Attachment 2
Selected human rights-related publications by CfHR members during their years of service.

Human Rights-related publications by CfHR members during year 2000.


www.clas.ufl.edu/africa/asq/


Human Rights-related publications of the CfHR in 1999 include:


Human Rights publications generated by CfHR Members in 1998 include:


Human Rights Publications generated by CfHR members in 1997 include:


