
Letter from the Editors

ISSUING REPARATIONS TO VICTIMS of human rights abuses is gaining recognition in the international community as a practice that is both morally and politically essential. Whether issued by a warring party to surviving family members of civilian casualties, or by a state to a refugee denied asylum, reparations not only provide survivors of human rights violations with the resources to begin rebuilding their lives but also provide justice — an indispensable step in achieving peace. By including three articles touching on different aspects of reparations, the *Human Rights Brief* hopes to highlight the significance of and possibilities for making reparations an integral part of justice for victims of human rights violations.

Jonathan Tracy analyzes the inadequacy of current reparations the U.S. military issues to survivors of Iraqi civilian casualties and proposes a mandatory system that improves the equity of compensation. Fernanda Nicola and Ingrid Nifosi-Sutton analyze the progressively developing system of reparations to individual victims at the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice. Daniel Bradlow offers insight into the South African Reconciliation and Development Bond Project, an innovative method of financing compensation of victims of apartheid.

The last issue of the *Human Rights Brief* published an analysis of the recent ground-breaking International Court of Justice decision on the genocide case brought by Bosnia and Herzegovina against Serbia and Montenegro. In this issue, Susana SáCouto offers a new analysis, pointing to both positive outcomes and new questions raised by the decision.

Garth Schofield discusses the role of the United States in the contentious development of the International Criminal Court's definition of aggression. Jessica Farb tracks the development of the new U visa, which provides legal status to undocumented U.S. immigrant victims of crimes.

Several recent developments have led to new additions to the *Brief*. The development of internationalized or hybrid courts, such as the War Crimes Chamber in Bosnia and the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia, prompted the new Hybrid and Internationalized Tribunals column. The *Brief* will also include summaries of the judgments of the Special Court for Sierra Leone: the landmark first judgment of that Court is summarized in the *Updates from the International Criminal Courts* section. Finally, the Editors-in-Chief also feel that it is important to include a column on human rights in the United States in the *International Legal Updates* section, so a new *United States* column will be replacing the previous *Legislative Update* column.

Finally, the Editors-in-Chief wish to thank the following individuals for their expert legal advice on the articles in this issue: Keith M. Brace, Richard Dicker, Troy Elder, Robert Goldman, and Jennifer Trahan. **HRB**

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