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HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH IN PERIODICALS: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE

*Howard A. Hood**

Research on implementation of the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Accord must include examination of the periodical literature. Articles on this topic are not restricted to specific journals, however, but are scattered throughout the gamut of human rights and general interest publications—from scholarly reviews and esoteric newsletters to the most popular magazines and newspapers. Research on the Accord thus encounters difficulties common to the investigation of the broad topic of human rights. Many of the relevant periodicals are obscure, unindexed, hard to locate, and ephemeral. Because of the global character of human rights concerns, journals and newsletters dealing with them are published in various languages. In addition, because human rights problems can be studied from diverse vantage points—activist, philosophical, political, religious, economic, diplomatic, etc.—pertinent discussions can appear in a vast array of journals, reports, and newsletters.

Two publications serve to diminish these impediments. For information on the more substantial serials, *The Checklist of Human Rights Documents*,¹ edited by the Tarlton Library of the University of Texas Law School, is indispensable. Each monthly issue of the *Checklist* includes citations to recent publications of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, agencies of the United States government, and other national and intergovernmental bodies, as well as references to monographs, journal issues and articles, and special reports and studies by individuals and non-governmental organizations (NGO's). Among the organizations whose publications are regularly listed are Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, the International

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1. New York: Earl M. Coleman Enterprises, 1976-. [Unfortunately, publication may be discontinued in the near future—Ed.] (Many citations in this bibliographical note are to all volumes of particular periodicals. The publisher and place and date of publication are provided to aid the researcher.)

League for Human Rights, Freedom House, Human Rights Internet, and many others. The tables of contents of selected journal issues are reproduced in appendices. The *Checklist* has no cumulative index or annual compilation, therefore retrospective searches require extensive scanning of the monthly issues; nor are the individual entries annotated or evaluated—they are simply listed. Within these limitations the *Checklist* is extremely useful in human rights research.

The other research tool is quite dissimilar from the *Checklist* but equally valuable. Journalistic rather than bibliographic, the *Human Rights Internet Newsletter*,² distributed nine times a year, is a treasure-trove of human rights news. The sponsoring organization, Human Rights Internet, is a clearinghouse for human rights groups around the world and the closest thing to an information nerve center presently operating in this field.³ Each lengthy issue of the *Newsletter* is divided into organizational and geographic sections which provide excellent references to reports, newsletters, documents, etc., issued by minor as well as major human rights groups. Its citations of evanescent and hard-to-find writings are especially helpful. Interspersed among bibliographic tidbits are numerous news items of interest to human rights students and workers. Like the *Checklist*, the *Human Rights Internet Newsletter* is not cumulated and so must be scanned. Although neither publication reproduces or sells the texts of cited literature, copies can usually be obtained from listed publishers or organizations.

Another way to search the literature on human rights is through the various non-governmental organizations which produce journals, reports, and newsletters. The names of these groups and references to their latest publications can be found scattered through the issues of the *Checklist* and the *Human Rights Internet Newsletter*. More systematic listings and descriptions are available in several directories. Perhaps the best of these is the *Human Rights Directory 1979*.⁴ This work is compiled by Human Rights Internet and the MCPL (Members of Congress for Peace through Law) Education Fund. Its listings are limited to United States based groups which are involved in promoting or

2. Washington: Human Rights Internet, 1976-.

3. See Scoble and Wiseberg, *Human Rights Internet: In Defense of a New Organization and an Emerging Field*, 11 *Pol. Sci.* 500-03 (1978).

4. Washington: Human Rights Internet, 1979.

protecting internationally recognized human rights. About 300 organizations are included. Each entry supplies the address and information about officers, funding, membership, origin, purposes, programs, and publications of each group. There is a separate section on United States government agencies, Congressional bodies, and intergovernmental organizations. The book includes useful subject and geographical indices which list organizations by type and major interest. Several other directories of this kind are also available.⁵ Most of the groups listed in these directories will supply information about their publications upon request.

A few of the organizations listed in the *Human Rights Directory* are so important in human rights research that they merit individual discussion. To the general public the best known NGO is Amnesty International (AI). Founded in 1961 and headquartered in London, AI received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. Its primary goal is the release of "prisoners of conscience," persons who are imprisoned because of what they have said or written and who have neither used nor advocated the use of force. AI works through various national affiliates, which, in turn, are organized into "adoption" groups. Each adoption group is assigned selected political prisoners whose release it seeks through letter-writing and telegram campaigns. Using fact-finding missions, reports, papers, and ties with governmental organizations such as the United Nations and the Council of Europe, AI attempts to pressure governments into freeing the prisoners of conscience held within their respective nations. To its work on behalf of prisoners, AI has added campaigns to abolish torture and the death penalty.⁶

5. *E.g.*, HUMAN RIGHTS: AN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION RESOURCES. Claremont, Cal.: Center for California Public Affairs, 1979; THE HUMAN RIGHTS HANDBOOK: A GUIDE TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. New York: Facts on File, 1979. Another work, HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND PERIODICALS DIRECTORY 1979, 4th ed. Berkeley, CA: Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, 1979, concentrates on organizations working for United States civil rights and civil liberties and has little on international human rights.

6. See Hanson, *Amnesty International: Prisoner of Success?* 42 PROGRESSIVE 38-40 (Apr. 1978); Rubenstein, *Amnesty International*, 175 NEW REPUBLIC 6-7 (Dec. 18, 1976); Nash, *The Ordeal of Amnesty International*, 26 NAT'L REV. 1407 (1974); Scoble and Wiseberg, *Human Rights and Amnesty International*, 413 ANNALS 11-16 (1974); Scoble and Wiseberg, *Amnesty International: Evaluating Effectiveness in the Human Rights Area*, 150 INTELLECT 79-82 (Sept. 1976); Buckley, *Idealization of Amnesty International*, 30 NAT'L REV. 110-111

Amnesty International, London, and its affiliate in this country, Amnesty International USA, are prolific publishers. Among the serials produced by this organization are the *Newsletter* and *Annual Report* (London), and *Amnesty Action* and *Matchbox* (New York). The two New York publications are newspapers issued monthly and three times a year, respectively. Probably of more permanent research value are AI's Briefing Papers and Country Reports which summarize human rights violations in individual countries. The Briefing Papers are concise reports of conditions in places such as Peru, Syria, and Singapore. The Country Reports are more detailed and lengthy; recent ones have dealt with Afghanistan, South Africa, Tunisia, and India. The *Annual Reports* provide nation-by-nation summaries of AI's work in human rights. AI also publishes English translations of Russian *samizdat* in *A Chronicle of Current Events*.⁷ Because of its factual orientation, relative objectivity, and contacts with citizens in countries with the worst human rights records, AI has a unique status as a source of human rights information.⁸

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) also has worldwide concerns. It seeks to advance the "rule of law" and the protection of rights under law. Located in Geneva, it has national sections in more than sixty countries. ICJ is a consultant to agencies of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The Commission collects literature on human rights and sponsors seminars and conferences on legality and respect for rights in various nations. Like Amnesty International, ICJ works for release of political prisoners and monitors trials it considers especially significant. Its bi-annual *Review*⁹ usually includes reports on human rights in selected countries, news of human rights activities of international organizations, and short scholarly articles. Information on the work of the Commission is published quarterly in the *ICJ Newsletter*.¹⁰ The ICJ issues numerous reports and special

(1978).

7. A CHRONICAL OF CURRENT EVENTS: A JOURNAL OF THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. London: Amnesty International, 1968-.

8. For information on publications mentioned in this paragraph, write AIUSA Publications, Mid-Atlantic Book Service, 5 Lawrence St., Bloomfield, N.J., 07003. A new report on the Soviet Union has just been issued: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE U.S.S.R.: THEIR TREATMENT AND CONDITIONS, 2d ed. London: Amnesty International, 1980.

9. Geneva: International Commission of Jurists, 1969-.

10. Geneva: International Commission of Jurists, 1979-.

studies on subjects such as human rights in Latin American countries, the treatment of lawyers in South Korea, and racial discrimination in Rhodesia and South Africa. The American section of the ICJ supports the organization's work and issues its own studies and reports.

Freedom House, a private publisher in New York City, attempts to assess the degree of freedom in every country of the world. While less activist than AI or ICJ, it pays special attention to freedom of the press and helps monitor compliance with the Helsinki Accord. The publications of Freedom House include the bi-monthly *Freedom at Issue*¹¹ and an annual survey, *Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties*.¹² In 1979 Freedom House established the Center for Appeals for Freedom to support those struggling under repressive regimes. The Center publishes translations of articles by dissidents bi-monthly in *Freedom Appeals*.¹³

The International League for Human Rights, one of the oldest of the private organizations working for international human rights, engages in many activities similar to those of the groups already discussed. The League issues reports, submits complaints to governments, and sends fact-finding bodies to sites of alleged human rights violations. Its publications include the *Rights of Man Bulletin*.¹⁴

Perhaps the most scholarly of the major human rights bodies is the International Institute of Human Rights, located in Strasbourg, France. Its French and English language publication, *Revue des droits de l'homme/Human Rights Journal*,¹⁵ is supposed to be published quarterly, but in fact it has appeared sporadically. Predominantly a research and teaching association, the Institute sponsors courses, seminars, and studies on human rights.

Several other journals devoted to human rights merit special mention. *Human Rights*,¹⁶ a magazine-type publication produced

11. New York: Freedom House, 1970-.

12. New York: Freedom House, 1979-.

13. *Id.*

14. New York: International League for Human Rights, 1974-. See Wiseberg and Scoble, *The International League for Human Rights: The Strategy of a Human Rights NGO*, 7 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 289-313 (1977); *The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in Implementing Human Rights in Latin America*, 7 GA. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 477-506 (1977).

15. Paris: Editions A. Pedone, 1968-.

16. Chicago: A.B.A. Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, 1970-.

by the American Bar Association, deals with domestic civil liberties issues as well as with international questions. The *Human Rights Review*,¹⁷ published twice-yearly by Oxford University Press in association with the British Institute of Human Rights, includes articles, documents, and a section on current events. The *Index on Censorship*,¹⁸ an English bi-monthly, focuses on violations of freedom of thought and expression. Its authors include well-known literary figures. A new periodical, *Universal Human Rights*,¹⁹ specializes in scholarly discussions of a philosophical, historical, and comparative character. Its first issue included a symposium on the human rights theme in United States foreign policy and an article on human rights in West Germany.

Once a researcher goes beyond the publications of human rights organizations and journals specializing in human rights matters, he must follow a strategy different from what has thus far been described. Important articles and essays on human rights may appear in law reviews (particularly in the numerous international law journals), international law yearbooks, political science magazines, foreign affairs journals, national and regional studies serials, news magazines, newspapers, and other types of scholarly and popular periodicals. In order to find materials in these publications, one must rely on the various periodical and newspaper indices. For a long but incomplete list of abstracting and indexing services, see the first section of the latest edition of *Ulrich's International Periodical Directory*.²⁰ Some of the most relevant of these indexes are the *Index to Legal Periodicals*,²¹ *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals*,²² *Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature*,²³ *Public International Law: A Current Bibliography of Articles*,²⁴ *Social Sciences Index*,²⁵ *Public Affairs Information Service*,²⁶ *International Political Science Abstracts*,²⁷ *New York*

17. London: Oxford University Press, 1976-.

18. London: Writers and Scholars International, 1972-.

19. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1979-.

20. New York: R.R. Bowker 1932-.

21. Bronx, N.Y.: H.W. Wilson Co., 1908-.

22. Chicago: American Association of Law Libraries, 1960-.

23. Montreal: Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature, 1963-.

24. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1974-.

25. Bronx, N.Y.: H.W. Wilson Co., 1974-.

26. New York: P.A.I.S., Inc., 1914-.

27. Paris: International Political Science Association, 1951-.

Times Index,²⁸ *Times (London) Index*,²⁹ *Washington Post Index*,³⁰ and *Readers Guide to Periodical Literature*.³¹ Subject headings vary from index to index but as a rule include terms such as "Human Rights," "Civil Rights," "European Court of Justice," "United Nations," names of individual countries, names of human rights organizations, names of political prisoners, etc.

Foreign law journals, although not always physically or linguistically accessible to American researchers, are sometimes the only sources of information on legal developments abroad. Publications such as *Zeitschrift für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht*,³² *Journal du Droit International*,³³ and *Revue Générale de Droit International Public*³⁴ contain book reviews, lists of current journal articles, case notes, and documents, as well as articles and comments. Information on human rights can be discovered in all sections of these journals.

Two related human rights topics are extremely prominent today and are likely to continue so for some time to come: human rights in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and human rights problems of Jews, especially of those who live in the Soviet Union. These issues are extensively treated in several types of publications. Soviet dissidents communicate with the West through several journals which reprint underground writings in Russian or in translations. The Khronika Press in New York, which specializes in this material, issues Russian and English versions of these writings in *A Chronicle of Human Rights in the USSR*.³⁵ As mentioned above, Amnesty International also produces translations of *samizdat* which are edited in Moscow then secretly transported out of the country.³⁶ Each thick issue is indexed, annotated, and illustrated. The *Samizdat Bulletin*³⁷ publishes similar material. *SMOLOSKYP: A Quarterly Publication Dealing with Human Rights in Ukraine and Eastern Europe* is

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28. New York: N.Y. Times, 1913-.
 29. New Haven, Conn.: Research Publications, Inc., 1906-.
 30. Wooster, Ohio: Bell & Howell Co., 1972- (microfilm).
 31. Bronx, N.Y.: H.W. Wilson Co., 1900-.
 32. Stuttgart: Verlag W. Kohlhammer, 1929-.
 33. Paris: Editions Technique, S.A., 1874-.
 34. Paris: Editions A. Pedone, 1894-.
 35. New York: Khronika Press, 1975-.
 36. CHRONICLE, *supra* note 7.
 37. San Mateo, Cal.: Olga Starevich, 1973-.

another example of this genre.³⁸

Journals which concentrate on Eastern Europe but not on human rights may nevertheless have articles of direct or indirect bearing on such issues occasionally. Some of these are *Soviet Studies: A Quarterly Journal on the USSR and Eastern Europe*,³⁹ *Review of Socialist Law*,⁴⁰ *The Ukrainian Quarterly: A Journal of East European and Asian Affairs*,⁴¹ and *Slavic Review: American Quarterly of Soviet and East European Studies*.⁴² *Problems of Communism*⁴³ sometimes contains germane writings and a great deal of valuable background information. The extensive book review section is very useful. *Survey: A Journal of East and West Studies*,⁴⁴ highly literary and scholarly, focuses on Soviet society, history, and government. Some of its essays are valuable in human rights research. There are other periodicals, such as *The Russian Review: An American Quarterly Devoted to Russia Past and Present*,⁴⁵ the *East European Quarterly*,⁴⁶ and the *Slavonic and East European Review*,⁴⁷ which are primarily historical, cultural, or literary, but which may have human rights articles or reviews from time to time. The pro-Soviet view of human rights issues may be found in publications such as *International Affairs (Moscow)*.⁴⁸

The Helsinki Accord has intensified concern over human rights violations in the Soviet Union but has thus far failed to generate many new periodicals. The Helsinki Watch Committee for the United States, Washington D.C., organized in 1978, looks at violations only in this country. Watch: U.S. Citizen's Helsinki Monitoring Committee, New York City, will be studying foreign as well as domestic situations but has a publishing program which at this writing is largely in the planning stage. The reports of "Helsinki

38. Ellicott, Md.: Helsinki Guarantees for Ukraine Committee and Ukrainian Information Service, 1978-.

39. Glasgow: University of Glasgow Press, 1949-.

40. The Netherlands: Sijhoff & Noordhoff International Publishers, 1975-.

41. New York: Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 1944-.

42. Columbus, Ohio: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 1941-.

43. Washington, D.C.: International Communications Agency, G.P.O., 1952-.

44. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1955-.

45. Stanford, Cal.: Hoover Institute, 1941-.

46. Boulder, Colo.: University of Colorado, 1967-.

47. London: Modern Humanities Research Association, 1922-.

48. Moscow: Vsesoyuznoe Obschestvo Znanya, 1955-.

monitors" active within the Soviet Union are covered in the various *samizdat* journals.

For several reasons the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union (and elsewhere in the world) is well-discussed in the serial literature. A new journal, the *Soviet Jewry Law Review*,⁴⁹ may add to the bulk of this literature but has thus far relied heavily on reprints of previously published articles. The *Foreign Affairs Bulletin*,⁵⁰ deals with a wider range of questions. The *Israel Yearbook on Human Rights*⁵¹ and *International Problems*⁵² analyze international issues facing the nation of Israel.

CONCLUSION

Doing research in human rights is like grabbing for fireflies in the night. What we see is only a small part of what exists. Human rights issues and the writings which discuss them appear and disappear suddenly. This brief survey has attempted to lay out some of the indexes, organizations, and publications which give some coherence to the field, which serve as a small net to help researchers catch the bits of information they seek. The author has provided an introduction which does not pretend to be complete. Because human rights materials are so vast, so disparate, so widely dispersed, and so little organized, completeness cannot be achieved. Given the proliferation of these resources, the situation seems likely to worsen.⁵³

49. San Francisco: Soviet Jewry Law Review, 1980-.

50. New York: American Jewish Committee, Foreign Affairs Dep't, 1975-.

51. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, 1971-.

52. Tel Aviv: Israeli Institute of International Affairs, 1963-.

53. For an overview of human rights literature, see the superb essay by Reynolds, *Highest Aspirations or Barbarous Acts . . . the Explosion in Human Rights Documentation: A Bibliographic Survey*, 71 L. LIB. J. 1-48 (1978), which the present author has consulted repeatedly. For excellent studies of non-governmental human rights organizations, see Weissbrodt, *The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in the Implementation of Human Rights*, 12 TEX. INT'L L. J. 293-320 (1977), and Scoble and Wiseberg, *Human Rights NGOs: Notes Toward Comparative Analysis*, 9 HUMAN RIGHTS J. 611-44 (1976).

