

THE NETHERLANDS HELSINKI COMMITTEE

IN COOPERATION WITH

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS OF THE CAUCASUS (IALC)

TRAINING SEMINAR FOR NGOs AND LAWYERS FROM ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA

"The Human Rights Underpinnings of the Rights of Refugees, IDPs, and National Minorities: Theory and Practice"

6-12 MAY 2001

- Location:** International Conference Center "Tabakhmela"; village of Tabakhmela (near Tbilisi); tel: (+995) 32 999953 or 32 370590; fax: (+995) 32 995588.
- Aim:** To raise the level of practical knowledge among South-Caucasian NGOs and lawyers on the application of international human rights standards relating to refugees, IDPs, and national minorities.
- Participants:** 20-22 NGO leaders and lawyers from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, specialised in refugees, IDPs and/or national minorities.
- Visiting experts:** Alexei SEMYONOV (Director, Legal Information Center on Human Rights, Estonia); Boris TSILEVICH (Moderator of MINELRES project; Member, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; Latvia); Fernand DE VARNES (Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Human Rights and the Prevention of Ethnic Conflict; Australia); experts from the South-Caucasian countries (i.e. representatives from international organisations; leading local experts).
- Financed by:** The Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI) in Budapest; the Netherlands Embassy in Kiev; OSCE Mission in Georgia.

DRAFT AGENDA:

- Sunday, 6 May 2001** Arrival of participants and experts
- Monday, 7 May 2001**
- 9.00 - 9.30 Welcome; introduction of participants and experts
- 9.30 - 11.00 **Session 1:** The history of human rights
Lecturer: Alexei SEMYONOV
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 - 13.00 **Session 2:** The main international instruments in the protection of human rights:
Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; European Convention of
Human Rights; the mechanisms of the OSCE.
Lecturer: Boris TSILEVICH

- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 15.45 **Session 3:** Terminology, and specific basic rights closely related to refugees, and IDPs: the right to asylum, protection against arbitrary expulsion, the right to have one's asylum application properly considered; the right to elect and be elected.
Lecturer: Alexei SEMYONOV, (and a local expert; to be identified)
- 15.45 - 16.15 Coffee break
- 16.15 - 18.00 **Session 4:** Terminology, and specific basic rights closely related to national minorities: protection against discrimination, the right to speak one's own language, the right to preservation of one's identity, the right to use minority language in education and the media, the right to participation.
Lecturer: Boris TSILEVICH
- 19.00 Dinner

Tuesday, 8 May 2001

- 9.30 - 11.00 **Session 5:** Case-law and procedures under International legal instruments for the protection of refugees' and migrants' rights:
1951 Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees; 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; Treaty on Support to Refugees and Forced Migrants (CIS Treaty); UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
Lecturer(s): Alexei SEMYONOV; (and a local expert; to be identified)
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break.
- 11.15 - 13.00 Continuation of session 5.
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch.
- 14.15 - 15.45 **Session 6:** The practice of the UNHCR and other international bodies for the protection of refugees' and IDPs' rights: terminology, methodology, and practice.
Lecturer(s): Boris TSILEVICH; (and an expert from local UNHCR and IOM offices; to be identified);
- 15.45 Coffee break.
Free time.
- 19.00 Dinner

Wednesday, 9 May 2001

- 9.30 - 11.00 **Session 7:** Caselaw and procedures under international instruments relating to national minorities: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights.
Lecturer: Fernand DE VARENNES
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 - 13.00 Continuation of session 7
- 13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

14.15 - 15.30 Continuation of session 7: Caselaw and procedures under international instruments relating to national minorities: the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, and the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.

Lecturer: Fernand DE VARENNE

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 **Session 8:** Non-legal mechanisms for the protection of the rights of minorities

Lecturer: Boris TSILEVICH

Thursday, 10 May 2001

9.30 - 17.30 **Workshops** (role playing games in groups) on the procedures, mechanisms, and case law of relevant UN bodies as well as the ECHR.

Moderators: Boris TSILEVICH and Alexei SEMYONOV

Friday, 11 May 2001

9.30 - 11.30 **Session 9:** Discussion of workshop results

Moderators:

11.30 - 11.45 Coffee break

11.45 - 13.00 **Session 10:** The human rights aspects of repatriation, resettlement, and integration of refugees and IDPs, and integration of national minorities.

Lecturer: to be identified

13.00 - 14.15 Lunch

14.15 - 15.45 **Session 11:** Strategies of NGOs in the protection of human rights of refugees, IDPs, and national minorities.

Lecturer: Alexei SEMYONOV; Boris TSILEVICH

15.45 - 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 - 17.30 **Session 12:** to be identified

followed by evaluation of the training seminar

19.00 Dinner

Saturday, 12 May 2001 Departure of participants and experts

Evenings:

Groups discussions on, e.g.:

* the right to freedom of religion and association.

* benchmarks in the national legislations of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the implementation of minimum international human rights standards concerning refugees, IDPs, and national minorities;

* practical work of human rights organisations and lawyers in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
