



IWGIA

INTERNATIONAL
WORK GROUP FOR
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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IWGIA ANNUAL REPORT

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IWGIA ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1987 has been an important year for indigenous peoples. More representatives than ever participated at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in August and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples held its Vth Assembly in Lima, Peru. There have been major international campaigns on cases in Brazil, the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh and in the Pacific.

While there have been advances in some areas, such as limited land titling in Peru and the receiving of badly needed aid by refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in Tripura, India, the threats facing indigenous peoples continue unabated all over the globe. Events in Brazil have been particularly disturbing. IWGIA has been making whatever contribution possible to support the struggle for the recognition of indigenous fundamental rights and freedoms.

During 1987, IWGIA developed its work on several fronts. The office became computerised, we increased our support to indigenous peoples, established a system for press and publicity and converted our library into a resource centre.

Rather than constituting an expansion, these developments are improving the effectiveness of IWGIA's already existing infrastructure. Nevertheless, we need to preserve the standards we have achieved and consequently will have to increase the financial resources on which we rely in 1988.

THE BOARD AND SECRETARIAT

1987 has been marked in the Secretariat as being the year of computerisation. The new system means that IWGIA publications can now be typeset at no extra cost and will look more professional. The teething problems with computers account for the delay in publications at the end of the year. Nevertheless the annual quota will be completed.

Financially IWGIA has had a larger turnover than before during the years because we have been channelling more money to indigenous peoples than previously. The long-term unemployed scheme has also been of great assistance although the seven month employment scheme allows for only this short period and the resulting turn-over of staff means we lose many good people.

Costs have been rising in Denmark which means that IWGIA has actually been trying to survive on less money in real terms than in previous years. Although we have just about managed to make ends meet, it has been extremely difficult this year and for the next we have calculated that we need a financial increase.

IWGIA will therefore apply further afield for funds in 1988 but will also request our regular sources to help us a little more. In 1987 we had to finance certain important visits, such as the flight to the UN Working Group, out of our own funds and items such as this prove a strain on funds.

We are all sorry to be losing Jørgen Brøchner Jørgensen this year. After 11 years in the Secretariat working on international relations, Jørgen feels that it is time to be moving on to research specific indigenous issues for his thesis. He will still be in Copenhagen, however, and will certainly be a regular visitor in the office.

We are also sorry to have lost Mark MUnzel, our German board member, who retired after 15 years on the Board of IWGIA. Although he has left us, he will continue to keep in touch with us in an advisory capacity. During 1987 we have had the pleasure of welcoming Jens Dahl on the Board of IWGIA. Jens is the current Chairman of the Institute of Eskimology in Copenhagen.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation is the backbone of IWGIA's work and in 1987 we have been able to produce the following publications:

Saami Document Northern Peoples (English)

This document was based on the Seminar on Saami and Northern Peoples organised by the Copenhagen and Oslo local groups in 1984. The articles compare the practical manifestations of self-determination among the Saami of Norway, Sweden and Finland and put them into a northern context with articles from Greenland and Canada.

Polonoroeste Document Brazil (English and Spanish)

The disastrous effects of the World Bank funded Polonoroeste programme in Brazil are well known. One of its ameliorating factors, however, has been the financial support given by the World Bank to the National Indian Foundation of Brazil (FUNAI). The document charts how the money has had very limited effect and that the structure of the national society still threatens the future of several indigenous nations in the Aripuana Park region.

Bari Document Venezuela & Colombia (English)

This document compares the strategies of survival of two indigenous nations - the Bari and Arhuaco who have respectively an egalitarian and hierarchical mode of organisation. While the Bari have lost most of their land since 1900, the Arhuaco have forged a resistance which has held up missionary incursions into their territories. The document also compares different authors' approaches to indigenous affairs in general - one based on culture and another on historical accounts of land invasions.

Tourism Document Global study (English and Spanish)- translation complete but printing to take place in 1988.

Tourism is a major threat to indigenous peoples and minorities all over the world. This document looks at the phenomenon globally, tracing the colonial dimensions of tourism and how it can bring in its wake violations of human rights and developmental destruction. With cases from Canada, the Amazon, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Kenya and West Africa, the document will undoubtedly be a major new publication on the subject of tourism.

Newsletters and Boletines

In the 1987 Newsletters and Boletines there have been several major articles. Visits to IWGIA from Miguel Alfonso Martinez of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations and Domitila Chungara from Bolivia have been recorded as interviews. The documentation has followed campaigns in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Peruvian Congress and in Brazil. Articles about the effects of the Chernobyl disaster on the Saami and uranium mining in Australia focus on the nuclear

issue. Other important issues covered in the publications have been the Cuna of Panama, the Miskito of Nicaragua and the Maori of Aotearoa.

Newsletters and Boletines share about 60% of the same material although as the former appear more frequently there is some difference in orientation. IWGIA publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the Work Group and we concentrate on the presentation of documents with as little editing as possible in order to make them a more exact and useful resource.

The Yearbook

IWGIA will produce a 1987 Yearbook in order to continue the new line of documentation which started in 1986. The success of the last Yearbook is likely to make this an annual institution among our publications. We have already received several offers to translate portions of the text into other languages.

In 1987 IWGIA also wrote the Minority Rights Report on the Amerindians of South America. The research was largely based on IWGIA's own material and was presented by MRG to the Sub-Commission on Human Rights in Geneva during August.

Prospects for 1988

IWGIA has planned an Indigenous Women's Document in English and Spanish for 1988. There is also in preparation a major source document on North American Indians which is being edited by Ward Churchill. Other documents in preparation are on the Peruvian Amazon, the Philippines, West Papua, human rights in Nagaland, Brazil (the Yanomami, Rio

Negro, Kayapo and on Roads) and one on the Basarwa of Botswana.

PROJECTS

IWGIA has increased its co-operation with NORAD during 1987 and negotiated a contract for 1988. According to the arrangement NORAD will send all the indigenous projects it receives for initial evaluation by IWGIA. Apart from this consultancy work, IWGIA has channelled money for several projects and followed up others from 1986:

1. Manaus in Brazil is the site for the construction of a boat which will enable the Tukano nation of the Rio Negro to by-pass middlemen in their trading activities.
2. Money has been granted to the Yanomami Human Rights Assembly, but because of the political situation in Brazil the meeting has been postponed.
3. IWGIA has continued to send small sums to support the education of Harakmbut students from the Madre de Dios region of Peru now studying in Lima.
4. Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples. IWGIA raised from the Scandinavian Churches 75,000 Dkr. for this fund which managed to support 30 indigenous representatives (more than 10% of the delegates) at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations.
5. During 1987 IWGIA channelled money from the Danish Church to support the indigenous Cordillera Peoples Alliance international conference in the Philippines with \$2,000.

6. IWGIA channelled from the same source \$5,000 in medical aid for Nagaland.

7. In the light of the grave situation among the refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts now in Tripura, IWGIA raised from Norway and Denmark nearly \$20,000. This has had a significant effect in alleviating the hardship of the Chakma refugees and reports from the area have stated that the IWGIA support has been indispensable.

There are still six projects supported by IWGIA which we are waiting for a decision about from the funding agencies.

CAMPAIGNING, PROTESTS AND LOBBYING

1. Chittagong Hill Tracts: in January IWGIA sent a protest cable to the Indian government urging them not to send the refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts who were living in Tripura back to Bangladesh. The protest was successful. As part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts network we have sent out two large packages of material to contacts in Europe. This network is now extending to the Americas and Asia.

2. In January IWGIA protested against an article supporting Indonesian Transmigration which was published in the Guardian. The letter was published. Later in the year IWGIA co-signed a detailed protest to the World Bank on the effects of transmigration and lobbied in the Danish Parliament on the issue. IWGIA's input in the discussions with the World Bank protest meant that several ecological organisations gave full prominence to the indigenous dimension of the problem. In October, Teresa Aparicio discussed the transmigration issue directly with a representative of the Indonesian government and the World Bank in Britain.

3. In Peru IWGIA has protested on two accounts during 1987. In March we joined Peruvian peasant and indigenous organisations in successfully persuading the government to get rid of a clause in a new Agrarian Law for the Highlands which would open up "unused" Indian community lands for forced purchase. In April IWGIA expressed its horror at the killing of an Amarakaeri youth who was shot in cold blood on community lands by a colonist.
4. During the year IWGIA has been following up reports of experimental sterilisation of indigenous women in Guatemala and East Timor.
5. Environmental issues: in February IWGIA joined several NGOs in Copenhagen to discuss differences between ecological and indigenous perspectives. A working agreement was reached which has resulted in co-ordinated protests, particularly concerning the World Bank.
6. In Brazil an initial hope that the Yanomami Park was to be created by President Sarney was dashed in October with the news that those working in Yanomami territory were to be thrown out of the area. Not only has this severely harmed the health project IWGIA has been supporting in Yanomami territory, but FUNAI has not been able to ensure that local mining prospectors (garimpeiros) will not take over indigenous lands and physically put the Yanomami in grave peril. IWGIA protested over this in November.
7. During the summer IWGIA took part in a campaign to stop a Danish travel company touring to Venezuelan Yanomami territory which would be a grave threat on their health and culture. After some publicity and discussions the tour was cancelled.

8. In August IWGIA heard of the mass killings of Emberá people in Colombia. Conflict over rights to gold mining has led to conflict which resulted in the deaths of more than 40 community members at the hands of the police and colonists. IWGIA sent a very strong protest to the Colombian President about the killings and the need to set up an official commission. The protest was successful.

VISITORS

During 1987 IWGIA received more visitors than ever from all over the world. The main regions can be divided as follows:

Latin America

From Central America IWGIA received several guests. Adrian Esquina Lisco discussed the situation in El Salvador (see Newsletter No.49) and Donald Rojas Maroto, the recently elected President of the WCIP explained his plans for the organisation over the next five years. In addition he spoke openly about the choice of the President of Costa Rica as winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize. From Panama IWGIA welcomed Crispulo Richards during May who discussed the indigenous situation in his home country and the problems facing the Cuna.

The largest delegation from South America were four leaders from the Co-ordinadora of the Amazon Basin. Evaristo Nugkuag, from Peru, Eloi Licuy from Ecuador, Miguel Garcia from Bolivia and Anatolio Quirra from Colombia. At a day conference the four leaders made detailed presentations of the problems facing the indigenous nations of the Amazon Basin.

Asia

IWGIA welcomed a four person delegation from the Philippines during September. Jean McLiing, Cesar Taguba, Angelito Omos and Eduardo Solong stayed for several days and spoke at length of the developments in the Philippines since Corazon Aquino assumed the Presidency. IWGIA also received a visit from two Naga representatives during September who described the recent killings which have been taking place in their country at the hands of the Indian Army.

Pacific

During April, West Papuan representative Victor Kaiseipo visited IWGIA for several days and discussed the situation in West Papua. In addition the Aboriginal film maker Rikki Shields has been staying several months in Copenhagen while making and editing his latest film and protesting about the Bicentennial celebrations in Australia due to take place next year. During November IWGIA was delighted to welcome Mililani Trask, the first governor of the Nation of Hawai'i. At an extended press conference Mililani explained the establishment of Native Hawai'i's constitution earlier this year and her work as Governor.

Northern Peoples

In Spring IWGIA was delighted to receive a visit from the Mayor of Thule in Greenland and a delegation who have been trying to receive compensation for their illegal forced relocation from their homelands in 1952 to make way for Thule

airbase.

IWGIA has also received several visits from members of the Nordic Saami council who meet with us on a regular basis in order to co-ordinate activities and exchange information.

International

During 1987 IWGIA was delighted to receive visits from two members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. In April, Miguel Alfonso Martinez, expert from Cuba spent a day in the office and in November, Danilo Türk from Yugoslavia was able to spend several hours discussing the progress of the Working Group.

IWGIA has also been fortunate to receive two other important visits. Augusto Willemsen Diaz accompanied Donald Rojas Maroto from the WCIP. His 30 years of experience with human rights at the United Nations gives him great insight into the international developments of indigenous human rights. With Roger Plant who has been working with ILO Convention 107, it was possible to discuss several crucial issues concerning the process of revision.

TRAVELS AND CONFERENCES

Latin America

During April Teresa Aparicio visited Nicaragua, Peru and Brazil. Most of her time was spent in Brazil where she managed to visit the Yanomami and Shavante.

In July, Andrew Gray visited Lima, Peru, for the Vth

Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. A report of this meeting will be published in the 1987 Yearbook.

Asia

In November Teresa Aparicio visited the Philippines where she spent a period in the Cordillera in indigenous communities.

Scandinavia

During June Jørgen Brøchner Jørgensen visited the Ethnographic Film Festival at Tromsø, Norway, and afterwards travelled through Saamiland at the invitation of Saami from Norway, Sweden and Finland.

In November Georg Henriksen and Andrew Gray participated at the 5th Nordic Conference on Human Rights held near Copenhagen under the auspices of the Danish Human Rights Center.

International

In July and August, Andrew Gray represented IWGIA at the Preparatory Meeting of indigenous peoples prior to the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations which followed. For the main meeting he formed an IWGIA delegation with Anna Lena Lund and Elena Arengo.

In September, Teresa Aparicio represented IWGIA at an international conference held in London with representatives of the World Bank and certain countries receiving World Bank support (specifically India, Indonesia and Brazil).

Also in September, IWGIA's Chairman, René Fuerst, who is

head of the audio-visual department of the Ethnographic Museum of Geneva, Switzerland, represented IWGIA at the 2nd Latin American Indigenous Peoples' Film Festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Campaign Meetings

In June, Andrew Gray participated at a Chittagong Hill Tracts network meeting in Paris and in August at an Amazon Conference held in Vienna.

Huridocs

IWGIA is participating in the preparatory work for joining the huridocs international cataloging system for our resource centre. Karen Andersen went on visits to Strasbourg in July and to Norway in October representing IWGIA and planning how we should co-operate with the scheme.

PROGRAMMES

Womens Programme

Most of 1987 has been spent continuing work on the indigenous women's document. Inese Andersen completed her research in IWGIA during May and since then has been gathering together the articles for the document next year. Indigenous women have all contributed to the programme in 1987, particularly Domitila Chungara from Bolivia, Jean McLiing from the Philippines and Mililani Trask from Hawai'i.

Development Programme

During 1987 IWGIA increased its role in supporting

indigenous projects. A particularly important area of work has been analysing the 1986 Declaration of Principles on the Right to Development. The time has come when there should be more discussion on this issue which constituted a major part of the Human Rights Conference in Copenhagen in November.

Environment Programme

IWGIA has had several meetings with environmental bodies during 1987. Meetings in Copenhagen in February, visits from James Barnes from the Environmental Defence Fund in the United States and the World Bank meeting in London in October have increased IWGIA's contact and co-ordination with environmental organisations. We are currently reviewing the impact of the recent Bruntland report Our Common Future on indigenous peoples.

ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK

Presentations

IWGIA has presented lectures and participated in several conferences in Denmark. Teresa Aparicio has given talks at Århus on Central America and one at Børnholm on Brazil. She has also spoken on local radio about the Shavante. She also spoke on the situation of indigenous peoples in Ecuador at a public meeting in November. Also in November Jørgen Brøchner Jørgensen spoke at a meeting on the presentation of indigenous peoples in children's literature in Jylland and spoke on indigenous affairs on local radio. (Andrew Gray and Teresa Aparicio have also given talks in Sweden at Lund and Goteburg on IWGIA and indigenous affairs.)

IWGIA is regularly sending information in Danish on the latest indigenous news to more than 40 Newspapers in Denmark and the press section is broadcasting every two weeks an hour programme on Nørrebro Radio. IWGIA has been more apparent in the Danish press in 1987. An extended campaign on tourism was widely publicised in April and there have been articles written by IWGIA personnel on the Saami and North America.

IWGIA has made a detailed written statement to DANIDA suggesting how it could improve its guidelines and bring the indigenous poor into their framework. In addition IWGIA has been working with the establishment of a new Danish fund in order that indigenous peoples can benefit from its support.

IWGIA's Resource Centre

IWGIA's resource centre has been developed considerably this year thanks to support from UNESCO. With new computers, the cataloguing of the library has been completed. Papers, articles and press-clippings have been organised for researchers and visitors. A new video section has been set up and people can watch videos on indigenous subjects in the office. The resource centre holds well over 20,000 documents which makes it a major information base.

IWGIA has plans to enter the Huridocs system so that the resource centre material can be catalogued and made available not only in Denmark but in other parts of the World. The computerisation will thus provide the means for IWGIA to provide a documentation service which is much broader and more useful than at present.

The Danish Center of Human Rights

IWGIA is an active council member of the Danish Center of Human Rights. We have participated in the plans for developing Human Rights in Scandinavia and also in providing material for schools. We have also offered our services to supply material necessary for anything relating to indigenous affairs. IWGIA intends to work closely with the Center in future and put forward wherever possible the indigenous perspective which is too often overlooked in human rights circles.

PUBLICITY

During 1987 IWGIA has been planning a publicity campaign which has involved a two part strategy.

1. Press Work

Since October IWGIA has employed, with a grant from NORAD, a journalist who has been writing feature articles, conducting interviews and providing material for the national and international press. Our contacts are now approaching the 100 mark and are increasing daily. Providing that we have adequate support IWGIA hopes to continue with this work as it provides a good complement to the other publications.

2. Promotion

IWGIA is now planning four exhibitions for 1988. The first is to be shown for two weeks in the windows of one of branches of Handelsbanken in the pedestrian street Strøget, Copenhagen in January. The others, which are on a much

larger scale are, providing funds are available, to be shown for 5 weeks in the Kulturhuset in Stockholm. IWGIA's promotion work will also include the preparation of a much needed flyer and leaflet on our activities.

The effects of the publicity campaign are beginning to show with reports in the newspapers and on the radio.

LOCAL GROUPS

Norway

The Oslo Group has been working during 1987 with receiving indigenous visitors in Norway, promoting exhibitions on indigenous affairs and campaigning for indigenous human rights.

Sweden

The Goteborg Group have been working with education on indigenous issues and have been translating IWGIA articles into Swedish. They have organised two seminars on indigenous affairs with speakers from all over Scandinavia.

Denmark

The Copenhagen Group has been working with the Press Section providing translations and broadcasts to 8 local radios. They have also been giving lectures and preparing a list of people who are prepared to talk on indigenous affairs at public meetings.

Switzerland

During 1987 a local group was formed in Zürich. This is the first IWGIA group outside Scandinavia and already they have organised a tour by Philippine representatives in Switzerland and are campaigning on the Chittagong Hill Tracts human rights violations.

CONCLUSIONS

1987 has seen a continuation of IWGIA's work with a stronger internal development of its infrastructure. Contacts and work within Scandinavia have been increased as well as a development in an extended international press service and a new local group in Zürich.

For 1988 IWGIA has several plans. The internal consolidation of the resource centre will continue as well as a concerted effort to publicise IWGIA's activities more in Scandinavia and beyond. In July IWGIA is organising an all-indigenous symposium at the International Congress of Americanists - where it was founded 20 years previously.

Another project for 1988 is for IWGIA to work on the indigenous section of the Nordic Human Rights Project which will review human rights in countries which receive development aid throughout the world. The contract with NORAD is another important feature next year as this is the first time IWGIA has made formal consultative links with a development agency on a long-term basis.

1988 will be a significant year for IWGIA and could well lead to a break through in the promotion of indigenous affairs in Scandinavia. This can only be accomplished, however, with sufficient economic resources. We thank all our financial supporters, both old and new, for their help

during 1987 and appeal to them to look favourably on our current applications for funds.