
THE VICTIMOLOGIST

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From the Editor's Desk

Managing Editor

Michael O'Connell

This edition of *The Victimologist* comprises some reports and articles that members drew to my attention, which were received with thanks. The lead article provides a brief on the Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting of the United Nations Commissioner on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held late 2006. It is vital that the WSV continue to advance victims' rights in international forums such as the Commission. Over the page is a report on a reform to the British victims' compensation scheme to help victims of terrorism and an introduction on Irvin Waller's new book on preventing crime and reducing criminal victimisation. Thereafter, a series of reports I collected from across our world highlight victimological issues. Finally, this edition ends on a sad note with an obituary for Professor Brian Williams, a friend to many of the WSV members. 🌍

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Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

27-29 November 2006

Aims of the IEGM of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna were (a) to design an information-gathering instrument on standards and norms related primarily to victim issues and (b) to study ways and means to promote their use and application. All in all, some 50 people participated. There were delegates from governments such as Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Germany, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, USA and Venezuela. Then there were representatives of all of the Institutes of the UN Programme Network. Experts at large were from Canada (Irvin Waller), South Africa, Serbia and the Netherlands (Marc Groenhuisen).

The results of the discussion will be posted on the UNODC website shortly. The World Society of Victimology and Intervict succeeded in getting three major ideas incorporated in the final conclusions:

- (1) A reference to the Draft Convention on Justice and Support for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power that was formulated by the Expert Group Meeting INTERVICT hosted in December 2005;
- (2) The idea of 'voluntary peer review' was accepted and labelled as 'voluntary peer sharing' with a footnote explanation;
- (3) Governments should be encouraged to seek assistance of NGO's in completing the questionnaire.

The report of the IEGM will be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session. To read the documents visit:--

http://www.unodc.org/unodc/event_2006-11-27_1.html

Editorial note: Thanks to Marc and Irvin who attended and advocated for the WSV, and to Maria de La luz Lima who gave 'behind-the-scene' advice. 🌍



Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology



New compensation scheme for victims of terrorism abroad

The British system for compensating victims of crime was given a boost following Gordon Brown's 2006 budget, which promised the creation of a new fund to support victims of terrorism. Under the proposed scheme an initial £1m will go towards the setting up of a charitable fund to support UK victims of terrorism both at home and abroad.

The Chancellor's plans seek to address the current inequities suffered by UK victims of terrorist atrocities abroad who are excluded from compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), which provides only for those who have suffered harm within the UK

the September 11th attacks in the US in 2001, 45 Britons have been killed and many more injured in terrorist attacks overseas. A large number of these victims will have been left without any recourse to financial redress in their home country as many insurance policies contain clauses which exclude cover for losses in connection with terrorist atrocities

The New Fund

The details of how the new fund will work are yet to be determined, with an announcement expected later this year, however concerns have already been raised as to whether the funds will be available to those who were caught up in terrorist activity abroad prior to the inception of the scheme.

The scheme is to be administered by the British Red Cross. It has been suggested that the fund will provide "rapid relief" in terms of immediate financial needs such as out of pocket expenses.

In addition, questions have arisen as to whether the £1m sum allocated will be sufficient, and whether the money might be better invested in providing emotional support services for the victims of crime

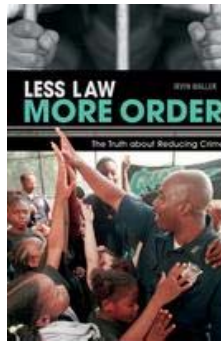
Mr Brown referred to the £1m sum as an "initial endowment", which could pave the way for further monies to be made available in the future.

Lack of funding

The insurance industry's failure to provide for victims in the wake of a climate of an increased threat of international terrorism has prompted the families of British victims of terrorist attacks abroad to call for a levy on insurance companies to finance a compensation fund for victims of terrorism abroad, as well as the creation of a victims' commissioner to represent their interests

Given the size of the newly created fund it is only expected to provide for the immediate financial needs of the victims of terrorist attacks, and is only likely to cover initial financial losses incurred as a direct result of the

(Continued page 6)



Less Law, More Order:

The Truth about Reducing Crime

Irvin Waller

Each year 24 million Americans are victims of crime. U.S. taxpayers spend more and more each year on police, prisons and judges--a record \$200 billion at last count. They incarcerate more and more persons each year--two million plus. Yet prestigious commissions show not only that this standard way of responding to crime is ineffective but that there is scientific proof that many projects that tackle risk factors that cause crime are effective.

Rather than sending more people to jail or hiring more and more police, the author, and the research, shows that addressing problems in the community does more to prevent crime. This timely book illustrates in convincing detail what needs to be done to prevent crime and keep people out of prison. Here, Waller shows that hiring public health nurses and investing in helping youth at risk to complete school and get job training is better than hiring more police; preventing family violence, banning hand guns and dealing with drugs through public health saves more lives than incarceration; getting close neighbours to watch out for us and better industrial design are more effective than criminal courts; smarter policing is better than more police; paying for services to support victims and guaranteeing them rights is better than more rhetoric.

Less Law, More Order is written for politicians, mayors, police chiefs or educated voters. Its pithy style and actionable recommendations lead to a federal crime bill that would reduce rates of crime by 50%, reduce the tax burden by 50% for police, prisoners and judges, and invest in youth, women, and neighbourhoods that are at risk. Putting greater emphasis on criminal courts ordering compensation departs from the principle that a criminal trial is between the state and the accused.

Want to read more, then note:

ISBN: 0-275-99077-X ...176 pages, figures... Praeger Publishers
List Price: \$39.95 ([UK Sterling Price: £22.99](#))

visit www.greenwood.com, call 1-800-225-5800,

www.amazon.com 

Victims' Rights in Asia - Recent Developments

Much of the literature on victimology and victim assistance is based on happenings in English speaking, western countries. Important steps to improve the status of victims of crime, however, have been taken in Asian countries.

In January this year, the Editor of the Japan Times, for example, reported that 222 of 258 measures designed to help crime victims have been implemented in that country. A Government 'white paper' outlined schedule for implementing other measures, as well as detailing those already operating. The Editor pleaded for a greater investment in victim services; for instance, in 2005 about 1.1 billion yen was given in grants to almost 400 victims in Japan but for the same period 4.59 billion yen was spent in the United States and 4.4 billion yen in Britain.

At about the same time in China, the China Daily reported on a proposal for the State to provide compensation for victims of violent crimes, such as murder and rape. This proposal was one of the items on the 2007 agenda of the Supreme People's Court.

Improvements for Victims' Compensation in Australia

In January, 2007 the Queensland Government announced increases in the level of assistance for the families of murder and manslaughter victims. The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Kerry Shine, said assistance for funeral expenses would increase from \$4000 to \$6000 (Aust) and ancillary expenses would increase from \$2000 to \$3000 (Aust).

These increases follow a similar announcement in South Australia, where the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Michael Atkinson had announced in 2006 that, if re-elected, the government would increase compensation for funeral expenses from \$5000 to \$7000 (Aust) and increase grief payments from \$3200 (or \$4000) depending on the circumstances to \$10,000 (Aust).

The Northern Territory has also made significant changes to its victims' assistance scheme, including moving from a court-based scheme to a programme managed by a Crime Victims Support Unit in Government. Under the new scheme some victims of violent crimes are eligible for emergency payments and the maximum payable as assistance has increased to \$40,000 (Aust). 🌐

According to the President of that Court a safeguard was needed so that some victims received compensation. Reflecting on the existing law that has a general provision for victims to file an incidental civil action, the President suggested "...courtrooms will be nothing more than an arena for legal professionals to exercise their litigation skills". Then in March, Chinese law makers urged the government to offer financial assistance to victims of crime who were not compensated because offenders were impecunious. A deputy in the National People's Congress agreed — stating, "Many victims in criminal cases could not get any compensation and were left struggling. This has become a problem affecting social stability."

Members of the World Society of Victimology and others who would like to know more should attend the Victimology and Victim Assistance post-graduate course run by the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute, Tokiwa University, Mito Japan in August this year. See www.tokiwa.ac.jp/~tivi/index_e.html for more information. 🌐

Australia supports victims of crime in Sri Lanka

On 15 February, 2007 the Australian High Commissioner, Dr Greg French, presented \$6 million rupees to the Asia Foundation to support the development of a 'psychosocial resource network for victims of crime'. The Asia Foundation's project objectives are "to increase access to psychosocial support for victims of crime, including torture victims, to enable them to resume their roles within family and community, and to protect individuals against further victimisation by improving their treatment within the criminal justice system" (Perera 2007).

The programme will, among other things, encourage police officers and other public officials to be more sensitive to the needs of victims of crime. It will also strengthen the capacity of legal aid organisations that advocate for the human rights of torture survivors, women and ethnic minorities. 🌐

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THEN PLEASE VISIT THE WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY'S NEW WEBSITE

<http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/>

Victims in England penalised by Police – Push for more help for victims in Scotland

The English newspaper *The Argus* on 23 February, 2007 featured a *letter to the editor* that shows secondary victimisation still happens in countries despite government's pledges on victims' rights. According to Brian Salter, his wife's motor vehicle was found by the Police insecure in a shopping centre car-park. Someone had broken into the vehicle, which the Salters had left unattended rather than drive under the influence of alcohol after a night out together. The Police decided to impound the vehicle for forensic tests (which later proved unnecessary) instead of asking the Salters to

collect it from the car-park. On arrival at the compound the Salters were required to pay £105 before the Police would release their vehicle. This fee was greater than the costs to repair the vehicle (£7) and to replace stolen property (£25).

In the same week, the Scottish Evening News reported that Victim Support Scotland had recommended that the Scottish Executive appoint a Commissioner for Victims of Crime. A Commissioner would give advice and other help to victims, witnesses and their families, as well as be a champion for victims' rights. In addition, Victim Support Scotland called on the Executive to set-up a Victims of Crime Fund to cover some victims' expenses.



JOHN STEIN RETIRES – WSV HONOURS A PIONEER

John Stein was the Deputy Director of NOVA – the National Organization for Victim Assistance – in Washington, D.C. He also served as the organization's Director of Public Affairs.

After graduating from Yale College, Mr. Stein worked at a number of criminal justice consulting firms, including one he co-founded, while he was earning his law degree from the George Washington University. His special interest in victim services began in 1970 when he helped train an experimental team of "Community Service Officers" (CSO) in the Dayton, Ohio, Police Department. Part of the duties he recommended that the CSOs perform was to offer help to crime victims after a patrol officer had taken their report. This initiative occurred two years before the opening of the first victim assistance programs in the United States; some thirty years later, there are over 10,000 such programs in the United States.

His interest in victim service continued in his consulting work with prosecutors during the 1970s, notably in his work with the United States Attorney's office in Washington, D.C., where he designed paralegal roles which today would be called victim/witness advocates. Later in the 1970s, he became deputy director of a project called "Criminal Justice and the Elderly" at the National Council of Senior Citizens, where he helped design service programs for elderly crime victims and provided technical assistance to projects around the country that were performing such services.

During the same period, he became active in NOVA. In 1978, Mr. Stein was elected to the NOVA Board, was selected as its Vice President the following year, and received its Founders Award in 1980. In 1981, he resigned from the Board to accept the staff position he held until he retired.

He served on the rotating list of volunteers who answer nighttime and weekend calls to NOVA's "800" number. He also served as a volunteer on NOVA's Crisis Response Teams that respond to invitations from communities trying to regroup after a major disaster. He served (for example) as the coordinator of the team that arrived in Oklahoma City the day its Federal office building was bombed. In April, 1994, Mr. Stein was honoured for his "outstanding service on behalf of victims of crime" by President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno at a White House ceremony.



On 16 March, 2007 the President of the WSV, John Dussich, presented John Stein with a Certificate of Appreciation, which is given to deserving individuals to recognise major accomplishments to the field of victimology and victim assistance. John was given the certificate for his untiring and pioneering work on behalf of crime victims, his services for the National Organisation for Victim Assistance (NOVA), his volunteerism as a crisis responder for victims of disasters, and his volunteer work to the World Society of Victimology {Picture: John Dussich & John Stein}

GERMAN POLICE CRIME STATISTICS AND MORE

The German Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt) has recently been publishing the English language "Abridged Version" of "Police Crime Statistics 2005", Federal Republic of Germany.

The report (PDF) contains, inter alia, information on:

* Crime trends (overview)

* Crimes in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants

* Losses / damages from crime,

* Suspects

* Victims of crime

To read the report:

(1) Go to <http://www.bka.de>

(2) Click on the "English" version bar on the top of the start page, which takes the reader to a sub-homepage.

As well as the English version of the report, find also reports on:

* Trafficking in human beings

* Organized Crime

* Crime Prevention 🇩🇪

Australian Institute of Criminology NEW FACT SHEETS Violence in Indigenous Communities Policing Domestic Violence

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released two fact sheets:

Crime Facts Info no. 139: Violence in Indigenous communities

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/cfi/cfi139.html>

shows perceptions of people in Indigenous communities regarding the level and types of violence in their community.

AICrime reduction matters no. 53: Policing domestic violence : barriers and good practice

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/crm/crm053.html>

details how the policing of domestic violence has changed in several states over the past few years. 🇩🇪

RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF SEX OFFENCES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE IN AUSTRALIA

The attrition of sexual offences from the New South Wales criminal justice system - Fitzgerald, Jacqueline; NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, (2006)

Each year NSW Police receive reports of more than 7,000 sexual and indecent assault incidents. Only about one in ten of these incidents result in someone being found guilty in court. This paper analyses data from police and the criminal courts to ascertain the stages at which sexual offences lapse from the criminal justice system.

[http://www.agd.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB92.pdf/\\$file/CJB92.pdf](http://www.agd.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB92.pdf/$file/CJB92.pdf)

Improving responses to allegations involving sexual assault -Victoria. Ombudsman; : Ombudsman Victoria, Australia (2006)

This report from the Victorian Ombudsman summarises the conclusions and makes recommendations from a comprehensive enquiry into the important matter of how government agencies, including the Department of Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education and Training and Victoria Police, respond to allegations involving sexual assault.

<http://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/>

Response to sexual assault : interagency guidelines for responding to adult victims of sexual assault - Queensland Health; Queensland. Dept. of Justice and Attorney-General; Queensland Police Service (2006).

These guidelines are designed to improve responses to adult victims of sexual assault by promoting increased interagency cooperation and coordination. They are also designed to ensure that personnel in key departments and agencies will provide best practice, quality services and support to victims of the crime of sexual assault.

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/violence/sexual/16005.pdf>

Review of South Australian rape and sexual assault law - Chapman, Liesl; South Australia. Attorney-General's Dept. (2006).

The South Australian Government announced in 2005 a whole-of-government policy initiative called 'Our commitment to women's safety in South Australia'. As part of this initiative, it was announced that the government would 'pursue a comprehensive overhaul of South Australia's rape, sexual assault and domestic violence laws, building on legal reforms already approved by Cabinet to help victims'. This paper discusses and recommends amendments to law and procedure.

<http://www.justice.sa.gov.au/publications/RapeLawReformDP.pdf> 🇩🇪

(Continued from page 2)

attack rather than future losses such as loss of earnings or the cost of care.

Implications for the future

The new scheme is a significant development on the government's previous stance that compensation should only be provided for criminal injuries sustained in the UK. The decision to create provision for victims of terrorist

activities abroad may prompt calls for funds to be made available to victims of other types of crimes committed abroad on the basis that it is not the manner in which the injuries are caused but the extent of the harm suffered that should determine a victim's access to compensation.

Once the finer details of the scheme are established it may become clearer when and under what circumstances such funds might be released. 🌐

OBITUARY

Maria de La luz Lima

It is with my deepest regret that I have to inform you of Professor Brian William's sudden and tragic death on 17 March 2007. Brian was a Member of the Executive Board of the British Society of Criminology, Advisory Council Representative; Chair, Ethics and Professional Affairs Committee. His interests included: restorative and community justice; needs of and services to victims of crime; research ethics; inter-professional working in criminal justice and youth justice.

He was a Professor at the De Montfort University, and worked in the Community and Criminal Justice Division that undertakes research and training in all fields pertaining to criminal and community justice, such as probation work, community safety, youth justice, work with victims of crime and multi-agency work.

The following are some of Brian's key publications and projects:

- (2002), 'The meanings of community justice' (editorial), *British Journal of Community Justice* 1 (1), pp. 1-10.
- (2002), 'Justice for victims of crime' in Malcolm Lacey, David Scott and David Ward (eds.) *Probation: Working for Justice*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 67-82.
- (2002), *Reparation and Victim-focused Social Work*, Jessica Kingsley, London.
- Department for International Development, Restorative Justice in Russia (jointly, CCJSU and Centre for Social Action).
- Youth Justice Trust, Manchester, evaluation of restorative justice projects.
- Research for the Scottish Executive on police and victims of volume crime, (jointly with University of Stirling).

Brian's professional contributions included:

- Book review editor of the International Review of Victimology
- Co-Editor of the British Journal of Community Justice
- Member of European Community COST Action A21 expert Committee on Restorative Justice, 2003.

The WSV offers its condolences to Professor Williams' family. 🌐

The Victimologist

<http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/>

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