The United Nations and Victims

Irvin Waller

The Executive Committee of the WSV has established a United Nations Liaison Committee to coordinate its work in relation to the UN. Its role is to advance within the UN the purposes of the WSV - promote victimological research and practices as well as cooperation among those concerned with victims. Its main focus is the full implementation of the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power as well as action to prevention victimization as called for by the UN General Assembly resolution in 1985. The Committee is made up of Paul Friday (USA), Maria de la Luz Lima (Mexico), Marianne Loeschning-Gspandel (Austria), Paul Omaji (Nigeria/Australia) and Irvin Waller (Canada).

The UN Liaison Committee worked together for the first time during the 10th UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It has already made three suggestions for ways for the UN to advance victim issues more effectively. These suggestions could be taken up when the UN Commission meets again from September 3-5 in Vienna to consider a practical plan of action on crime and justice for the 21st century.

What is the United Nations doing for victims?

In April 2000, Economic and Social Council of the UN General Assembly adopted the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

In effect, the governments of the world called for:
- Comprehensive strategies to tackle the root causes and risk factors related to crime and victimization
- Encourage the governments to agree to what they were already committed, and take action that would make a difference.
- Action plans in support of victims of crime by 2002 with funds to be established for victims
- Development of restorative justice policies that are respectful of victims

Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

The following paragraphs, from the Vienna Declaration adopted this April by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, address issues concerning the rights of victims:

25. We recognize that comprehensive crime prevention strategies at the international, national, regional and local levels must address the root causes and risk factors related to crime and victimization through social, economic, health, educational and justice policies. We urge the development of such strategies; aware of the proven success of prevention initiatives in numerous States and confident that crime can be reduced through applying and sharing our collective expertise.

27. We decide to introduce, where appropriate, national, regional and international action plans in support of victims of crime, such as mechanisms for mediation and restorative justice, and we establish 2002 as a target date for States to review their relevant practices, to develop further victim support services and awareness campaigns on the rights of victims and to consider the establishment of funds for victims, in addition to developing and implementing witness protection policies.

28. We encourage the development of restorative justice policies, procedures and programs that are respectful of the rights, needs and interests of victims, offenders, communities and all other parties.

(Continued on page 2)
The 10th UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna this May was the first follow-up to the ECOSOC decision. They examined a draft plan of action to implement the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice. This plan included proposals for governments to:

- Promote and fund crime prevention initiatives, sharing specialized knowledge and expertise
- Ratify the convention on Trafficking in Persons
- Implement the UN Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims, taking as a guide the Handbook on Justice for Victims and Guide for Policy Makers
- Take into account the principles on restorative justice
- Share best practices concerning victims and witnesses through websites
- Promote increased international cooperation and coordination for crime prevention and the protection and support of victims and witnesses, particularly through international financial institutions and the UN Development Assistance Framework

The UN Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna would also:

- Develop for crime prevention technical cooperation projects, guidelines for policy makers and a handbook on practices
- Prepare for the establishment of an international fund for support of victims of transnational crime
- Exchange information on programs for victims and restorative justice

**What is the WSV UN Committee doing for the UN?**

The Commission meeting focused on corruption with little attention given to the millions of people throughout the world who suffer harm as a result of crime and the abuse of power. Indeed the debates on the plan of action seemed pedantic, providing little hope that the rights of victims to be adequately recognized would be advanced or that victimization would be reduced by decisions taken.

Argentina, Canada, Mexico and Finland were among the governments who intervened to get action. The WSV committee had reviewed the plan of action prior to the meeting. It decided to select three issues, which might encourage the governments to agree to what they were already committed, and take action that would make a difference. These issues were brought to the attention of several delegations sympathetic to our concerns.

Paul Omaji made a statement on behalf of the World Society of Victimology to the Plenary, on Monday 14 May expressing our view about the pedantics, emphasizing the centrality of victim issues to their discussions, and spoke to the three issues:

[1] The plan of action should support States in incorporating crime prevention, victim empowerment and treatment of offenders in national development plans, through exchange

(Continued on page 7)

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**From the Editor’s Desk**

This issue of the Victimologist reflects the continued dedication of the WSV and its members to improve the position of victims around the world.

As an organisation, the WSV continues to strive for the advancement of the implementation of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. The creation of the United Nations Liaison Committee by the Executive Committee reflects this objective. As Irvin Waller describes in his article, the Committee has successfully drawn attention within the United Nations to the plight of victims of crime and abuse of power.

At the individual level, the letter by John Dussich reflects the personal contribution of one member of the WSV to help the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. His very personal description of what he saw and did in New York, is both touching and disturbing.

Members of the WSV are invited to continue to contribute to the improvement of victimological practices by responding to the Commission of the European Communities’ request for answers to the questions, which it poses in its Green Paper on Compensation to crime victims. Interested readers can find more information in the newsflash from the International Victimology Website included in this issue.

Looking forward, Rika Snyman’s announcement for the 11th International Symposium on Victimology sounds very promising. Using the research agenda developed by the WSV Research Committee, the symposium reflects the priorities of the WSV and will undoubtedly serve an important role in the advancement of victimological research and practices around the world. The members of the Editorial Board would like to encourage all of our members to attend the symposium.

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New York, September 11th, 2001

My experience in New York was fast and furious. I only could give ten days; so, with the travel (military space-A going and civilian air returning) I was able to work with victims only for about 6 days. The mood in Manhattan is so dramatically different that it reminded me of when I first drove into Sarajevo about six months after the end of the Bosnia/Serbian war. People were walking around like zombies: dead-pan, vacant expressions; dejected and depressed body language, everywhere mini memorials of candles, posters asking for information about lost loved ones, and flowers - in most of the parks, at all the fire-stations, churches, police stations and even at some places in the subways. Typically my mornings were spent in the streets finding and talking to people who were obviously in great pain sobbing or sitting next to one of the "memorials" or just wandering in a daze. I also spent much time talking with firefighters who, ironically had access to counselors but none of them had used this service. I had no trouble talking to them at the firestations and found they greatly appreciated the chance to express their feelings. I am so very convinced of the importance of doing this type of "outreach." The ones in real need rarely pick themselves up and go to a designated mental health facility. They usually stay at home or keep doing things they are familiar with. This was true after the Kobe earthquake, after the war in Sarajevo and Tuzla and in many like situations. Their stories were full of pathos, pain and ghastly tales of what they had found and their reactions to these episodes. In the afternoons I was working as a volunteer at one of the mental health centers which was hosting volunteer crisis intervention counselors from many different locations (mostly from NY, but there were folks there from out of state, even one from South Dakota, who just got in his car and drove to NY, and me). I was luckily staying with a therapist friend who was activated as a member of the NY Guard and so was not doing any intervention during the day; however, in the evenings he would "debrief" me and help keep me sane. The range of people who came into the center were folks from all walks of life: street people, professionals, students, foreigners, business persons, and housewives. All had their stories and perspectives, each very different. All had some degree of trauma, some severe and some not so. Many whom I saw had had a trauma prior to the WTC attack event and this exacerbated the pre-existing condition and put them "over the edge." The sheer number of victims in need was staggering. I am sure I could work there for a year and still have work for years to come. There were many different groups offering crisis intervention counseling, including NOVA. However, my sudden appearance on the scene did not lend itself to being easily accepted into these various groups. The issue of reviewing my credentials, deciding if I was acceptable and working me into preplanned teams would have taken two or three days. Under normal conditions this would be considered fast; however, I only had a limited number of days. So I was lucky to find a Center, which reviewed the credential I brought and approved me on the spot. I did have a chance to visit "ground zero." It was surreal, shocking, unbelievable, and very sad. Not only is one overwhelmed at the sight of the devastation, but there are all these people milling around who are a mix of the families of those buried in the rubble, maintenance workers, firefighters, vendors of souvenirs, store owners in the immediate vicinity trying to clear away the debris and gray soot that covers everything, police and security guards of all descriptions, media persons and tourists. Then there is the smell, as the rubble is still smoking! And the odors are like nothing one has ever smelled before (your imagination tells you what your are smelling but no one talks about it). Just yesterday I received a letter of thanks from the center where I was working. I didn't expect it as I only spent a short time there, but I was so pleased to receive it. I was glad I had the opportunity to do something. It was an experience I shall never forget.

John Dussich
Asian Post Graduate Course on Victimology and Victim Assistance

John Dussich

This third Asian postgraduate course was held in Mito, Japan on the campus of the Tokiwa University from August 27th to September 7th of this year. After much preparation, an exhausting search for volunteers and generous support from the Tokiwa University, the Course again became a reality for the third time. Using the modified Dubrovnik Course Model, we were able to realize success. The co-directors were Hidehichi Morosawa and myself.

Exactly 70 persons sent inquiries to us, from this group about 50% were from Japan and 50% from other countries. From these inquiries, 49 pre-registered, and 34 actually attended some portion of the lectures; ultimately 25 attended the full 2 weeks, made project presentations and earned a diploma for the Course. Japanese families hosted four of the non-Japanese participants (who were full-time students) free of charge. This gave them a unique experience of living in a Japanese home and making special friends with some local residents.

The lecturers were victimologists from around the world: Paul Eparovi (Croatia) lectured on the Victimization Risk and about Child Sexual Abuse - The International Perspective; Arif Gosita (Indonesia) gave a lecture on Juvenile Justice Volunteers in Child Victim Protection and on Promoting Management in Community Based Victim Programs; Hidehichi Morosawa (Japan) hosted a lavish reception and lectured on School Bullying Victimization; Marianne Loeschnger-Gispandl (Austria) presented lectures on the UN Victim Declaration and on Victim/Offender Mediation; Satomi Nakajima (Japan) lectured on Sexual Assault Victimization and Spouse Abuse Victimization; Tetsuo Abe (Japan) presented a lecture on child Abuse Victimization; Eri Atsumashi (from Japan and a former graduate of the First Asian Course) gave a presentation on Hate Crime Victimization in the USA; Kei Kato (Japan) spoke about Consumer Fraud Victims; Masao Watanabe (from Japan and a former student of Koichi Miyazawa) presented a lecture on Victim Rights; Koichi Hamai (from Japan and working with the Prison Service of the Japanese Ministry of Justice) gave a lecture on victimological research; Akira Yama-gami (a leading victimologist in Japan) gave a comprehensive presentation on Fear of Crime Victims; Susumu Nagai (Japan) lectured about Concepts of Victim Assistance and on Crisis Intervention; Jim Batten (USA) gave a unique presentation on Victims of Culture Shock; Xin Ren (USA/China) gave a lecture on Rescuing Victims from Trafficking of Women and Children; Cathy Chen (Taiwan) lectured on victimization in Taiwan; and, Emiko Okubo (from Japan and the main leader in the grass-roots programs that support victims). I gave lectures on: The History of Victimology, Basic Concepts of Victimology; Victimological Theories; Social Coping Theory; Abuse of Power; and, the final Summary Lecture. The high number of lectures by me was due to the last minute cancellations of four professors). All toll, there were sixteen lecturers who came as volunteers and with their own resources! We greatly appreciate their time, energy and great presentations!

The main goal of this course was to introduce basic information on victimology and victim assistance to Asian students in a logical, yet dynamic format. Some presentations used PowerPoint, some OHPs, some straight lecturers, some used the whiteboard, and some used videos. All were interesting and simultaneously presented in both in Japanese and English.

There were twenty-five students who stayed the entire two weeks; in the second week they each gave about a 20-minute presentation on a victimological action project of their choice. All twenty-five received a diploma on the last day at a graduation ceremony. These students were: Darick Lik Law (Hong Kong), Carina Agaro (Philippines), Fachi Bey (Indonesia), Sharat Chandra Wasti (Nepal), Sushanta Sharma (Nepal), Laxman Kumar Tegmi (Nepal), Keshab Nath Khanal (Nepal), Shanta Sedhain (Nepal), Reena Neupane (Nepal), Kabita Sharma (Nepal), Feem Thongsunti (Thailand), Hiravoot Poon- yasawat (Thailand); and, from Japan, Yoko Harada, Eiji Sata, Chie Mackoya, Juji Kato, Takemoto Onuki, Kayo Mihama, Atsuko Konishi, Mamiko Nozawa, Asami Watanabe, Kenji Kurosawa, Mutsumi Ichimura, Akira Matsufuji, and Shigeyuki Morita.

In addition to the academic material, the course offered some opportunities to relax and do some sightseeing. The students had a walking tour of Mito, which included a demonstration of the Japanese Tea Ceremony at the Mito International Center hosted by Wang Wei Ya, a walk to the famous Mito Art Tower and Museum, and then a stroll to Kairakuen and Lake Senba where some students went paddle boating and all took many photos on this perfect late summer day. Another highlight was an excursion to the beautiful and interesting Ibaraki Natural Museum where we saw spectacular displays on all aspects of nature; and, at The Guita Palace we saw a unique classic guitar museum and attended a short concert. Finally, we took a short bus trip to the Ibaraki Police Academy where we were treated to a lecture on police based victim assistance services; and, visited their ultra modern police operations center.

Perhaps the best part of the course was meeting new people with different customs and establishing new friendships. The night before our departure we held a Farewell Party and used this opportunity to say thanks to the host families, our volunteer students and the university staff who all devoted much free time to making this course a success.

Although this was our third course in Asia, we still have many countries that have not yet been represented. Next year we plan to recruit more faculty and students especially from other countries. Please help us spread the word!
XIth INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VICTIMOLOGY
NEW HORIZONS FOR VICTIMOLOGY

The 11th International Symposium on Victimology follows on a long line of symposia hosted in various countries. It will be a first opportunity for the World Society of Victimology to host this prestigious symposium on the African continent. This will afford international victimology experts the opportunity to experience the warmth and hospitality that is a key feature of Africa. Although it is proposed that the conference be hosted in South Africa, it will be a truly international conference with a vibrant African flavour.

“New Horizons in Victimology” is proposed as the overarching theme and name of the conference. This captures the outlook of the WSV towards its identified research themes, and encapsulates the beauty and promises of the African continent.

ORGANISING THE SYMPOSIUM

The Executive Committee of the symposium will comprise various international and African leaders in the field of victimology. The Faculty of Public Safety and Criminal Justice of the Technikon Southern Africa (TSA) will host the conference.

THE FOCUS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

A conference is proposed that will focus on the implementation of the nine research themes identified in mid-2000 by the WSV Research Committee and the WSV international community:
- Defining victims and victimology
- The use and application of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power
- The impact of Politics, Policy and Populism on Victims
- Power inequalities
- Helping victims
- Restorative Justice, victims and victimology
- Repeat Victimisation
- Transnational Victims
- Developing methodologies for victimology research

THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The international victimology community will be invited to participate in the daily plenary sessions and workshops focusing on the research focus areas of the WSV. It is planned that an international scientific committee composed of leading victimologists from Asia, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and North America will supervise the selection of the papers. It is proposed that this process be electronically facilitated and coordinated by Dr Rika Snyman from the Technikon Southern Africa.

The conference will commence on a Sunday with the registration of delegates. Daily plenary sessions, with parallel running workshops will accommodate the presentations of the invited speakers and delegates whose abstracts were accepted by the Scientific Committee. The Wednesday afternoon will be set aside for excursions to victimology-related sites. Social activities will include an opening function on the Saturday night, a network evening on the Tuesday night, a conference banquet on the Thursday night, and the closing function the Friday afternoon.

The conference proceedings will be electronically captured, which will assist in making the conference publication afterwards available in a shorter time span than when done via hard copy. Wide-screen display in the main venue of the plenary speakers will allow a greater involvement of the delegates in the proceedings.

Ample opportunity will be provided for victimology-related exhibitions at the conference venue and excursions to local programmes and facilities of interest to victimologists. A pre-conference student course is planned where students from all over the world will be invited to benefit from lectures presented by leading victimologists. A student workshop during the conference will allow an ideal platform for these emergent victimologists to gain exposure of their ideas. The students participating in the Dubrovnik course can also benefit from this workshop.

COMMUNICATION OF AND AT THE CONFERENCE

A web page will be created where the conference particulars can be electronically accessed. It is proposed that registration and bookings are done via this web page. This will accommodate the time-differences between countries. Notifications of time-lines for submission of abstracts, registration etc. can be electronically facilitated, which will complement the postage communication.

Three announcements of the symposium will be made electronically and via the postal system. The timelines for these announcements will be determined in consultation with the executive committee of the symposium.

English will be the lingua franca of the symposium, but consideration will be given to the simultaneous translation of plenary sessions into French.

ACCOMPANYING ACTIVITIES

Stellenbosch, just outside Cape Town, is a university town that offers many opportunities for relaxation and fun. It allows for accompanying persons and children of the delegates to be creatively occupied through tours, visits and daily activities. Because South Africa is a tourist mecca, various pre-and post conference tours can be accessed within South Africa, and also wider into Africa.

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Draft Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Vienna Declaration

Irvin Waller

The following is an excerpt from the draft plan of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

States will take the following measures:

Crime Prevention (paragraph 25)

(a) Assist and cooperate closely with elements of civil society in the development, adoption and promotion of crime prevention initiatives, including the funding of such initiatives;

(b) Encourage governmental and non-governmental monitoring of crime prevention programs;

(c) Monitor and implement situational and other crime prevention programs with due regard to the potential for the infringement of civil liberties;

(d) Maintain liaison with other governments and non-governmental organizations with regard to successful and innovative crime prevention initiatives, which may have the potential for foreign or international application;

(e) Undertake efforts to share their specialized knowledge and expertise in crime prevention practices with other countries.

Collectively, States will also promote increased international cooperation and coordination in devising ways and means for (a) preventing crime and (b) protecting and supporting victims and witnesses. This will be done through specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant bodies. States that are members of such institutions will, through their membership, promote ways and means of crime prevention through their own technical cooperation programs and through the institutions’ frameworks for cooperation with recipient countries, for example, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (paragraphs 10, 13 and 15).

The Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna will:

Crime Prevention

(a) Promote crime prevention expertise that has been carefully adapted from established practices to the conditions in the countries where those practices are to be implemented;

(b) Monitor and respond to the rapid evolution and globalization of crime through the promotion and dissemination of innovative and effective crime prevention initiatives that take account of the impact of new technologies on crime and crime prevention;

(c) Develop technical cooperation projects in the area of crime prevention for selected countries and regions and assist in their implementation, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) Subject to the availability of resources, develop guidelines for policy makers and a handbook on practices in the area of crime prevention, based upon best available expertise and experience.

Protect Victims and Witnesses

(a) Prepare for the establishment and administration of an international fund for support to victims of transnational crime;

(b) Pay particular attention to the prevention of trafficking in persons and sex tourism and to the support of victims and witnesses, especially women or children, in such cases;

(c) Exchange information on experiences in the implementation and evaluation of programs for restorative justice;

(d) Promote best practices in crime prevention using, for example, the International Victimology Website (www.victimology.NL).
EC COMMISSION ADOPTS GREEN PAPER ON COMPENSATION TO CRIME VICTIMS

On September 28, the Commission of the European Communities adopted a Green Paper on Compensation to crime victims (COM (2001) 536 final). Differences can be substantial between the member states of the European Union not only regarding the levels of state compensation that is awarded but also regarding the criteria upon which compensation is based. To carefully assess the scope and need for action the Commission invites member states, victim support organizations, academics and other interested parties to provide their comments and observations on a Green Paper on victim compensation. Following an analysis of the comments received, the Commission will assess the possibility of presenting a legislative proposal during 2002. Two main strands of potential action are outlined in the consultation paper:

- To establish a minimum standard of compensation in the EU, making it compulsory for all Member States to provide an adequate level of state compensation for victims.

- To ensure that compensation is easily accessible in practice, regardless of where in the EU a person becomes the victim of a crime. Closer cooperation between national authorities or the widening of the scope of national compensation schemes could ensure accessibility to state compensation in cross-border situations.

Chapters 5 and 6 of the paper contain a number of questions on what the Commission sees as the most important issues to resolve in the assessment of a possible initiative on state compensation to crime victims. The Commission would appreciate receiving reasoned answers from all interested parties to these questions. Interested parties should not feel confined to these questions if other aspects of state compensation to crime victims, included in the paper or not, give rise to comments they wish to make. Answers to the questions as well as any other comments should be sent before the 31 January 2002 to:

The European Commission, Directorate General for Justice and Home Affairs, unit A.3,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels
Fax: +32 2 2996457
E-mail: jai-coop-jud-civil@cec.eu.int

Answers and comments may be made public on the Commission’s web site, unless the sender explicitly requests otherwise. In the beginning of 2002 the Commission will assess the need for organizing a public hearing to further debate the issues raised in the paper.

To access the Green Paper in the official EU languages (cs, da, de, el, en, fr, it, nl, pt, fi, sv) go to:

The Green Paper can be downloaded as of 3 October 2001 via this web site:
http://europa.eu.int/com/home/index_en.htm

The IVW Team

AN ARABIC WSV MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE IS NOW AVAILABLE AND WE ARE TRYING TO EXPAND OUR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE ARABIC COUNTRIES.

ANYONE HAVING THE ADDRESSES OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS OF ARABIC VICTIMOLOGISTS, PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, JOHN DUSSICH VIA EMAIL<dussich@tokiwa.ac.jp

(Continued from page 2)

of information on best practices, guides for policy makers and handbooks for practitioners. It must ensure that international agencies such as the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP and UNIFEM include these issues in their development assistance strategies. By 2002, proposals should be developed to require these issues as a condition of funding. The plan of action must require the CICP to negotiate with the General Assembly on Children: A world fit for Children, UN Human Rights Committee/Committee on Rights of the Child, and UN Commission on Human Settlements to ensure that programs are consistent with UN standards and norms.

[2] The proposals on crime prevention, victim empowerment and treatment of offenders must refer to both national and transnational crime. One paragraph refers to commitments to establish funds for victims and to review practices relating to the interests of victims of crime by 2002. So all the operative paragraphs must refer to both national and transnational crime. Also the funds for victims must be operational by 2002 so as to assist States in the implementation following the review. For victims, the guide to policy makers and handbook on justice for victims have been produced, which must be translated, published and widely disseminated by 2002.

[3] Proposals in the plan of action must be evidence based, using outcomes and performance indicators as well as identify responsibility centers to ensure their effective implementation. The plan of action must follow established management procedures to ensure its effective implementation in achieving reductions in national and transnational crime. Increasingly knowledge and best practice is available, particularly relating to trafficking in persons, crime prevention, victims and treatment of offenders (Sections V, IX, X, XI). For instance, the workshop on community involvement in crime prevention at the 10th Congress shared best practices in crime prevention at the national and local level that have been shown to reduce crime cost effectively.
Post doc in Victimology at the Université de Montréal 2002-2003.

The International Centre for Comparative Criminology offers 2 scholarships for post doctorate positions. Each scholarship is for one year and is worth $25,000 CAD.

Candidates are required to have completed their Ph.D. in criminology or a related area. Positions are now available in Victimology.

The Université de Montréal is a French university and candidates are expected to have a good knowledge of French and English. Research can be conducted in either language.

For more information contact Dr. Jo-Anne Wemmers at jo-anne.m.wemmers@umontreal.ca or visit the ICCC’s website at: http://www.cicc.umontreal.ca

THE VICTIMOLOGIST

Newsletter of the World Society of Victimology

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