



HUMANITY IN ACTION

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UK NEWSLETTER

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Schaake Elected as a Netherlands Rep. to the European Parliament



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Marietje Schaake, 30, is an HIA Senior Fellow as well as a Netherlands MEP.

Europe took to the polls in early June to elect over 700 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) from across European Union member states. Two big headlines emerged from the results. 1) The British Labour Party got absolutely trounced and 2) the right wing, anti-European party of Dutch Politician **Geert Wilders** made big inroads.

But that is not all the story. A sufficient number of Dutch peo-

ple (in their wisdom) decided to vote for the centrist, pro-European D-66 party to give D-66 three seats in Brussels. This means that my friend and fellow Senior Fellow, **Marietje Schaake**, has become an MEP.

Marietje, 30, is one of Europe's brightest and most promising young leaders. Her election is great news not only for Marietje

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UK Group Hosts Roundtable Discussions With Noted Historians

Nita Colaco (Copenhagen 2004) discusses speaker events held by the HIA UK Group in 2008-09.

Humanity in Action's UK Group recently posed a question to prominent academic historians: How does history inform the complexities of the human rights challenges we face today? Those willing to take up the challenge were invited to speak to audiences of HIA Senior Fellows, professionals in human rights and other fields, and students of all ages from British universities. Three individuals, alike only in their willingness to pursue intellectual undertakings and commitment to minority rights issues, responded thus far.

On March 9, **Margaret Mac-Millan**, Warden of St. Antony's College (Oxford University), discussed lessons learned from the Paris Peace Conference in the wake of World War I, drawing upon her

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HIA Aims to Develop First UK Fellowships

The HIA UK Group is excited to announce that—following approval of the HIA Inc. Board's International Strategic Planning Committee—Humanity in Action has committed to making the goal of UK Fellows a reality.

As we are well aware, relations among majority and minority populations have re-emerged as an issue of strategic importance in Europe and the United States. The HIA UK Group was created to

HIA is in the process of seeking funding for a select number of UK Fellows.

address the increasingly strained relationship between majority and minority populations in the UK by engaging and educating the public in general and young leaders in particular on minority and human rights issues and by facilitating effective action to defend these rights.

The recent election of British National Party — a racist organization whose leader recently advocated sinking boats carrying African migrants - members to the European Parliament and attacks on Roma of Romanian origin in Northern Ireland increase our alarm but embolden our resolve to make a positive and permanent contribution to human rights issues in the UK. Creating and sustaining Humanity In Action UK

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Kaufman Publishes Book on Rwandan Genocide

Zachary Kaufman (Copenhagen 1999) published a book and held a conference on Rwanda in the aftermath of genocide.

Between April and July 1994, the Rwandan genocide claimed the lives of approximately 800,000 Tutsi and their perceived Hutu and Twa sympathisers. Despite the international community's promise to 'never again' allow the travesties of genocide to prevail, Rwanda seems to be a distant memory of international policy officials. Yet, the ramifications

A Senior Fellow is determined not to let us become complacent about Rwanda.

of the genocide continue to be felt acutely in the daily lives of all Rwandans and in the entire Great Lakes region and beyond.

One HIA Senior Fellow, **Zachary Kaufman**, was determined not to let us become complacent about Rwanda. Armed with an education from Yale Law School and the University of Oxford, where

he was a Marshall Scholar, Zach and Phil Clark, Research Fellow in Courts and Public Policy at Oxford, recently co-edited a book entitled *After Genocide: Transitional Justice, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond*. Comprised of chapters from leading scholars and practitioners in the field, the book seeks to analyse the political, legal and regional impact of events in post-genocide Rwanda within the

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UK Fellowships May Soon Become A Reality for HIA

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Fellowship now takes centre stage in our educational agenda.

The HIA Fellowship program aims to promote tolerance and understanding of minority rights issues by bringing together university students from the United States and Europe for a rigorous, interdisciplinary inquiry into these issues. Students participate in the five-week fellowship—with all costs covered by HIA—in one of six different countries: Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, or the United States. Fellows learn about models of engagement by studying contemporary and historical examples of resistance to intolerance and violations of the rights of minorities. Upon successfully completing the summer programs, Fellows join

a vibrant international network of young professionals and are eligible for internship opportunities. These provide Fellows with first-hand experience in policy-making, advocacy and grassroots engagement at civic and political institutions such as the United States Congress, the European Parliament and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Humanity In Action is in the process of actively seeking funding for a select number of UK Fellows to participate in the program of one of the six aforementioned countries, as soon as in 2010. Once funding is secured, there will be a recruitment process for both undergraduates currently enrolled in UK universities and recent graduates from these institutions.

Schaake Elected to E.P.

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c/o www.britishcouncil.org

and her supporters, but for those of us around the world who are firm believers in human rights and minority rights.

She will also bring with her to Brussels impeccable transatlantic credentials.

I first met Marietje five years ago through Humanity in Action when she was a Lantos Fellow while I was living in Washington. In years since, she has worked in the United States Congress and with groups like the Washington,

D.C.-based Leadership Conference on Human Rights. She was also one of the founding fellows of the British Council-sponsored TN2020 program.

Recently, Marietje helped organize the Pioneers! program which was a cultural exchange between the cities of Amsterdam and New York to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage.

I have known Marietje to be an unwavering defender of human

Why the UK?

Thoughts From the HIA Chairman

HIA expanded steadily in Europe these past ten years. From the two initial summer fellowship programs that took place in Denmark and the Netherlands, it grew to three with the addition of Germany, and then five, when a French and Polish program were started in 2006. These expansions also corresponded to a shift in perspective, from an initial focus that was very much on World War II and the Holocaust, to contemporary issues of immigration, integration, and the fight against discrimination. All these themes are now part of the HIA summer fellowship, with the importance of individual and collective resistance to intolerance and injustice as a thread running through all the seminars, discussions and debates.

Today we find that it would be very constructive for HIA to expand to the United Kingdom - France, Germany, and the United Kingdom are the three largest countries in Europe. Two are HIA participants, but all three should be. The country's history of resistance during World War II also makes it extraordinarily relevant to HIA



c/o www.ndu.edu

Chairman Hans Binnendijk

concerns, as does UK debates around post-colonialism and multiculturalism. More recently, the 2003 bombings in London demonstrated the dangers of homegrown fundamentalism and terrorism, and sparked important debates about the tensions between liberty and security, and between the acceptance of different cultures and communities and the need to develop a fundamental core of shared liberal values. With its major educational centres and philanthropic culture, the UK is a natural fit to foster HIA programs.

--Dr. Hans Binnendijk, Chairman of HIA, Inc.

rights with a particular focus on the sometimes uneasy relationship between native Dutch and the large Muslim-minority population in Holland. She is the author of the forthcoming, *Between Faith and Suspicion*, Muslims in the West, transatlantic relations and the need to redefine alliances, which will be published by the Atlantic Commission.

Bottom line: she's an activist, an intellectual - and now a politician. (Ahem, remind you of someone?)

I think I speak for the entire HIA community when I say I look forward to watching her star rise.

Mark Leon Goldberg is a senior correspondent with the *American Prospect* magazine and was an HIA fellow in 2001.



From Education to Action

THE HIA LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

In October 2008, Humanity in Action organised a two-day conference, the first of its kind, to help Senior Fellows gain the skills and networks necessary to become champions of human rights in their respective fields. The event marked an important step for HIA—recognition of the fact that in order to fulfil its mission of fostering global leadership, HIA must continue to provide support and resources for Senior Fellows as they transition from participants in the core educational programs to leading professionals.

Senior Fellows have again proven that the Humanity in Action experience—and the fun—does not end with the core summer program. On 4-5 October 2008, Senior Fellows from the United States and around Europe came together in Amsterdam for an intensive two-day seminar on engagement and leadership, organised by HIA in The Netherlands. The seminar is an example of the way HIA and its Senior Fellows continue to grow and support one other. Sixty participants came together from a variety of professional fields and academic disciplines and included journalists, civil servants, humani-

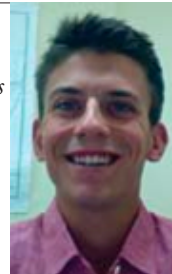
tarian relief workers and business leaders.

Following HIA tradition, the seminar opened with lively welcome drinks in central Amsterdam, bringing summer flashbacks to former participants of their respective Core Fellowship programs and allowing old friends to reacquaint themselves. Fellows chose from nine different workshops divided over two full days. The first day included a presentation from **Fatma Koser Kaya**, an inspiring Dutch parliamentarian of Turkish origin. Fellows were also able to attend presentations on political campaigning by BKB, a dynamic Dutch research and campaigning consultancy firm, and from a staff member of the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. On the second day featured speakers included **Edwin Huizing**, President of the Dutch Refugee Council. The day also included presentations by successful grassroots non-governmental organisations like Mama Cash and Robin Good, both of which run social programs. Finally, for those Fellows interested in a more reflec-

tive seminar, **Rabbi Awraham**, a Dutch rabbi and participant in the World Economic Forum, offered an introspective look into a lifetime of leadership and engagement by telling his story and the wisdom he gained while working for peace and religious exchange and as a spiritual leader.

By the time the program ended, participants had gained the great insight of experienced professionals, a sense of direction, a strengthened network of fellows and contacts, and a renewed sense of confidence in the values of HIA. Now participants are taking the seminar experience home, developing action plans that continue to promote the spirit of HIA.

***Matt Bowlby** currently works as a Civil Affairs Officer with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sudan, concentrating on tribal reconciliation, post-conflict reconstruction and transitional justice.*



Chakrabarti to Speak at UK Function

The HIA UK Group is delighted to share news of an outreach event to be held on **September 30th 2009** under the auspices of our Honorary Chair, Danish Ambassador to the UK, Birger Riis-Jørgensen. **Ms. Shami Chakrabarti**, arguable the most outspoken public commentator on human rights and civil liberties in the United Kingdom, will be keynote speaker for the function. Ms. Chakrabarti is director of The National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) – aka 'Liberty'. The purpose of the event is two-fold:

1. Financial Support: Cultivating financial support for the participation of UK HIA Fellows in a transatlantic study program e.g. in New York and to gauge the interest of UK funders in the creation of an HIA UK fellowship program.

2. Programmatic Support: The secondary purpose of the event will be to reach out to other members of civil society, academia and government whose activities are aligned with the HIA's mission. More details of this event will be distributed shortly.

European Senior Fellows Reunite



Karl Lemberg (Berlin 2002), who led the organisation of the reunion, and Jonathan Miner (Berlin 2004), European liaison for the American Senior Fellows Association, contributed to this article.

On 21-23 November 2008, Senior Fellows from nine countries met in Berlin's Hertie School of Governance as part of the Third Annual European Reunion. The conference, which was open to HIA Senior Fellows around the world, included two panels—one entitled Migration & Education and the other Migration & Development—that featured outside experts as well as Senior Fellows



Senior Fellows and HIA staff at the European reunion in Berlin.

who have developed expertise in these areas. The reunion reflected the maturing needs of Fellows by including professional training in the agenda along with topical discussions. Fellows benefited from workshops such as those focused on strengthening public speaking and fundraising acumen.

The conveners also scheduled networking platforms and informal opportunities to mingle with Senior Fellows from across countries. The German Senior Fellow Network organised the reunion with the support of the HIA Centres, as well as HIA The Netherlands and HIA Germany.

Discussing Historical Perspectives

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award-winning book *Peacemakers: Six Months that Changed the World*. As Professor MacMillan wisely noted in her remarks, “The past can help us formulate questions about the present”. This is particularly true because our current world resembles, in part, that of 1919. Recovery from the conflicts of the Cold War, fading hegemonic powers, and issues that transcend borders – not least the economic crisis and a breakdown of global trade – support this analogy.

Professor MacMillan spoke in an informal setting at Oxford University, where a spirited discussion followed her remarks, which culminated in suggesting that peace can be made only “when public opinion and the powers that be want to buy into it”. Participants agreed that the danger for modern-day peacemakers lies in delaying action on issues of importance – from climate change to Darfur – because of the economic climate.

On November 20, the UK Group hosted a seminar, “Religious Tolerance: A Historical Perspective”, with **Benjamin Kaplan**, acclaimed author and religious historian, at University College of London. In an intimate setting, Professor Kaplan discussed historical examples of tolerance from his recently published book *Divided By Faith*, in which he writes, “Today, sadly, religious conflict seems more prevalent around the world than it was a decade or two ago. This fact gives new immediacy and relevance to a question that millions of Europeans, in the wake of the reformation, struggled with: Can people whose basic beliefs are irreconcilably opposed live together peacefully?”

Using case studies from Amsterdam and Germany in the early modern period, Professor Kaplan

described communities’ differing attitudes toward religious integration and how they were manifested in people’s daily lives. By detailing the extent to which separate religious groups were permitted to express their faith, Professor Kaplan demonstrated that toleration and peaceful coexistence took many forms throughout Europe’s history. As a leading Dutch newspaper, *NRC Handelsblad*, pointed out in a review of Kaplan’s book, “Taking notice of the history of the concept of tolerance can put a new perspective on the debates on integration and religious freedom”.

On November 5 at King’s College, London, Lawrence Freed-

In the coming year, the HIA UK Group looks forward to continuing the tradition of holding gatherings – both large and small – where individuals whose work and research are aligned with HIA’s mission have access to experts at the forefront of human rights issues.

man, Professor of War Studies at King’s College and prolific writer on military and security affairs, lectured to some 50 audience members the tenuous relationship between states and markets, particularly in the last twenty years. The UK Group convened this emergency event in direct response to the dramatic economic downturn, in order to help HIA Senior Fellows and others understand the implications of the crisis for humanitarian intervention.

Professor Freedman noted that liberal democracies might have an easier time adjusting to the challenges posed by the financial crisis because of their ability to adapt

Kaufman’s “After Genocide”

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broader themes of transitional justice, reconstruction and reconciliation.

In March, Zach used the book as a platform to organize a half-day conference on Rwanda at Oxford to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the genocide by recalling the events of 1994. The symposium featured His Excellency Ambassador Claver Gatete, Rwandan Ambassador to the UK, and drew upon insights from experts in law, politics, international relations, economics and history.

Aside from being an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of Rwanda’s continuing struggles, as well as to share personal experiences from Rwandan academics who survived the genocide, Zach’s book is beneficial in another way. Profits from the book will be donated to the Kigali Public Library, Rwanda’s first pu-



c/o barnesandnoble.com

Profits from Kaufman’s book will be donated to Rwanda’s first public library.

bic library, which is an initiative for which Zach has been an ardent fundraiser. For more information, including on where to order the book, please visit After Genocide’s official website: <http://www.aftergenocide.com>.

quicker than autocracies. In addition, he predicted a decline in—but not the disappearance of—the international interventionism of the 1990s. Following his remarks, a question-and-answer session with the audience prompted discussion on related issues, including the balance between interventionism and neo-colonialism, the new role of sovereign wealth funds, and the importance of diplomacy.

In the coming year, HIA UK Group looks forward to continuing the tradition of holding gatherings – both large and small – where individuals whose work and research are aligned with HIA’s mission have access to experts at the forefront of human rights issues. Not only do these discussions stimulate debate and help participants formulate ideas, they also serve to increase the presence of HIA throughout the United Kingdom.

Nita Colaço is pursuing a Master’s in Economic History at Oxford University, focusing on economic cooperation and reconstruction in the wake of World War II. She previously worked in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a consultant with Peace Dividend Trust, a non-profit organisation dedicated to private sector development in conflict-affected countries. Prior to this she was Special Assistant to the President and Research Associate in Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations. She graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and minor in Economics in 2004. Nita is Communications Officer for the HIA UK Group.



Alumni Reflections

Award-Winning Social Entrepreneur Fights Poverty in India

Ethan Kay (Copenhagen 2003) discusses his work at the intersection of economics and human rights as an adviser on poverty-alleviation projects in India. Swayam Shikshan Prayog, the organisation with which he works, was named a winner of the prestigious Ashoka Water and Sanitation Award in May 2008.

HIA: What exactly were these “international development” projects you worked on in India?

EK: Since 2005, I have worked with Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a Mumbai-based rural community development and women’s empowerment non-governmental organisation (NGO). My efforts have focused on projects aimed to create economic livelihood opportunities for rural women and give villagers access to essential household goods and services (sanitation, groceries, health care, clean cooking stoves, and financial services).

HIA: Can you briefly describe a couple of these projects?

EK: To mitigate indoor air pollution – the second largest killer globally of children under the age of five – we partnered with BP to design and distribute a biomass pellet-powered cooking stove. To tackle fatal sanitation-related diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, meningitis, and diarrhoea, we launched a community-based toilet construction enterprise. Both of these initiatives hire village women to serve as distribution agents.



c/o Jay Lurie

Kay aims to improve the lot of poor Indians through market-based solutions.

HIA: What challenges do the communities you assist face?

EK: The villages in which I work are drought- and disaster-prone. They have been ravaged by severe earthquakes and lack basic infrastructure. Intra-household dynamics are heavily skewed against the needs and interests of women. For instance, women are often not allowed to leave the house, have little (if any) decision-making authority, and even receive less food at mealtime. These projects try to redress these gender imbalances.

HIA: What is particularly satisfying about this work?

EK: The projects are extremely fulfilling because they have achieved a demonstrable improvement in human development indicators. They have led not only to a significant increase in household income but also to a reduction in gender inequality and disease. These improvements are all the more satisfying because

effective implementation requires addressing rural India’s cultural barriers and overcoming tremendous infrastructural constraints.

HIA: Aid to developing countries has been widely criticized as unsustainable. What’s different about your projects?

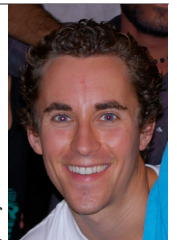
EK: These initiatives are situated in a space I call market-based poverty alleviation. The projects are structured to be financially sustainable (rather than donor dependent) and scalable to achieve maximum coverage and impact. The underlying logic is that if poor villagers can contribute to, and access, the market economy, they can begin to escape the cycles of poverty and disease.

HIA: What inspired your work in this sector?

EK: Through the HIA Fellowship, I received in-depth exposure to the social, cultural, and political factors that lead to deprivation

and marginalization, as well as to extreme cases of injustice. After a trip to Rwanda to witness the aftermath of the genocide and study the country’s transitional justice process, I quit my private sector job to confront human rights violations directly. Genocide involves a wholesale deprivation of physical security, agency, dignity, autonomy, and social freedom. Many of these dimensions of inhumanity are also manifested in extreme poverty, a scourge that I found I could attack and help alleviate by drawing on my business background. My work with Swayam Shikshan Prayog addresses poverty as a multidimensional affliction that deprives its victims of human dignity as well as economic wellbeing. While I continue to raise funds and awareness for ongoing atrocities, the main thrust of my work in India brings these weighty questions of justice to bear on the daily lives of poor people.

Ethan Kay is a D. Phil. candidate at University of Oxford. His dissertation examines the comparative effectiveness of multiple models of corporate-NGO partnership. Ethan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania (B.S. in Economics) and the University of Oxford (M. Phil. in Comparative Government). Since 2005, he has served as a senior advisor to Swayam Shikshan Prayog, an NGO that provides essential goods and services to 63,000 women across 1,000 villages in India.



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Executive Director's Report

Celebrating Ten Years of HIA

HIA's 10th anniversary celebration was a grand success. Over 250 people attended the program and reception on October 16th in New York City. **Dr. Hans Binnendijk**, Chair of HIA, Inc.; **Roger Cohen**, columnist for the *International Herald Tribune* and the *New York Times*; and **Richard N. Haass**, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, gave their impressions about foreign policy and the 2008 elections. **Eugene M. Tobin**, Program Officer at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, spoke about HIA from a funder's perspective. Senior Fellow **Heather Lord** announced the Sue B. Mercy awards in honour of Sue's singular importance to HIA.

The following short excerpts convey the warm and celebratory nature of the occasion.

Hans Binnendijk: "Welcome to

the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Humanity in Action....I can judge from the experience of my own two daughters as well as testimonies from other Fellows that this program has a profound impact on their lives and social entrepreneurship. Being an HIA Fellow is a lifetime experience.... So HIA's mission is more important than ever; and HIA has been very successful in accomplishing that mission."

Gene Tobin: "The Mellon Foundation is one of several funders who proudly support HIA, and while we all have our own special reasons for doing so, it is fair to say that philanthropic foundations need and want institutional partners who care as deeply about the public nature of their civic responsibility as they do about their own organizational self-interest. What has impressed my



Executive Director Judith Goldstein

colleagues the most about HIA is that the focus is always on the issues and challenges—not on the organization, except as it serves the larger purposes of finding creative solutions to address questions of immigration,

minority rights and majority responsibilities."

The HIA website has links to several of these talks as well as pictures of many of the attendees at this wonderful event.

NEWS BRIEFS

For more news and events, see humanityinaction.org.

- HIA UK member, Senior Fellow **Kanishk Tharoor** (HIA Amsterdam 2005), publishes an incisive article in The Guardian newspaper on nationalism and cultural property. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/mar/16/national-cultural-heritage-india-china>

- HIA UK member, Senior Fellow **Nita Colaco** (HIA Copenhagen 2004), publishes article on corruption in Afghanistan in the prestigious Harvard International Review. <http://www.harvardir.org/index.php?page=article&id=1791>

- Senior Fellow **Jakob Lund** (HIA Copenhagen 2005), who founded PLAY 31, an organization that uses football to try and heal some of the wounds of war in Sierra Leone, gathered several ambassadors to the United Nations and Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for a fundraising football game in New York.

- "From Dictatorship to Democracy": Berlin-based Senior Fellows and HIA Germany organized a program on the post-communist transition in East Germany. 25 international participants came together for a full week of seminars and site-visits, and developed a simulation game to address some of the issues facing countries in transition.



c/o play31.org

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon played in Jakob Lund's football fundraiser.

- "Campaigning for Minorities at EU level": Brussels-based Senior Fellows organized a two-day seminar on immigration and integration research and advocacy in the European Union. 40 participants met with NGO and think tank leaders who shared their experiences. The seminar ended with a skills building workshop on how to effect an advocacy campaign in the EU. Morten Kjaerum, director of the Fundamental Rights Agency in Vienna, was their guest of honour.

- HIA France participated in a one-day conference on sports and anti-discrimination, co-organized by the French Ministry of Education and Sports and the US Embassy in Paris, with football star Lilian Thuram as the special guest.

- HIA has partnered with Felix Meritis and Senior Fellow **Marietje Schaake** to organize "Pioneers," a program bringing together young social innovators from Amsterdam and New York. The program is part of the

celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to New York City.

- HIA announced a new internship program in San Francisco, focusing on grassroots action and civic engagement. Up to 12 Senior Fellows will work at a leading NGO in the Bay Area and will participate in site visits and seminars.

- Prestigious German academic publisher Duncker & Humblot recently published HIA Senior Fellow Dr. **Bjoern Jesse's** book "Der Verbrechensbegriff des Römischen Statuts." In his book, Bjoern Jesse presents for the first time a comprehensive analysis of the Concept of Crime of the International Criminal Court's fundamental Rome Statute.

- Senior Fellow **Paul Randt** (HIA Paris 2008) has helped to initiate Libraries Without Borders, a new nonprofit for library development, (LWB; www.librarieswithoutborders.org) with the support of Patrick Weil, cofounder of HIA Paris, and two American professors. LWB is devoted to supporting education in developing and disaster-affected areas by providing children, students and adults access to well-equipped, up-to-date and efficient libraries in classrooms, schools and as stand-alone institutions.