

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Kigali, 28-30 may 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title of the project	1st Edition of the Regional Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
Organizers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (Organizing and implementing NGO) 2. Comité pour le Concours Grands Lacs (partner NGO) 3. Kigali Independent University (Host University)
Contact Persons	Mr Elvis Mbembe Binda President and Founder Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (IPHR) – Kigali Email: president@iphr-ipdh.org Tel: +250-727-484-666 / +250-788-574-648
	Mr Providence Ngoy Walupakah President Comité pour le Concours Grands Lacs (CCGL) – Geneva E-mail : providence.ngoy@adh-geneva.ch Avenue de Mategnin, 101 – 1217 Meyrin – Geneva / Switzerland Tel: +41-775-072-927 / +41-789-101-782
Funding of the Project	Total Budget: 64,224.50 Swiss Francs (CHF) [52,133 Euros or 69,814 USD] - City of Geneva (Switzerland): 32% - Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland): 15.5% - Paul Reuter Funds (Switzerland): 15.5% - International Committee of the Red Cross (Kigali and Kinshasa): 10.8% - Comité pour le Concours Grands Lacs (Switzerland): 6.6% - Kigali Independent University (ULK - Rwanda): 4.7% - Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (Rwanda): 3.2%
Place of the project	Kigali, Rwanda
Duration	12 months (1 st July 2012 – 30 June 2013) The actual implementation of the project lasted 3 days on 28-30 May 2013
Objectives of the project	<p><i>General Objective:</i> To offer an opportunity for research, discussion, <u>and</u> training to undergraduate law students and teachers of universities located in three countries of the African Great Lakes Region (Burundi, Congo D.R., and Rwanda) in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights (HR).</p> <p><i>Specific objectives:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To encourage a case-law based approach in teaching international humanitarian law and human rights law courses; 2) To promote the use of practical cases inspired by local humanitarian situations in teaching humanitarian law and human rights law; 3) To highlight the need to introduce and/or to increase the number of hours allocated to international humanitarian law and human rights law courses in Law faculties' curricula in the Great lakes region; 4) To raise the awareness about national and international tools related

	<p>to humanitarian law and human rights law;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) To facilitate the creation of a network or a discussion group for students and lecturers interested in international humanitarian law and human rights law; 6) To build a local dynamic for critical and constructive academic thinking on the prevention and punishment of human rights violations in the Great Lakes region; 7) To foster the peaceful cohabitation in the region by offering to the intellectual class the opportunity to meet and work together. 8) To provide an exposure stand to the region’s undergraduate students for an opportunity to pursue a high level master’s programme in international humanitarian law or human rights in a world renown university
<i>Achieved Results</i>	<p><i>Overall result:</i></p> <p>This project has enabled 28 students and 14 teachers of the law faculties of the universities from Burundi, DR Congo and Rwanda) to do a thorough research, hold constructive discussions and obtain adequate training in international humanitarian law and human rights through their participation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moot court debates (28-30 May 2013): Well before the competition, students and their teachers took two months to conduct intensive research in international humanitarian law and human rights to prepare their submissions in relation with the fictitious case - A workshop on the teaching of international humanitarian law (28 May 2013) which was primarily intended to developing teachers’ basic knowledge and skills for teaching IHL. - A conference on the intersection between human rights, development and good governance, and about the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Great Lakes Region (29 May 2013) in which about 100 people assisted beside teachers and students participating in the moot court.
	<p><i>Specific results:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Through the workshop on the teaching of humanitarian law and human rights 42 people (28 students and 14 teachers) have been encouraged to use a case-law based approach in the teaching of IHL. 2) The awareness of 14 teachers has been raised about the need to insert local realities in cases and examples they use when they teach IHL as well as to advocate in their respective institutions for the increasing of hours dedicated to the teaching of IHL. 3) A well-furnished documentation and training kit was sent to participants by the competition’s Technical Team and posted on the competition’s webpage. 4) Each participant has received a copy of each of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols which has helped further popularization of IHL and HR instruments. 5) A discussion and exchange network of students and teachers interested in IHL and HR in the region has been created and will be maintained through a Google Group called concoursgrandslacsDIH_DH_2013 account.

	<p>6) All participants are now connected to the Facebook page of the first edition of the competition (Concours Grands Lacs 2013) to build and maintain networking born during the competition. This page has become an active forum for the sharing of post moot court experience, documentation and information about humanitarian and human rights situation in the Great Lakes region.</p> <p>7) The spirit of peaceful coexistence has been strengthened: 18 Congolese, 12 Rwandan and 12 Burundian have worked, eaten and exchanged opinion for 3 days in an exemplary spirit of conviviality. They all visited the Genocide Memorial of Gisozi in Kigali on 29 May 2013.</p> <p>8) Two students, Thesee-Aurore Makaba and Jean-Jacques Tshiamala, winners of the competition, from the University of Kinshasa have been automatically admitted and offered full tuition scholarship to pursue the Master’s program of Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in the Geneva Academy of Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (ADH-Geneva). The Academy is also committed to find for them scholarship to cover the cost of living in Geneva during their studies.</p>
<p>Major Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty in raising funds. As a consequence, the budget was funded only in 88.3%. - Delay in the disbursement of the promised funds. - Unavailability and/or delay of some important guests to the opening and the closing ceremonies.
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The final evaluation of this project shows that it has achieved up to 96% of its assigned objectives. The striking success of the first edition of this francophone regional moot court competition founds it to rightly aspire to be considered in the next five years a project of reference in Francophone Africa for the dissemination of IHL and HR applicable in situations of armed conflicts and state of emergency. Indeed, the participants (teachers and students) had to cogitate about a hypothetical case describing the lives of people in areas of armed conflict in the Great Lakes region. This exercise has led them to identify various violations of IHL and HR in the region, identify the relevant international instruments and pin the different actors in such circumstances. Apart from the popularization and dissemination of IHL and HR in academic circles in the region and the capacity building of participants, this project has significantly strengthened social ties between students and teachers at local and regional level. Now, participants in a country consider those who came from other countries as partners in building sustainable peace through the LAW in the region and not anymore as enemies pursuant the current political crisis between and/or within these three countries. Also this project have allowed the high authorities of Rwanda, the host country, to show their support to local initiatives aiming at the dissemination and popularization of IHL and HR instruments.</p>