INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING SAHR21
6 July 2023 AT 17:00 CET/Paris time By Zoom / video conference

Present:
Vitor Fonseca (in the chair); Ramon Alberch Fugueras; Lizbeth Barrientos; Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Jens Boel; Perrine Canavaggio; Katja Hering; Bryony Hooper; Antonio González Quintana; Deborah Jenkins (secretary); Romain Ledauphin; Amanda Leinberger; Christine Martinez; Andreas Nef; Trudy Peterson (vice chair); Elena Rivas Pala; David Sutton

1. Apologies
Kate Blalack; Normand Charbonneau; Mariana Nazar

2. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was approved, with 4 additions:
• Seeking funding for subtitles for the December 2023 First Tuesday Talk which is being delivered in Russian – see item 7
• Noting Jens’ participation at the UNESCO Intergovernmental Special Committee Meeting on the Revision of the 1974 Recommendation on education and Human Rights – see item 4 (n)
• Discussing the possibility of an SAHR side meeting at the June meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2024 – see item 4 (o)
• Discussing a possible relationship with the International Network for Human Rights Archives whom Trudy met in Zagreb – see item 4 (p)

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising from these minutes
There were no matters arising

AGENDA PART 1: SAHR WORK PROGRAMME

4. Updates on current SAHR work programme

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Update</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The First Tuesday Talks</strong> [Seminars on Archives and Human Rights, held on alternate months]</td>
<td>UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Perrine]</td>
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<td>• On 4 April, Antonio and Perrine presented the Spanish version of the book on Archives and Human Rights with Blanca as moderator. (in Spanish)</td>
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<td>• On 9 June, we celebrated in English the Section 20th anniversary with Carlos Serrano Vásquez as moderator and Trudy and Antonio as speakers</td>
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<td>• The first speech was delivered through Zoom by Graham Dominy, who hosted the Conference in 2003 (CITRA) where the Human Rights Working Group, the predecessor of SAHR, was established. Thanks to Andreas, Deb and Elena, and the ICA secretariat, everything worked perfectly. Around 89 people attended.</td>
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• On 8th August, we will have a talk on Colombian TRC with Mauricio Katz Garcia, its SG and Catherine Romero Garcia (asesora de presidencia) as speakers. Mariana will moderate this Spanish session
• On October 3rd, Mario Polanco, the GAM’s Director will present the Group of Assistance Mutual’s activities. No moderator so far
• On 3rd December, the speaker will be Elena Zhemkova, the Memorial International Chief. Moderation to be assured in Russian by José Faraldo, a Spanish academic who contributed an article to the book on Archives and Human Rights. Thanks to Antonio for the suggestion

b SAHR News
[Production of a monthly newsletter on the theme of Archives and Human Rights]

UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteurs Amanda and Normand]

June 2023
The SAHR news continues to grow and evolve as we determine processes and procedures for the news collectors. This month has seen much action, as we have had some changes in leadership (with Kate Blalack rolling off, and Amanda Leinberger coming on as Editor), have refined the news collectors’ toolkit, are working on guidelines for the final selection process and balance between archives and human rights, and are integrating Zotero as a citation management solution

The May News is undergoing translation, and will be disseminated shortly. The June News is being collected and updated in Zotero. This is also helping us refine the collection process to ensure that we are covering a wide range of sources and topics, as well as capturing the correct metadata. In future updates, we will share the analytics of the newsletter regularly to make sure the EC is up to date about the evolution of SAHR News

FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING
Amanda reported about lessons learnt from the compilation of the May News. Issues about translations still needed to be ironed out, but a meeting had been called to address these. Christine commented that SAHR should consider translating the individual reports into French and Spanish, as in the past. She also felt that there should be three separate versions, in ENG, ESP and FRA, as texts with mixed languages caused confusion.

Over 200 news items had been identified for the June News – this is roughly twice as many entries as the average prior to May 2023. There were some concerns that it would cause too much pressure on the translators. There were also issues around items which did not have ENG versions. At the moment, there were only 2 translation teams, FRA and ESP.

Andreas reported on the circulation process, which was being developed. The News now had its own ICA-I account. A more general discussion was needed about the News target audience. In the original development plan for the News, it had been agreed that there would be a full review in December. Vitor commented that, to meet that objective, discussions about the target audience, translation and language segregation and circulation needed to start in September. Feedback on usage was also discussed

UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Deb]

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<td><strong>issues of concern or matters to celebrate</strong></td>
<td>SAHR response has now been drafted. The UN have extended the deadline to the Autumn</td>
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<td>2. Press Freedom Day 3 May 2023 – SAHR issued a press release supporting this</td>
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<td>3. Statement of concern re GAM Guatemala issued by SAHR May 2023</td>
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<td><strong>d SAHR 20th Anniversary</strong></td>
<td>UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteurs: Jens and Perrine]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. International Archives Day 9 June 2023</td>
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<td>2. First Tuesday Talk – celebration of 20th anniversary of HRWG/SAHR</td>
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<td>3. International Human Rights Day 10 December 2023</td>
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<td><strong>e Climate Change and Archives at Risk Toolkit</strong></td>
<td>UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Vitor]</td>
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<td>[Creating a tool kit to help archives at risk of climate change to identify risk]</td>
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<td>This project had been adopted by the Programme Commission as an ICA-wide activity now, so would no longer be led by SAHR</td>
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<td><strong>f Book on Archives and Human Rights</strong></td>
<td>UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteurs: ENG – Jens; FRA – Perrine; ESP - Antonio]</td>
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<td>[Publication of a book on archives and human rights in English, French and Spanish]</td>
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<td><strong>ENGLISH EDITION:</strong> Communication on the book Archives and Human Rights has continued. Most recently, an article by Jens, <em>Archives and the fight against impunity</em>, has been published in English and Spanish on the platform <em>Open Global Rights</em>, and thereby widely disseminated across human rights networks worldwide. Here is the link to the article: <a href="https://www.openglobalrights.org/archives-fight-against-impunity">https://www.openglobalrights.org/archives-fight-against-impunity</a>. Perrine Canavaggio is preparing a French translation of the text, which will also be shared publicly by <em>Open Global Rights</em></td>
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<td><strong>FRENCH EDITION:</strong> On April 24, the proofs of the French version of the book were sent to the corrector. So far, we do not know when it will be published. Perrine will soon send a reminder to the Institute Louis Joinet because we need to give information to the 17 authors before the summer.</td>
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<td><strong>SPANISH EDITION:</strong> Launch of the Spanish edition of the book <em>Archives and Human Rights</em> in Toluca, Mexico (ALA XII SIATI) March, 29, 2023</td>
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<td>In Toluca, Mexico, in a parallel session during the XII International Seminar on Archives of Iberian Tradition, took place the launching of the book “Archivos y Derechos Humanos, una perspectiva mundial”</td>
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<td>The book was presented by Antonio González Quintana, Ramón Alberch and Mariana Nazar. Antonio summarised the contents of and discussed the preparation of the book. Ramón and Mariana presented their contributions on Colombia and Argentina. Teresa Bermúdez, from Costa Rica, made the introduction of the speakers and she also was the moderator of the session. The audience was of approximately 70 people (nearly the total capacity of the room)</td>
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<td>Three participants from Spain provided ALA desk, in the commercial and professional area of the seminar venue, with 18 copies of the book for selling. All copies were sold in a few hours the first day of the Seminar</td>
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| g | **Directory of Human Rights Archives**  
[Assessing the viability of a directory of human rights archives and of archives holding human rights collections] | **UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Deb]**  
No further developments to report |
| h | **Project with ALA**  
The Project is on-going. It can now be accessed as follows:  
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d9ba222e6824a558173ea98d6a2cecf - It lists the name of the institution, with the link to its web page, address, contact email and names and span dates of relevant fonds/collections. The information relates to 85 holders from 11 countries  
The data comes from  
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HwpylrQkR3PnsULEASTFMKMPggu5/edit?gid=1943845154 where there is much more information. The idea is to offer an Excel table to enhance retrieval possibilities. The presentation will also carry the SAHR logo  
Vitor is committed to reviewing the information about Brazilian institutions in the next few weeks |
| i | **Truth Commissions project**  
[Locating the archives of national Truth Commissions which have completed their work] | **UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Antonio]**  
**WORKING TEAM ON THE LOCATOR OF TRUTH COMMISSIONS ARCHIVES**  
1. The working team has continued with the task of validating data on the situation of the Truth Commissions archives  
2. More than twenty letters have been sent to director of the National Archives of countries with Truth Commission and about which we needed to confirm our information. The answers received will be incorporated to our data base  
3. We have also started the last phase of validation with the preparation of a letter which will be soon sent to all ICA-SAHR members in order to invite those colleagues with knowledge about any of the Commissions refer to make additions, corrections or simple confirmation of data  
4. Our schedule establishes July 31st as the final date for the validation process |
| j | **SAHR Rights and Records Knowledge Base RRKB**  
[Bibliography on archives and human rights, using the Zotero software] | **UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteurs: Romain and Deb]**  
The project continues to progress. The Zotero structure now exists and covers references from the SAHR newsletter up to 2022 and references from the COMMA special edition on archives and human rights. More data is being added at the moment (eg the SAHR comments on UN documents) and information is generally being improved in time for the launch of the database on 10th December 2023 |
FURTHER REPORT AT THE MEETING

Romain reported on recent developments on the project, notably the launch of the RRKN, which was planned to coincide with International Human Rights day. Deb would provide missing information about the SAHR comments on UN documents, and it was AGREED that we would ask Monica Tenaglia whether she would agree to work with Romain on drafting the Press Release for the 10th of December 2023.

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<th>Businesses and Archives and Human Rights</th>
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<td>[Researching the transparency of the archives of extractive industries in respect of human rights breaches] [Commenting on the binding Business and Human Rights Treaty] [SAHR becoming a full member of ECOSOC]</td>
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UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Antonio]

WORKING TEAM ON ARCHIVES, BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Lizbeth Barrientos and Antonio González Quintana have participated in the IV Workshop RTCIC-DS 2023 PROCAD AMAZÔNIA, organized by the Universities of Northumbria (UK), Federal do Para (Brazil) and Carlos III (Spain), in Getafe, Madrid. RTCIC-DS Workshop is a space to debate and define the interaction between KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY and SUSTAINABILITY in the Amazon.

2. Lizbeth and Antonio made a presentation on 16th May regarding the importance of archives and records management for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in the framework of business, and particularly in the activities developed by transnational corporations in indigenous areas. This presentation can be consulted in the YouTube Channel of the Carlos III University: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bjwQzlMJv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bjwQzlMJv0)

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<th>Access to childhood records</th>
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<td>[Drafting guidelines re access to these records]</td>
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UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: David]

The first draft has been completed and been circulated to the SAHR executive for final comments. A new version is about to be circulated to the executive before wider circulation to the membership.

FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING

1. David reported that the document had been circulated to the SAHR executive members twice. The most recent circulation had yielded some useful additional comments, notably from Elena, which were being incorporated into the document.
2. Christine had suggested that we might want to work with, and establish liaison with the Hague Convention on private international law working group. This was AGREED.
3. It was AGREED that the amended document should be circulated to the whole Section, for further comments. In due course, once the text had been approved by the whole section, a copy might be sent to David Fricker as a courtesy, although he no longer was the President of ICA nor Director of the National Archives of Australia. David Fricker had originally tasked SAHR with the work.

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<th>Activities with other ICA sections and expert groups</th>
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UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteurs: Vitor and Perrine]

1. Abu Dhabi Congress – no further report
2. Meeting with SBA in Edinburgh – no further report
3. SAHR – ICA Africa Meeting presentation by Perrine:
   On 7 June 2023 Perrine presented in 5 minutes the SAHR’s activities to the African colleagues, at the virtual session organised by Caroline Brown, the Sections chair (in French).
4. On 9 June, Perrine attended the round table organised by the French
Activities with other organisations

UPDATE FOR MEETING 6 JULY 2023 [Rapporteur: Deb]

1. SAHR was represented by David and Deborah at the ICARUS meeting in Croatia in March 2023 -- short talk on the work of the Section on Archives and Human Rights
2. SAHR was represented by Antonio and Lizbeth on a panel session held at the University Carlos III of Madrid, IV workshop RTCIC-DS 2023 PROCAD AMAZONIA – Estrechando la cooperacion Euro-Amazonica May 2023
3. Vitor addressed June 8th - Archivo Nacional de Chile - Archivos y Derechos Humanos on 8th June
4. Vitor addressed the Associação dos Arquivistas do Estado do Rio de Janeiro - O Conselho Internacional de Arquivos e a Seção de Arquivos e Direitos Humanos on 9th June
5. Perrine and Antonio wrote an article for La DaDa, the review of the Catalan Association of Archivists, with the article published on 12th June 2023 about our Section
6. Jens Boel represented ICA, on the Intergovernmental Special Committee Meeting on the Revision of the 1974 Recommendation / Réunion intergouvernementale du Comité spécial sur la révision de la Recommandation de 1974 (Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms). He attended on two days - on 30 May and part of 31 May 2023

SAHR side event at the summer meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2024

1. Trudy brought the executive up to date with a proposal to organise an ICA SAHR side event at the summer meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2024. The proposal had been discussed with the ICA Secretariat in Paris and with the ICA President, who strongly supported the idea. There were no ICA congress/conferences in 2024, so it might become one of the main events of that year for the ICA. The summer council was chosen, as it might be linked to international archives day, but that was not an important consideration.
2. A possible theme might be the fate of the records of temporary international courts (all 6 are nearing closure, with the exception of Kosovo) and a decision needed to be made about where their archives should be preserved. We need to find an international solution for these records.
3. The Executive was in agreement that the event should be organised if at all possible. Key questions were:
   a. What should the programme look like?
   b. Which states should we approach as sponsors? It was felt that Switzerland might be one, as well as Spain and the UK. Jens made some suggestions, but it was noted that the sponsoring states should be paid up members of ICA and have the capacity to support the administrative arrangements for the side event
4. Further discussion would take place with Carlos in Paris to progress this idea

Human Rights Archives group in Zagreb

Trudy met with members of the International Network for Human Rights Archives, a group founded in 2019 to "exchange knowledge and expertise to strengthen human rights archives." The group has been funded by a grant from a foundation, which has now run out, and they are looking for a way forward. Trudy explained the work of SAHR and the possibility of working together; the group will be considering this, but wants to make sure it can take independent
decisions on issues of concern. It was AGREED that, subject to their wishes, SAHR could support/exchange information with the INHRA on the same basis as we do with Archivistes Sans Frontieres.

5. New projects
- Refugee Rights in Records. Work on this project had not started, through lack of capacity. It remains on the agenda, as it has been identified as a high priority issue by SAHR members.
- Any other proposal? The Chair commented that at the moment it was difficult to consider additional projects, as the officers and sectional executive members were very busy. However, he invited members to submit ideas for projects for the future. A number of projects would be completed in 2024, when new projects might be considered.

AGENDA PART 2: GOVERNANCE

6. Translation programme
- Katja reported on priorities for the translation programme. The translation of the newsletter had leapfrogged ahead of other considerations. A meeting about the translation element of the Newsletter production would be taking place on 6th July.
- The strategic priorities for the translation programme were to (a) establish workflow and (b) complete the work on the translation programme protocol.
- Vitor commented that he had approached a number of contacts involved in the Abu Dhabi Congress preparations to see whether they might be able to assist with the translation of two or three key SAHR texts into Arabic. He had not received any positive responses so far. He had also suggested using QR codes to help identify texts in the Congress programme. This suggestion was not being pursued further.

7. Financial matters
- The Treasurer had prepared a first tabulation of the financial position of the section. It was difficult to manage the budget, as SAHR had been successful in attracting financial support over and above its standard budget allocation. She reassured the Executive that the section was not in deficit. Vitor commented that it might be a good idea to separate the Project funding from the Governance funding in the future. Bryony was thanked for this work, which was a good first attempt at reporting our financial situation, and moving to a more planned approach to funding and finance management.
- There followed a discussion about submission for funding from PCOM for 2024. Possible project submissions might include an application for support for the proposed UN side event June 2024.
- Perrine had asked whether the Executive Committee might seek funding to get subtitles for the December First Tuesday Talk, which would be delivered in Russian (Talk on Memorial International – see item 4 a above). It was AGREED that this was an important request. Antonio suggested that he might approach one of his contacts in Madrid established in the context of the Carolina Committee, a Spanish Government project with a focus on Russia and Russian initiatives. This suggestion was gratefully
accepted, but the section would need to find alternative sources of funding if this approach was not successful

8. **Any questions to the chair, treasurer, secretaries or other officers**
   There were no further questions for the SAHR officers. The Chair reminded everyone that they were welcome to contact the officers by email and ask questions at any time

9. **Date of next meetings**
   - SAHR EC: to be held before the Abu Dhabi Congress
   - SAHR GA: to be held after the Abu Dhabi Congress

10. **Any other business**
    There was no other business