

# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

## SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

21 October 2019 14:00-17:00

University of Adelaide, Library meeting room 466

### MINUTES

**Present:** Antonio Gonzalez Quintana (in the chair); Pierre-Frederic Brau; Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Caroline Brown; Paola Casini; Gustavo Castaner Marquardt; Deborah Jenkins; Roman Lescano; Vincenc Ruiz; Jessica Squires; David Sutton

**In attendance:** Christine Trembleau

#### 1. Apologies

Received from: Jens Boel, Perrine Canavaggio, Marianna Nazar, Trudy Peterson

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The Secretary reported that because of clash of activities, it had not been possible for colleagues from PARBICA to attend the meeting. Item 9 of the Agenda, (Projects in PARBICA area) was therefore not going to be discussed.

#### 3. Report back on ICA EB meetings in Abu Dhabi and Adelaide (20 October 2019), establishing the section on Archives and Human Rights

Antonio summarised the history of the Human Rights Working Group since 2003.

Gustavo reported on favourable informal discussions with Normand Charbonneau in Vancouver in February 2019.

David reported on the ICA EB meeting of the preceding day, confirming the establishment of the **Section on Archives and Human Rights**. There had been some discussion about the name of the section, but not about the fundamental need for or the appropriateness of the section. The only remaining step required to fully set up the section was the approval of the General Assembly (due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October).

[NB: the approval of the General Assembly was obtained on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019].

#### 4. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting in Brussels, 8 April 2019 (approved by email)

Approved

#### 5. Minutes of the Executive Committee minutes, Madrid, 27 May 2019 (for information)

Noted

#### 6. Matters arising from these minutes

There were no matters arising

#### 7. Programme matters:

The following projects were reviewed:

|   | PROJECT                           | DISCUSSION/ DECISION   |
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| 1 | Book on Archives and Human Rights | Antonio summarised progress so far. Routledge had agreed to publish the book, and there were indications that Fayard might |

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|   | <p><i>Leads: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana, Perrine Canavaggio, Jens Boel</i></p>   | <p>be interested in publishing a French version and a Spanish publisher was also being sought</p> <p>The book should be ready in time for a launch at the Abu Dhabi congress, 2020. David Sutton would speak to Ian Wilson, to find out whether a space might be found for the launch in the conference centre. The idea of a 'café littéraire' was approved, if possible.</p> <p>Jessica Squires advised that it might be prudent to have a backup plan—for instance leaflets about the book-- if it was not ready in time.</p>  |
| 2 | <p>Safe Havens</p> <p><i>Leads: David Sutton, Jessica Squires [for ICA]</i></p>   | <p>David and Jessica reported on this matter. The Safe Havens guidelines were now final and adopted by ICA and on the ICA website. In answer to questions, David reported that there were 18 principles, including the principle of rapid response.</p> <p>The next objective would be to obtain UNESCO approval for the document. David Sutton and Didier Grange were addressing the FAN meeting on this topic, and hoping to seek their approval. The more ICA entities approved the document, the greater the momentum towards external approval. It was therefore proposed that SAHR should adopt these guidelines. This was AGREED.</p>  |
| 3 | <p>Publication of the Commentaries on the Universal Declaration – possibility of these being published as a special edition of Comma</p> <p><i>Trudy Peterson</i></p> | <p>It was agreed that Deb would contact Margaret Procter, editor of COMMA, to find out whether this was possible.</p> <p>[NB it was later established that the ICA Training Office and the ICA Advocacy officer were keen for this to happen, as it would help them in their work]</p>  |
| 4 | <p>Memory of the World – Registration of archives of protest within MoW</p> <p><i>Lead: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana</i></p>   | <p>Antonio summarised the situation in respect of the registration of archives in MoW. After a moratorium of two years, MoW registrations were being accepted again. However, the new process was subject to certain forms of control and required all countries involved to agree to the registration, even in the case of archives specific to one country only. (eg Japan/South Korea). The registration of archives which document human rights violations could therefore be frozen. The ICA was implicated in the process as the President of ICA sat on the relevant UNESCO committee</p> <p>There followed a strong discussion on the topic. It was felt that the veto capacity of countries was problematic.</p> <p>A number of actions were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be an internal debate within ICA about this issue</li> <li>A statement should be prepared by Christmas, for distribution at the London EB</li> <li>SAHR should analyse the MoW criteria more closely</li> </ol> |
| 5 | <p>Businesses and Human Rights initiatives</p> <p><i>Leads: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana, Blanca Bazaco Palacios</i></p>   | <p>Antonio summarised progress so far. The activity, which was the subject of an UN forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, focussed on the violation of human rights in multinational and transnational businesses. The section had presented a paper in 2017 on 'Human Rights in Mines in South Africa'. The UN forum had a strong web page</p> <p>SAHR had tentatively set up a meeting to discuss this issue in Madrid, but this was cancelled and needs to be re-set</p>   |
| 6 | <p>Publication of the <i>Guidelines for</i></p>   | <p>It was agreed that this project would best be developed together</p>   |

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|   | <p><i>the reproduction of archives – ‘Sample memorandum of understanding: Agreement to Reproduce Archives and Other Historical Material’</i></p> <p><i>Lead: Trudy Peterson</i></p>                          | <p>with the ICA Expert Group on Shared Heritage.</p> <p>[NB: after the meeting, Deb discussed the matter with Njörður Sigurðsson, chair of the Expert Group, and he agreed to discuss this item with his group.]</p>  |
| 7 | <p>WAPIS project (project led by Interpol to digitise West African police archives from 16 countries and funded by the EU)</p> <p><i>Leads: Trudy Peterson, Gustavo Castaner Marquardt, Paola Casini</i></p> | <p>Little was known about this project, apart from the information on its website. Questions arise from this work: for example, what will happen to the originals after digitisation? Should SAHR take action?</p> <p>It was agreed that more information would be sought. Gustavo Castaner Marquardt and Paola Casini would do some research on this topic and report back</p>   |
| 8 | <p>Compilation of directory of Human Rights Archives and of archives holding human rights collections</p> <p><i>Leads: Antonio Gonzalez Quintana<br/>David Sutton [for SLA template]</i></p>                 | <p>As part of the relaunch of the SAHR web page on the ICA site, it was proposed that the section should build a Directory of Human Rights Archives and of Archives holding Human Rights collections. It was agreed that the archives would be asked whether they wished to have their detailed place on the SAHR page prior to publication.</p> <p>35 such archives were listed in the Routledge book on Archives and Human Right, so these could provide a good start.</p> <p>David reported that the Section on Archives of Literature and the Arts had developed a listing template for their directory. It was agreed that SAHR should use this template</p> |
| 9 | <p>Mapping of projects relating to the human rights of Children</p>  | <p>It was noted that a number of projects were being developed, relating to the human rights of children. It was agreed that this trend should be monitored.</p>  |

## 8. Campaign matters/ Solidarity with colleagues under pressure

- a) The case of the Anglophone Cameroon archivist, apparently imprisoned while crossing the border into Nigeria was discussed. It was felt that the section did not have the resources to investigate individual cases. As a working principle, it was therefore agreed that in cases such as this one, Antonio would liaise with *Archivistes Sans Frontieres* who were better able to look into individual circumstances
- b) The case of the Guatemala Police Archives was discussed. SAHR had found it difficult to react quickly to the situation and get approval from ICA for the letter it wished to send to the relevant minister in Guatemala. It was agreed that a protocol for the publication of Sectional Press Releases and for the circulation of sectional letters should be drafted to clarify the process. Deb would draft the document initially, then, after approval from Antonio, send the proposal to the ICA elected officers for approval

## 9. Projects in PARBICA area

Item withdrawn

## 10. Seminars with other sections and other ICA entities

Various possibilities for meetings and seminars with other ICA entities and organisations were discussed. They include: SPO, SUV, the ICA expert group on Shared Heritage and a consortium of European Justice Institutions based in the Hague.

## 11. Operational arrangements for the section: Finance, Webpage, Social Media

Various practical aspects relating to the management of the section, including opening a bank account for the section, the updating of the SAHR page on the ICA website and the use of social media by the section.

## **12. Any other business**

Members asked where the next meeting of the section would be held. It was agreed that a meeting of the full section would be held in Abu Dhabi, during the ICA Congress in 2020

In closing the meeting, Antonio thanked the hosts and the ICA staff who had assisted with the organisation of the meeting