



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS NETWORK

Fall 2005 *Empowering through Health and Education*

Volume 17

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: The Catastrophe of Nuclear Proliferation

The Herald Tribune article, in "Views & Editorials Commentary," dated August 8, 2005, entitled "Legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," presents the warning of Hiroshima's mayor, Tadatashi Akiba, that the world is "on the brink of nuclear proliferation," and offers the remarkable legacy of hope represented by the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their commitment to a nuclear-free peace.

In contrast, "Nagasaki and Hiroshima: An Anniversary to Forget," by Joichi Ito, in the same section, is an insult to the spirits of hundreds of thousands of people and their families who burned to ashes sixty years ago and to the survivors who have suffered chemical injuries and lifelong crippling illnesses and cancers. It is abhorrent to compare the nightmares of war and atomic bombing to the Godzilla fantasy and to relegate its meaning ultimately to the equivalent of elevator music. However, this is also a warning signal that as the horrors of the mid-twentieth century fade by comparison to more recent conflicts, younger generations may find themselves less affected by the image of the mushroom cloud than they are by contemporary news footage. The realities of famine, civil war, terrorism and poverty dominate the airwaves of today's youth and there is a danger that the devastation brought by nuclear war remains hidden in discarded history texts.

Only by learning from the mistakes of history can we hope to prevent catastrophes from happening again. The important lesson stated by Mayor Tadatashi Akiba in "Legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," is that we must remember the past and use the example of the Japanese people's quest for a nuclear-free peace in order to prevent the catastrophe of nuclear proliferation and its disastrous consequences. Perhaps it is time to once again bring out the photographs, the molten artefacts and memories to remind people of the full potential of human cruelty and those that bravely fight it.

-Sorosh Roshan-



Poster created exclusively for IHAN by Ming Chen from Shanghai, China

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Pathways to Reconciliation and Human Rights

Pathways to Reconciliation and Global Human Rights, an International Conference in Bosnia & Herzegovina took place from August 16th to the 19th. The conference featured academics, civil servants and activists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, national Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and multi-lateral bodies such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and members of the international media from around the world. Among them, IHAN Vice President for International Outreach Suzanne Stutman, Howard Dean, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee of the United States, and Professor Modjtaba Sadria, from



the Graduate School and Faculty of Policy Issues from Chuo University in Tokyo.

IHAN Vice President Suzanne Stutman presented a workshop overview and abstract paper titled "Children, Literature and Healing." She said she believes her work is unique and it can help children and teens who have experienced the violence of rape, war, and various abuses to advance the process of healing and to learn through

poetry and self expression the art of self-healing and self-communication.

"All the Power Rests with You" is her new book of poetry featuring poems of youngsters who have been victims of abuse and neglect. The book was published this past June and is now available.

Governor Dean presented a workshop titled "Models for Integrating Psychosocial Support, Community Re-building and Applied Research." While the Iranian-born, philosopher and author of more than 50 books and articles specialized in cross-cultural relations and East Asian studies, Modjtaba Sadria presented a workshop titled "Practical Strategies for Reconciliation."

2005 CSW Report

To commemorate the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women, IHAN, along with the Medical Women International Association (MWIA) and the American Medical Women Association (AMWA) presented a panel discussion in the United Nations Church Center on March 4, 2005.

The title of the discussion was "Role of Women in Humanitarian Medicine and Equity for Women in Gender and Cultural Competence." The key note speaker was Ms. Wariara Mbugua, principal social affairs officer in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women's Office.

Ms. Mbugua made a call to all institutions responsible for humanitarian medicine to "listen to the voices of the affected one, which are women." She also said that women involved in humanitarian medicine have the power to communicate and spread knowledge and education to the rest of the women in their communities. "That is one way to open a window to social transformation," she concluded.

Other panelists included: IHAN Vice President Vijaya Melnick, President of AMWA Gabrielle Casper, Past President of AMWA Kane Helenjaris and the President of AMWA Carolyn Webber.

The briefing was attended by dozens of women and men from across the world.

First Shirin Ebadi Peace Scholarship

The newly established Shirin Ebadi Peace Scholarship at Lehman College, which will be offered on an annual basis to undergraduate students, was awarded to Monique McPherson for her research project on domestic violence against immigrant women and children in New York City.

A graduate of Cardinal Spellman High School, McPherson plans to become an elementary school teacher and hopes her research will aid her to better serve immigrant communities in New York.

McPherson will enter her senior year at Lehman with \$4,000 for tuition and \$500 stipend for books and other related educational expenses. "Besides being an intelligent, studious and goal-oriented person, Monique also possesses a strong sense of compassion for others," said Professor Elhum Haghghat, who will be McPherson's mentor on the project.

In combined effort, IHAN and Lehman College joined forces in 2004 to establish this scholarship, which will be one more venue to promote peace and strengthen our youth to find better solutions to society's problems. The Scholarship was announced in 2004 at the U.N. reception honoring the 2003 Nobel Peace Laureate, Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian human rights activist who campaigns for peaceful solutions to social problems and argues for an interpretation of Islamic law that is in harmony with equality before the law, religious freedom and freedom of speech.

Ending the War Against Children: It is now up to us to ensure their future

It is easy to despair of the future when so many children suffer the effects of armed conflict, terrorism, abuse and exploitation. However, the article "Ending Wars Against Children," by Olara Otunno (Herald Tribune Editorial and Commentary, August 6-7, 2005) offers hope and inspiration that future generations may yet live in a better world.

The enormous effort of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunno, with the support of his devoted staff, resulted in the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1612 by the United Nations Security Council.

It is now our responsibility, as members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and that of political, social and religious leaders, to uphold this commitment. This groundbreaking resolution will need to be globally implemented and monitored.

The voices of children, often drowned by blows and bullets, await our decisive action in their defense!

IHAN and HEARTBEAT Award Ten Scholarships in South Africa



IHAN and HEARTBEAT congratulate the awardees of the first 10 scholarships granted during our decade long Literacy Project for HIV Orphans in Pretoria, South Africa.

From Vosloorus: Veli Motau, Nomthandazo Motsopi, Phumla Mpangula, Thabo Kopela and Sibongile Mayisela.

From Katlehong: Mojalefa Dibakoane, Makhosana Ngemo, Romeo Motsei, Mpho Mloi and Pamela Dichaba.

The idea of the scholarship was conceived at the U.N. Summit for sustainable Development in July, 2002, when Dr. Roshan and Dr. Stutman joined forces with Age-In-Action and Heartbeat.

Margaret Garner: a new American opera

In darkness, a group of slaves begging for deliverance from their suffering gradually becomes visible. That is how the new American opera "Margaret Garner" begins. The opera, inspired by one of the most significant, controversial and true fugitive stories of slavery from American pre-civil war, marks the debut of a highly acclaimed creative team formed by librettist Toni Morrison, who was awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, and Grammy Award-winner composer Richard Danielpour.

It is a collaboration among the Michigan Opera Theatre, Cincinnati Opera, and Opera Company of Philadelphia. One of its missions is to inspire passionate reactions and meaningful dialogue about the enduring quest for freedom in America that reaches beyond the opera house and into our communities. It is based on a true story that took place in 1856 in Cincinnati Ohio. In Richwood, Kentucky's Maplewood Farm, where Margaret Garner, a mother and wife who had escaped slavery and was hiding decided to sacrifice her children when facing recapture. As her husband was dragged from their hiding place, Margaret declared she would kill herself and her children before she would return to slavery. She succeeded in killing her two-year-old daughter before being captured by U.S. marshals.

Beyond the historical significance and issues of law, Margaret Garner, as written by Toni Morrison, will speak to audiences on a purely human level. Toni Morrison has received the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, and the Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (Paris) among many other awards. She is a founding member of the Academie Universelle Des Culture, a trustee of the New York Public Library, member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and The International Parliament of Writers and Author's Guild. She served on the National Council of the Arts, and is a member of the Africa Watch and Helsinki Watch Committees on Human Rights. Toni Morrison was appointed Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University in the spring of 1989.

Reduction of Poverty through Health and Education

The 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Women's Worlds 2005, was celebrated from June 19 to the 24 in Seoul, Korea. IHAN President Sorosh Roshan was one of the distinguished speakers. Her presentation "Is it Possible to Reduce Women's Poverty through Globalization?" was heard and applauded by hundreds of guests during the second day of the Congress.

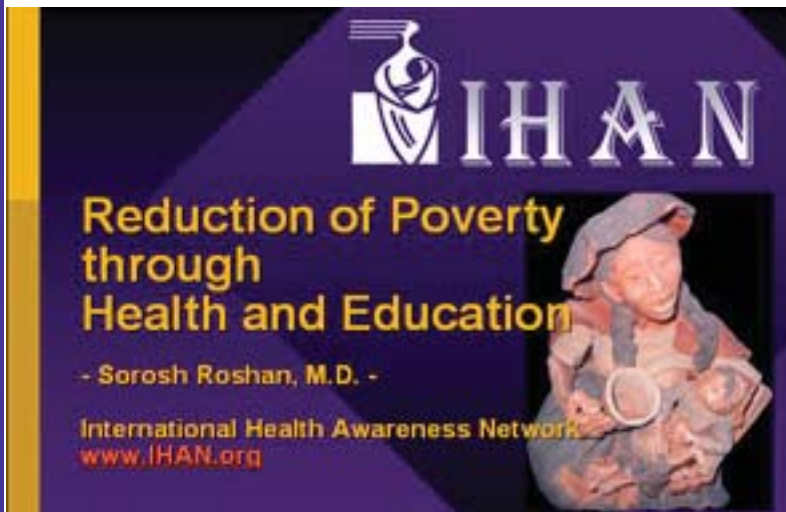
Dr. Roshan explained that while globalization has increased productivity, widen people's horizons and raised standards of living like never before, one out of six people of the human family still live in extreme poverty.

"By joining forces, two or three of us could help someone out of poverty and ignite the engine of progress towards their economical recovery," she said. "Help eliminate the tragic losses of over half million mothers during child birth in the developing countries by providing education, family planning and healthcare services."

Dr. Roshan's complete presentation is available in the IHAN website at www.ihan.org.

Among the dozens of distinguished speakers Wu Qing, the Chinese 2001 Ramon Magsaysay Award-winner for Public Service, also promoted education for women at the Congress. The founder of one of the first feminist groups in China called "Women's Forum," she described herself as "a verb. Not a noun, not an adjective, but an active verb."

In addition to "Globalization, Economic Values and Poverty," hundreds of other topics were discussed. Among them: violence, the culture of peace, health, technology, environment, religion, women's leadership and activism, women's differences, media representation of women, drugs and substance abuse, gender empowerment and diverse voices of Islamic feminism, body and human rights, and women's political participation.



As it appeared in Women's Worlds 2005 (June 22, 2005)

Dear Editor,

I am Sorosh Roshan, president of the International Health Awareness Network and former president of the National Council of Women of the U.S.

Yesterday at the plenary session on "Violence, Intolerance and the Culture of Peace" Charlotte Bunch said that the real clash of civilizations is between the culture of women's human rights and fundamentalism. I couldn't agree more. In Canada, there is a possibility that Islamic Shariah law would be imposed upon all Muslim women, even if they are Canadian citizens. I asked the panelists their reaction to this news because it is a serious threat to women's rights. Hei-soo Shin told us that such a law would be a clear violation of Canada's ratification of the CEDAW. I agree whole heartedly with this. I am happy to say that Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Laureate for Peace in 2003, also does not support such an interpretation of Islamic law. I hope all participants at this congress will support us to defend Muslim women's rights in Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Sorosh Roshan, President of IHAN.

A Poem by Suzanne Stutman

Her Cup is empty, too tired for tears.
She sits, beyond time.
Her only possession is the patch of
ground.
She sits upon suspended there too.
For her, she owns nothing: only pain.
Lost, she and her child sit, silent.
Agony, her only companion, whis-
pers in
her ear, "Nobody sees." "Nobody
cares."
Death smiles in the distance.
For her, cup is empty.

Hurricane Katrina: A reflection by Naureen Chowdhury

On August 29th, the United States faced perhaps the greatest natural disaster in the nation's memory. Hurricane Katrina lashed Louisiana and Mississippi with wind and water, and in its wake left floods that have submerged New Orleans (LA), Biloxi and Gulfport (MS), to name a few cities.

The images of Katrina's effect on New Orleans and the Gulf have been more reminiscent of a Third World disaster than of an iconic urban center, rich in history, culture and tradition. Horrific tales of deprivation, devastation, loss and shock have prompted numerous debates on the efficiency of the relief operations and the preparedness of the city, state and indeed, the nation, to deal with a disaster of such magnitude. The world has watched in shock and awe as the weaknesses of a superpower believed infallible have been exposed, with unbelievable tales of poverty and helplessness. However, long after the political wrangling has subsided and blame and praise alike have been bestowed on politicians, the survivors will have to come to terms with their loss.

For all practical purposes, much of New Orleans has been lost. The hedonistic strains of jazz from the cafes, historic landmarks and treasured collections lie submerged under toxic waters. However, the greatest loss will be measured in human terms. After the flood, death and disease, uncertainty and fear will pose the greatest threats to the delicate web of surviving communities. The appalling crimes against women and the vulnerable, waiting for hope at the Superdome only to be met with intimidation, rape and neglect, will have forever scarred the memories of survivors and spectators alike. Relief has come, some may say, as too little, too late, but the opportunity to rebuild and prevent further trauma must be taken and without any further delay.

Once the waters recede, disease will threaten those already weakened by their experience. Security will be uncertain, especially for the infirm and the vulnerable. Psychological scars, post-traumatic stress disorder and extreme bereavement will affect those who have physically withstood the onslaught. There will be many questions unanswered – "Is this really America? How could this happen in a place like the United States?" – but it is crucial that as the media attention wanes and other breaking news stories emerge, we remember those still suffering the aftermath of Katrina and ensure that the wealth of their nation at large does not blind us to the urgency of their needs in the immediate moment.

Those suddenly left alone will bear the burden or rebuilding communities, of channeling their loss into regeneration, of carrying on that rich culture which has christened New Orleans the 'Big Easy'. If we are to once again revel in the soulful notes emanating from the city, every effort will be necessary to protect the basic needs of its citizens so that their children may once again loom large in the popular imagination.

IHAN Welcomes New Chief Editor, Naureen Chowdhury



Naureen Chowdhury Fink is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), where she studied Art History, History and Psychology, and the Courtauld Institute of Art (London), where she obtained an MA

in Art History. Having grown up in Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, Qatar, Switzerland and the US, she has long had an interest in working in the international arena and during her years at University, worked at the WTO and WIPO in Geneva. At the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Naureen furthered her academic interests and introduced a diverse international community to some of the Met's less frequented corridors.

After obtaining her MA in Art History, Naureen spent some years at the main international auction houses in London – Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams – before deciding to return to her interest in working more closely with international affairs and development. To that end, she is currently pursuing a Master's in War Studies at King's College (London) with a particular interest in Diplomacy, Peacekeeping and conflict resolution and 20th century European history. Naureen has joined IHAN recently and is working closely with the editorial team. In the following year, she hopes to move back to New York and work more closely on a number of projects furthering IHAN's vision.

Upcoming Events

October 22-24, 2005

Jaipur, India - International Medical Sciences Academy

December 2005

Somaliland - Somaliland Field Project Continued

December 10, 2005

Penn State Abington, Pennsylvania - Commemoration of Human Rights

January 15-25, 2006

South Africa

2006

Hiroshima, Japan - Peace Summit

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The International Health Awareness Network (IHAN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and welfare of women and children, particularly in developing countries. Each year we adopt a needy cause related to our mandate empowering through health and education and in cooperating with other NGOs, governmental bodies and concerned citizens we make a small but important difference.

IHAN PUBLICATIONS

1. *The Impact of Health Care Policy and Practices on Women.*
2. *The Impact of Nutrition on Women's and Children's Health*
3. *Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.*
4. *New Millennium Strategies for Women's Health and Human Rights in the Work Place.*
5. *Improving Women's Health Throughout the Life Span: The Right to Information.*

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Newsletter Produced by IHAN
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Writers/Editors: Sorosh Roshan and Maria Castro
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