

The LUNDIAN

Issue Vol. 16 No. 117

An International Magazine

New United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers Comes into Force this Year.

On December the 18th of 2002, The Migrant Worker Convention (full name: The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families) received a sufficient number of State ratifications to become international law. Even though Sweden has not ratified this treaty, it's provisions can be used in discussions with government officers as it contains improvements on all of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – which is considered an established piece of international customary law, though some lawyers don't agree with this position. Below is a brief description of its provisions.

Full Name: The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (The Migrant Worker Convention is the shortened name for this convention) is the longest human rights convention available within any regime. It was adopted by the UNGA Resolution 45/158 of 18 December, 1990, and takes into account other relevant international conventions on servitude, forced labour and slavery. It is comprehensive and contains a preamble and nine parts comprising 93 articles. The catalyst for the Convention was the 1975 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Report on the "Exploitation of Labour Through Illicit and Clandestine Trafficking" which brought the precarious position of migrant workers to the attention of the international community. Here's a (very short) briefing on what this new treaty has to offer:

Part I of the Convention contains six articles addressing the scope and definition of a migrant worker, the extent of its application with non-distinction based upon age, sex, race, colour, language, religion etc, and the period during which it applies to migrant workers and the members of their families (such as during preparation, departure, transit and the entire period of stay for remunerated activity).

Part II consists of a single article (Article 7) which is dedicated exclusively to the non-discrimination with respect to rights of migrant workers. It specifically calls for the rights enumerated in the Convention to be respected without distinction of any kind. It adds that these rights are to be respected and ensured "in accordance with the international instruments concerning human rights".

Part III outlines the Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It consists of 28 articles and describes the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that are applicable to all migrant workers and members of their families. Some of these rights have never been in a universal (i.e., United **Last Page**)

Here's the Picture...



TOP: Swedish Antidiscrimination Bureaus pose for a photo after their meeting in Stockholm on March 22nd.

MIDDLE: Parliamentarian Joe Frans and the Board of Integration's Chief Legal Council Paul Lappalainen stop for a photo at Afro-Swedish Party on the 21st March in Stockholm.

BOTTOM: Board of Integration Chief of Strategic Section Anna Lindström receives a Certificate of Thanks from Swedish Parliamentarian Joe Frans for her years of public service.

More Photos and Articles on our website:
www.thelundian.com

Inside This Issue -- Guest Editorial, The Lundian Shopping Guide, American Citizens and Dual Nationality, Newsbits, English International AGM and Human Right Award, Integration Board, Antidiscrimination Bureaus and Public Notices.

Guest Editorial...

Second Chances

by Priscilla Lau



In the movie "Sliding Doors" featuring Gwyneth Paltrow, the main character Helen either makes it onto the subway or misses it by a few seconds. Who would have ever guessed how different life would be by an action as simple as catching the tube. Do you ever wonder where you would be if you had taken the "other road?" Life constantly presents us with diverging paths, some of which can seem so insignificant and yet, at the same time, life-altering.

This brings me to my next question regarding fate: How much of your fate do you believe you are in control of? Some? None? All? Regardless, I would just like to remind you of why you are in Lund? What were and are your goals in studying, living, and traveling abroad? Where are you now?

Something to Think about and Appreciate about Living In Lund the relaxed lifestyle. Waking up without an alarm clock, the organization of classes and tests, having time to eat breakfast leisurely, living in a town versus a big city like Los Angeles, having time to Fika (has to do with eating), ride a horse, have your own bathroom and bedroom. Then there's the social life: nations (special to student life in Lund) galore, parties, sittings, outdoor activities, dances.

The people (International, Swedish) and the conversations you have with them.

This includes a Bohemian who aspires to be in a circus and plays with fire, a Playboy model, Japanese model, someone who has hitch-hiked all around Canada, having married friends, a former director of a homeless shelter, a man who was a photographer at the Tiananmen Square Massacre in China,... there are just too many charismatic people in Lund to list.

Learning something new (about another culture, about your culture), seeing something in a new perspective, learning more about yourself, living life as a minority (for a change), teaching and learning from others, experiencing new things by yourself or with others.

Being constantly surrounded by people from all parts of the world who are, for the most part, very open minded, knowledgeable, and friendly.

The possibilities, opportunities, adventures and stories to tell your grandkids.

Having the time to pursue interests you've never made time for (such as writing for a newsletter/magazine like The Lundian)

Working at a "disco," being part of a dance troupe like Baletten, dog-sledding, driving a snowmobile in Kiruna, eating Reindeer meat, seeing the Northern Lights, driving to Germany and going to an Oktoberfest, rock climbing, falling into a lake in Gothenborg (while kayaking), going to a Ball like the Gotiska Festen in the Fall, learning Swedish....

Learning to make tortillas and bread from scratch, learning how to bake and cook (so many foods are pre-made foods in America)

Ms. Priscilla Lau is an undergraduate student in Media Studies at the University of Berkeley, in California. She is currently taking courses in Scandinavian Area Studies at Lund University. Ms. Lau is this month's Guest Editor and she will contribute other articles to The Lundian during her year in Sweden.

M. A. Diakite, Editor.

Appreciating the simple things in life. Taking risks, testing yourself in sometimes awkward situations only you can put yourself in (such as travelling by yourself) - taking advantage of these opportunities and possibilities.

Studying abroad presents you with so many opportunities to grow, learn, experience, act, touch, and do. In my case, it was a left bike turn instead of a straight one that led me to my extension and second semester in Lund. Who knows what life would be like back in California and at this very moment, what I would be doing and feeling. One thing is for sure, I will never regret or wonder "What if I stayed another semester?" Second chances are hard to come by, if at all. I'm happy with my encounter with fate and living it for what it is.

Take your chances and embrace the opportunities because time is fleeting.

XXX



Lucie Nilsson and Samrawit Mussie are this Spring's interns from Vipeholmskolan. Talented and hard-working, they graduate in June - with honours from us, of course!

Email:

Sir/Ms.:

Please be advised that the condition for the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (New York, 18 December 1990) was met on March 14, 2003, with the deposit of the 20th instrument of ratification by Guatemala. The Convention will enter into force on 1 July 2003, in accordance with its article 87 (1).

The Contracting States include: Azerbaijan, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uganda and Uruguay.

More information about the Convention and the entry into force can be found on: www.december18.net/UNconvention.

From MIGRANT NEWS, Issue 64, 18 March 2003.

Correction: In the previous edition, No. 116, we erroneously wrote that taxes are not taken on monthly incomes up to 25.100SKR. We called the national tax office (0771-567567) and were told that students can earn up to 11, 399 tax free, but that everyone must apply for a tax reduction. The tax office also has a website with information in English: www.rsv.se.
M. Diakité, Publisher and Editor.

NEWSBITS

This Year's Human Rights Award Winners

*

Nadja Jebril

*

Anne Carlsvi



Ms. Nadja Jebril, thanking the members for this year's Human Rights Award during the AGM.

Photo: Monique Fransen

The English International Human Rights Award for 2003 Goes to Nadja Jebril

LUND, 28 MARCH. At its Annual General Meeting in Lund, the membership that was present agreed to award this year's Human Rights Award to Ms. Nadja Jebril (photo above). The award was given to Ms. Jebril because she showed stamina and dignity during the month-long struggle with Swedish Television over her right to wear her religious head-gear on TV as a program leader.

The debate over Swedish TV's (Stockholm) ban was discriminatory or not, was published in every newspaper in the country and was the subject of a 30-minute debate on television. It brought needed attention to the structural discrimination that is so

prevalent in Sweden's state-controlled media giant, Swedish Television.

The matter only settled down after the Discrimination Ombudsman, Ms. Margareta Wadstein, informed Swedish TV (on TV!) that their ban on head-gear was contrary to the law against ethnic discrimination (SFS 1999:130).

Ms. Jebril was born in Lund and went through all her school-years as she appears in the photograph above.

English International's *Honorable Mention Award for Human Rights* went to Ms. Anne Carlsvi for her support of a school for homeless children in Nairobi, Kenya. Ms. Carlsvi is an English home-language teacher who lives in Lund.

Who Lives in Lund?

The city's statistics department (Drätselkontoret) published its annual statistical report on Lund in March. The report showed that on December 31, 2002, there were 6,814 foreign citizens living in Lund County. In September, the total population reached 100 thousand, making Lund the 12th most populated city in Sweden. Foreign citizens were 6,8% of the new total population.

The December statistics also stated that there were 130 different nationalities living in Lund. The percentages of foreign citizens were Denmark (8%), Iraq (7,6%), the USA (6,2%) and Germany (6,1%). Fifty-seven percent of foreign citizens were from Europe; 340 persons

were from Africa (the largest group is from Ethiopia); 557 persons were from North America where 422 persons are from the USA. From South America there were a total of 182 persons. Chile, with 69 persons, had the largest South American population. 1 747 persons were from Asia. Denmark, with 563 persons had the largest single foreign citizenship. For your own copy of the statistics, call Lunds Drätselkontor: 046- 35 50 00.

PHOTOS BELOW: *Some of the members of English International during the AGM on the 28th of March.*



American Citizens and Dual Nationality

The concept of dual nationality means that a person is a citizen of two countries at the same time. Each country has its own citizenship laws based on its own policy. Persons may have dual nationality by automatic operation of different laws rather than by choice. For example, a child born in a foreign country to U.S. citizen parents may be both a U.S. citizen and a citizen of the country of birth. A U.S. citizen may acquire foreign citizenship by marriage, or a person naturalized as a U.S. citizen may not lose the citizenship of the country of birth. U.S. law does not mention dual nationality or require a person to choose one citizenship or another. Also, a person who is automatically granted another citizenship does not risk losing U.S. citizenship. However, a person who acquires a foreign citizenship by applying for it may lose U.S. citizenship. In order to lose U.S. citizenship, the law requires that the person must apply for the foreign citizenship voluntarily, by free choice, and with the intention to give up U.S. citizenship.

Intent can be shown by the person's statements or conduct. The U.S. Government recognizes that dual nationality exists but does not encourage it as a matter of policy because of the problems it may cause. Claims of other countries on dual national U.S. citizens may conflict with U.S. law, and dual nationality may limit U.S. Government efforts to assist citizens abroad. The country where a dual national is located generally has a stronger claim to that person's allegiance.

However, dual nationals owe allegiance to both the United States and the foreign country. They are required to obey the laws of both countries. Either country has the right to enforce its laws, particularly if the person later travels there. Most U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, must use a U.S. passport to enter and leave the United States. Dual nationals may also be required by the foreign country to use its passport to enter and leave that country. Use of the foreign passport does not endanger U.S. citizenship. Most countries permit a person to renounce or otherwise lose citizenship.

Information on losing foreign citizenship can be obtained from the foreign country's embassy and consulates in the United States. Americans can renounce U.S. citizenship in the proper form at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad.

Source: US State Department Website.

More Pictures...



STOCKHOLM, 21 March. Swedish Antidiscrimination Bureau Representatives attended an information session with the three anti-discrimination ombudsmen in Stockholm. Photos above: TOP: Anders Bergstrand of the office of the Ethnic Discrimination Ombudsman, and (MIDDLE) Christine Gilljam, of the Office of the Ombudsman Against Discrimination for Sexual Orientation. A representative of the Handicap Ombudsman's office gave a lecture too.

BELOW LEFT: Panellists at Integrationsverkerts Conference on Structural Discrimination in Sweden.

**Volunteer Writers and Editors Wanted.
Call 046-211 2828.**

Why We Publish in English

Lund receives more guest researchers and foreign students than official statistics accurately know of. Though Swedish is clearly the first language of Lund (after all, we are in Sweden), English is definitely the *lingua franca* of the non-Swedish community here, which is why we publish this newsletter with tips and information for you in English.

To learn more about Sweden, the English International Association of Lund and how to subscribe to The Lundian, visit our website: www.thelundian.com or send us an e-mail: englintern@hotmail.com



NEWSBITS

The following is a report submitted by Michele Dymond, English International's Representative in England. Ms Dymond came to Lund in February to give a report on anti-discrimination activities and organizations in England. Here is one of her reports. We are very grateful to Michele for her years of continued service to the organization (which she helped found in 1987), and its objectives
M.A Diakité, Editor and Publisher

Bristol, UK. Bristol REC's Connecting Communities Project

Bristol REC, in partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Avon Fire Brigade, The National Probation Service (Avon and Somerset Area) and HM Prison (Bristol), is the lead partner for this Home Office Connecting Communities project, which is funded under their Race Equality Support Programme Grant Scheme entitled "Towards More Representative Services"

Targets for recruitment in each of the four services have been agreed.

Individually tailored training, development and mentoring programmes will be provided for each recruit.

Avon Fire Bridge is also a partner in a similar recruitment programme in partnership with Awaz Utoah.

Aims and Objectives,

- To increase the trust and confidence between Black and Minority Ethnic communities and local Home Office services.
- To encourage members of the Black and Minority Ethnic communities to seek employment in local Home Office services.
- To assist members of Black and Minority Ethnic communities through their application process.
- To assist members and support Black and Minority Ethnic staff once employed in any of the Home Office services.

Note: The use of the term "Black" has been agreed by Bristol REC members to refer to African, African-Caribbean, South Asian, South East Asian, Chinese and other minority ethnic people who share a common experience of discrimination in the United Kingdom on account of their color or racial origin.

Our Partners,

Avon and Somerset Constabulary, "We are committed to building a constabulary that fully reflects the multi-racial community we serve and are wanting to recruit new police officers, support staff and special constables."

The National Probation Service, "A commitment to achieve a more representative Service means that the service intends to



PHOTO ABOVE: Ms. Michele Dymond at The Lundian office in Lund.

play a full and active part in the Home Office funded 'Connecting Communities' initiative. A workforce which represents the community it services is the key part in the achievement of racial equality."

HMP Bristol, "The establishment is looking at ways which are more dynamic to help achieve an increase in Black and Ethnic Minority Staff working at HMP Bristol."

Avon Fire Brigade, "It is hoped that work undertaken as part of the connecting communities programme will increase the number of applications received from members of the Black and Ethnic Minority communities and ultimately the employment of a more representative workforce."

Our Service:

- to support and assistance through the recruitment process.
- to mentor potential recruits. Hold three-way dialogue.
- to give advice and guidance. Approach agencies on your behalf.
- to arrange fact-finding visits. -
- to give free and confidential service.

Bristol Racial Equality Council is working in partnership with individuals and organizations for a fair and just society which values diversity and gives everyone an equal chance to work, learn and live free from discrimination, prejudice and racism.

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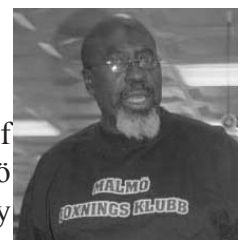
Malmö Against Racism

MALMÖ, SWEDEN.

Between the 21st and the 24th of March, the City of Malmö sponsored a three-day manifestation against racism.

There were sing-ins, discussions, seminars and concerts all over the city. There was even a children's theater and lots of events for young and old, the indigenous and "new" Swedes.

English International member James Houston (photo at left) went to a number of events. At one of them he took this photo of boxing coach Dallas Diabaté. Good work, James.



NEWSBITS

STOCKHOLM. Conference and Social Evening.

On the 21st March the Board of Integration (Integrationsverket) gave a conference on *Structural Discrimination in Sweden*. At least two hundred representatives of Swedish NGOs attended. The moderator for the Conference was Edna Eriksson.

Speakers during the conference were Anna Lindström, Chief of Strategy for the Board of Integration; Teres Lindberg, who spoke on Stockholm County's work against structural discrimination; Michael Azar, who spoke on the history of racism, and Paulina de los Reyes, who presented her work on discrimination and racism in Sweden. The panel discussion was given by a selection of representatives from the Network of Antidiscrimination Bureaus in Sweden.

Towards the end of the Conference The Network gave its first annual Human Rights Award to Mr. Janne Josefsson, a journalist, for his work against racism. The Network's Chairman, Mr. Jabar Amin, presented the award.

Later that evening, the Afro-Swedish National Association hosted a dinner with live music by Pella (a local band in Stockholm) at their headquarters.

The photos below and on the next page are from that evening.



Lund: Calls for a Boycott. Dr. Kamal Elgameil (from the Sudan) was the invited Guest of Honour to a dinner at Gloria's Pub and Restaurant by his colleagues at the hospital on night recently. As a doctor working at the emergency room at Lund's Hospital, he came as soon as his shift ended.

But the security guard at the door had a surprise for him: he wouldn't let him in. He gave no explanation for his actions and refused to let Dr. Elgameil enter the restaurant. Not even to confirm that he was an invited guest of honour.

Dr. Elgameil was the invited guest of honour, his name was on a nameplate at the table; all his colleagues from the ward where he works were there. After repeated pleas to a totally unsympathetic security guard, Dr. Elgameil left.

He immediately reported the incident to the police under one of the Swedish anti-discrimination laws. He also went to see a lawyer, who made sure that his complaint stayed in the police journal and reached the county prosecutor's office for further investigation. This was a good move, as the police had already dismissed the case for lack of evidence. But his lawyer made sure the case was taken up again, because he had witnesses with him when this incident occurred.

When Dr. Elgameil came to English International's Anti-discrimination Bureau office, he was quite clear about his case, and about what immigrants should do when they are discriminated from a service at a public business: "*They should boycott the place.*"

The district prosecutor in Malmö recently dropped the case due to a "lack of evidence". Dr. Elgameil says he will keep us informed of developments in the case.

Lundian Exclusive Interview



NEWSBITS -- MORE PHOTOS



The Swedish Integration Board

The Swedish Integration Board (*Integrationsverket*) is a government department that was founded on June 1st 1998. It was established to ensure that the visions and goals of Sweden's integration policies have an impact in the various areas of society. The driving force behind these goals is the theory that all residents should have equal opportunities to participate in Swedish society. The board has extensive contact with local governments, other national authorities, municipalities, and other actors in the achievement of its objectives.

The Integration Board (also known as The Swedish Board of Integration) has a very definite impact on Swedish NGOs, and sponsors a number of integration projects, conferences and seminars. One such project is the Network of Anti-discrimination Bureaus throughout Sweden. Without the support of the Integration Board, these and other NGO projects that are active in the campaign for integration, equality and equal rights in Sweden would not be able to function. County governments have a very poor record of supporting such NGO projects.

The Swedish Integration Board is located in Norrköping and employs about one hundred persons. Mr. Andreas Carlgren is the director-general of the Board. Information in Swedish and English on their website: www.integrationsverket.se

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**B
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Till:

MigrantWorker Convention (cont'd): Nations) human rights treaty before, although some of them may be present in some ILO treaties.

Part IV consists of 26 articles, twelve of which have no parallel in other human rights instruments. T

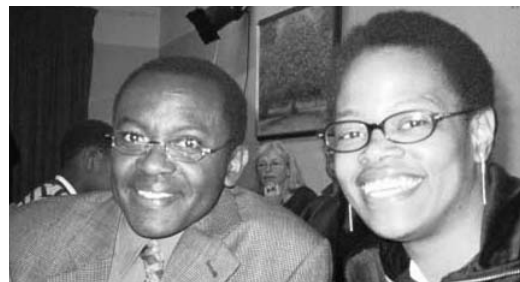
Part V contains six articles with provisions that are applicable to particular categories of migrant workers and members of their families. In particular they provide for rights of frontier, seasonal, itinerant, project-tied, specified and self-employed workers. None of these rights have any parallels in current universal human rights conventions (but again, you have to look at some ILO treaties).

Part VI contains eight articles which address the promotion of sound equitable, humane and lawful conditions in connection with the international migration of workers and members of their families. The articles in this section call for States to provide information regarding their policies, arrival and departure formalities, consular needs and conditions of work for migrant workers and the members of their families. effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which organise, operate or assist in organising clandestine migration; to and to impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which use violence, threats or intimidation against migrant workers and their families who are in an irregular situation.

Part VII is concerned with the application of the Convention, the establishment of a Committee, for State parties to recognise the competence of the Committee, for States to submit reports, for the ILO and the UN S-G to participate in the committees communications procedures. Article 77 of this part allows for individual complaints to the committee providing a State Party recognises the competence of the committee to receive and consider from or on behalf of individual subjects to its jurisdiction who claim that their rights under the MWC have been violated.

Part VIII covers General Provisions which protect the right of each State to establish the criteria governing admission of migrant workers and members of their families, a provision that has no parallel article in any other universal human rights instrument.

Part IX, contains the Final Provisions, where Article 88 does not permit a State ratifying or acceding to the present Convention from excluding the application of any



Mr. Mkyabela Sabuni, General Secretary of the Afro-Svenska National Association and a guest from USA of NBC News, NY, Ms. Shayla Harris, who was on assignment in Sweden.

part of it or any particular category of migrant workers. The Convention binds only those States that ratify it.

The Migrant Worker Convention is one of the most important conventions ever adopted by the UN system. It recognises that rights of irregular migrant workers (also known as undocumented or illegal) and other problems involved in migration are even more serious in the case of women, the aged, the handicapped and children. It calls for appropriate action to protect their fundamental rights and prevent and eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking in all migrant workers. Parallel rights can also be found in a number of the other human rights treaties, but this one provides for particularly strong measures to protect migrant workers.

The full text of all UN treaties can be found at: www.un.org

Important Dates to Remember

Some stores and services may be closed or slowed down on some of the following days:

17 -24 April	Passover
18 April	Good Friday
20 April	Easter Day
21 April	Easter Monday
13 May	Mawlid (Rabi'l 12)

Source: 2003 World Almanac and Book of Facts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

If you feel that you have been unfairly discriminated against for *any reason*, contact:

The Forum Against Discrimination in Lund

Tel: 046 - 211 2825

Email: englintern@hotmail.com

More information on our website:

www.thelundian.com