

REPARATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

INTRODUCTION

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We are delighted to present this year's publication of the Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which includes the three best essays in English and in Spanish submitted for the 2007 Human Rights Award. This year's topic was "Reparations in International Human Rights Law." The quality of the essays was outstanding, making the final decision difficult. A final decision would not have been possible without the exceptional work of the members of the Honor Jury who read and evaluated the articles. We would like to recognize everyone that participated in the competition, especially the two winners, Lisa J. Laplante and Juan Pablo León-Pérez Acevedo.

The goal of this publication and of the competition is to provide an academic venue for scholarly legal writing by human rights experts and activists. Through publication, we seek to contribute quality legal writings on particular topics of relevance to the development of this dynamic area of the law. The book also reflects the diversity of cultures and languages that characterizes our interconnected world. By selecting articles in English and Spanish, we enhance and broaden the voices that shape international human rights and humanitarian law in the future.

We want to thank Mondri Basmenji, Editor-in-Chief, and Laura Sierra, Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Book Editor of the *American University International Law Review*, for their dedication and hard work. Publishing in two languages is especially demanding and we would like to recognize the law

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review's effort in this project. It is imperative to acknowledge the vision of the law review's editors to foresee that the future of the international community rests on our ability to enrich our views with other people's ideas and cultures.

Finally, we want to thank Carmen Bernardo Garcia, Elida Caballero, Jorge Calderon Gamboa, Juan de Lucca, Jose Luis Diaz, Julio Guity, Dagoberto Rodriguez, Gunther Sanabria and Addy Paola Velasquez who edited the Spanish articles, as well as the *American University International Law Review* staff who worked on those pieces as well, including David Avila, Jeanne Cook, Mara Giorgio, Johanna Michaels Kreisel, Bernardo Rodriguez and Emily Wann.