HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE:
MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Call for papers:
Deadline: January 30, 2009

The Human Rights University Network - Sur and the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) invites all interested parties to send in their contributions for the Special Issue of the Sur Journal on Human Rights of People on the Move: Migrants and Refugees (nº 10, first semester of 2009).

Sur - International Journal on Human Rights is published twice a year, distributed free of charge to approximately 2,700 readers in over 100 countries. It is edited in three languages: English, Portuguese and Spanish and can also be accessed online at http://www.surjournal.org.

The Journal aims at disseminating a Global Southern perspective on human rights and to facilitate exchange among professors and activists from the Global South without disregarding contributions from other regions.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
The constant migration flows – both in the North and the South – as well as the growth and worsening of situations of vulnerability, violence and xenophobia, make this one of the most urgent topics in the human rights agenda. In this context, Sur Journal invites all authors to contribute to the debate about human rights of people who, for several reasons, leave their places of residence.

I. 1. MIGRANTS: New policies regarding migration control: as a reaction to the constant migration flows, the rise in unemployment, economic crisis, as well as social and ethnical conflicts, States and regional groups have recently been adopting migration policies that make distinctions between regional and extra-regional migrants, and adopt increasingly aggressive measures to restrain and discourage the flows of people into their countries. Sur Journal invites authors to analyze the consequences of these new tendencies. It also invites authors to explore the possibilities of using global and regional human rights mechanisms to promote their reform.

I. 2. MIGRANTS: The protection of migrants’ human rights under the universal and regional systems: the process of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990) was particularly slow and the efforts undertaken by its monitoring Committee (working since 2006) continue, until today to be practically unknown of by a large part of the human rights movement. Sur Journal invites all authors to analyze the relevance of this International Convention in protecting the rights of migrants.

II. 1. ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES: Restricting asylum policies and the protection of refugees’ human rights: despite the fact that conflicts and humanitarian crisis keep
on generating great flows of refugees (11.4 million in 2007), some States have adopted policies that aim at restricting the right every person has to seek and receive asylum, a menace to the effective protection of asylum seekers and refugees. *Sur Journal* invites all authors to analyze these new policies, as well as their implementation by States that receive refugees – in the Global South and the Global North – and their impact on the fundamental rights of refugees. Articles that analyze the response given by regional human rights protection systems to these policies are also welcome.

II. 2. **Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Mixed migration flows**: the immediate identification of the people that need international protection must be a key-element in the institutional design of entrance systems and border control. Refugees frequently are part of the so called “mixed migration flows”, i.e., movements that include people who need international protection and others that are not in the same situation. UNHCR’s and States’ fundamental interest must be to guarantee, in these cases, the international protection of those people that require such protection. The recent restrictive migration policies (topics I.1 and II.2) can often affect, simultaneously, the human rights of migrants and those of refugees. *We invite all authors to analyze the phenomenon of the mixed migration flows and their impact on the human rights of migrants and refugees.*

II. 3. **Asylum Seekers and Refugees: The role of UNHCR**: in the current international context, the UNHCR faces increasing difficulties to put into practice an effective protection of refugees as a consequence of the restrictive interpretation of the right to asylum, the permanent growth in the number of refugees and displaced persons, and limited financial resources. *Sur Journal* invites authors to analyze the effectiveness of the measures that have been adopted by the agency to face these challenges.

III. **Forced Displacement**: the number of internally displaced people – mostly in the countries of the Global South – continues to rise (the UNHCR estimates that there are currently between 20 and 25 million internally displaced people). The celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) represents an appropriate moment to evaluate the international community’s capacity to react to this phenomenon, and to protect its victims quickly and effectively. *We invite all authors to submit articles commenting on this evaluation.*

IV. **Human Trafficking**: during the past few years, we have also seen an increase in human trafficking and the adoption of punitive international norms. However, the normative advances have been restricted to the protection of victims instead of defining more clearly the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination. It may occur that some of these victims or potential victims of trafficking fulfill the requirements needed to be recognized as refugees. Therefore, States must guarantee that these people have access to their territories and to the procedures of asylum seeking, and to receive protection if their appeal satisfies the requirements. *We invite authors to analyze these topics, and to present results of studies regarding the reach and characteristics of this offense, as well as of the protection of victims, including international protection.*

V. **Migration and Economic Development - A human rights topic?**: migrations have an important impact on the economy of countries of origin and destination. The analysis of immigrants’ contributions to the social security system, the brain drain, or the impact of
remittance to their families, are usually considered under an exclusively economic perspective. These situations are in many ways related to the protection and fulfilment of human rights; they also could be opportunities to create citizenship and to empower migrants. We invite all authors to analyse the relations between migrations and economic development through a human rights perspective and suggest new approaches to these phenomena.

The topics above were chosen as examples; articles that analyze other topics related to the main theme of this issue will also be welcome.

The selected articles in Spanish and Portuguese that are not published by Sur Journal due to lack of space may be published – according to UNHCR – in the UNHCR website in Spanish and Portuguese.

The articles, studies and papers proposed will be published with the following phrase: “The opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or those of the United Nations. UNHCR’s guidelines and standards may be consulted on www.acnur.org and www.unhcr.org.”

**FORMAT**

Contributions should be sent in electronic form (MS Word format) to surjournal@surjournal.org and should follow these guidelines:
- Between 7,000 and 10,000 words.
- Concise footnotes. (Please find at the end of this text the rules for citation.)
- Short biography of author (maximum of 50 words).
- Abstract (no more than 150 words), including keywords for the required bibliographical classification.
- Date when the paper was written.

Only submissions received by January 30, 2009 will be considered for issue No. 9 (first semester 2009). Articles received after that date will be considered for subsequent issues.

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BRASIL, Secretaria de Direitos Humanos, 1995, p. 3.

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