

JOHN HOLMES FUND ICCHRLA FINAL REPORT

1. Project Description:

ICCHRLA, through the assistance of the Human Rights Internet and the John Holmes Fund undertook research in September 1997 related to economic, social and cultural rights in Latin America. Pam Friedman, a youth intern, was contracted for eight months to coordinate this project.

A special internal advisory committee was drawn from the ICCHRLA board to guide the work of the project over the proceeding eight months. (See advisory Group Listing in Annex A). Based on discussions with the advisory committee and partner organizations in Latin America an investigative research plan was developed.

The project consisted of investigative research (which involved consultation with human rights partners, church workers, activists, academics and government officials), as well as a case study (on Mexico) and visits to the region (Colombia and Chile). In an effort to provide some cohesion to the complex issues the ICCHRLA advisory committee narrowed the research to include the:

- collection of information from Latin American partners to gauge their perspectives on the question of economic, social and cultural rights;
- development of a comprehensive theoretical framework for the research including policy options and advocacy tools;
- elaboration of specific case studies;
- and an action outline built into a larger social movement.

Each section of the research has culminated in the production of the following documents:

- Questionnaire to Partner organizations regarding Neoliberal Economic Policies and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights;
- Special Report on Trade, Investment and Human Rights in Latin America;
- Investigation of Labour Rights in Colombia;
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Neoliberal Mexico;
- Documents related to Participation in the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile.