



October 2008

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The last 12 months have been busy ones for the ILBF. The charity has made a number of significant shipments to new partners throughout Africa, with approximately one ton of books being sent off on each occasion.

At the end of 2007 the ILBF completed a shipment of books to three new partner organisations in Uganda: the Law Development Centre, the Islamic University and Kampala University. These books arrived in Kampala in February after being held up at the border due to unrest in Kenya.

Soon after, the ILBF teamed up for the first time with African Prisons Project ([www.africanprisons.org](http://www.africanprisons.org)), a charity working to improve African prison infrastructure. The ILBF provided APP with 31 boxes of books, including law reports, law encyclopaedias and legal text books, to stock a proposed law library within the Luzira complex of prisons in Kampala, Uganda. We were also able to send a further 25 boxes of books to existing partners in Uganda in that same APP consignment.

The original purpose of the prison law library initiative was to benefit prisoners conducting their own legal research into possible appeals—in particular, death row prisoners who often find it impossible to obtain legal representation after conviction. However, because such a large number of books made it to Luzira via that consignment, the plan now is to equip a law library that will serve the local legal community (outside the prison) as well as provide for the needs of the prisoners themselves. Just this past month at Luzira's Remand Prison, the British High Commissioner and Uganda's Cardinal Wamala opened APP's major projects for the year. There is now a new library for the inmates containing a large variety of books, including general law texts collected by legal students.

There have been shipments to Rwanda (to the Rwanda Supreme Court, Rwanda Institute of Legal Practice and Development and Rwanda National University) and to Sudan (to the Judiciary of Southern Sudan, Juba). Those shipments are expected to arrive this month. The ILBF also sent books to Nigeria, which were then distributed to the Nigeria Law Schools in Lagos and Enugu (the commercial capital and one of the eastern states, respectively), the Legal Defence and Assistance Programme (LEDAP—a Nigerian human rights organisation) and the West Africa Public Interest Litigation Centre in Abuja. Shipments to Swaziland and Malawi are planned for the end of this month and preparations for these are currently in progress.

The ILBF is looking ahead to shipments in 2009 and can only meet its aim of sending law books to partners in common law jurisdictions involved in access to justice work with the continued support of donors and volunteers. In this newsletter ILBF members, Lucy Hicks and Helen M Carter, report on their visits to recipient organisations, Alex Kibandama from Uganda's Law Development Centre writes with feedback from our Ugandan partners, and Toby Brown from APP explains the benefits and impacts of strategic partnering with organisations like the ILBF. We hope that these updates will encourage you to help the ILBF achieve its goals.



Librarian Hamidah Luwagga (from the Islamic University in Uganda) receiving ILBF books



Law students from Kampala University take a look at the newly arrived books



Kampala University's very basic facilities

## 2 ILBF members visit Partners

### Lucy Hicks

I visited the Nigerian Public Interest Litigation Centre in May this year (before the donated books arrived) and found just two books on the shelves of the law library. Staff at the Centre were looking forward to the shipment from the ILBF, the arrival of which would effectively set the library in operation. I intend to return to Nigeria later in the year and plan to visit the Centre once again.

With efforts underway to rebuild rule of law in Nigeria and improve access to justice, the Legal Defence and Assistance Programme (another organisation in receipt of ILBF books) is of particular note. LEDAP, in collaboration with various other bodies, runs a Duty Solicitor Scheme in courts across 15 states of Nigeria including Lagos, where their national office is based. Over 700 lawyers participate on a pro bono basis and, in the last year alone, have provided 24,000 lawyer-days in court to indigent defendants who would otherwise have no means of representation. The books sent to LEDAP by the ILBF are now within their Lagos library and will be accessible to all lawyers taking part in pro bono work as part of this and other valuable projects.

### Helen M Carter

In spring 2008, the ILBF sent a shipment of books to three Ugandan partners. In August 2008, I visited all of these academic institutions, to see how the books are being used.

At the two private universities, I was immediately struck by how small and basic their facilities are. At the Islamic University, the law library is one classroom with two long shelves of law books along one wall and some desks for the students to work at. That is all. Thanks to the generosity of the ILBF's supporters, the number of legal texts has doubled and the ILBF donations are generally more up-to-date and in better condition than the other books. At Kampala University the classrooms are also basic.

Makerere University, the public University of Uganda, has a much larger campus and central library facilities. However, this university serves thousands of students. The undergraduate law library has been forced to act on a reference-only basis, with the books given out according to strict rules. It is common for the students to queue for the library due to a lack of desk space and books.

Just down the hill from Makerere University at the Law Development Centre, where graduates are trained to practise as attorneys, there is a small reference library. It is in this library that the books contributed by the ILBF's donors can be found. They make up about a third of the books and are reportedly very popular amongst the students. Particular favourites include *Archbold*, *Clerk and Lindsell* and the *Butterworths Handbooks*. The donated books have meant that a number of students can work on a topic at once, whereas previously they only had one or two books on

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*The donations have alleviated the waiting time for books and provided variety*

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any one topic. Following the delivery of such valuable books by the ILBF, many undergraduates have also started to use this library as an alternative to the central resource at Makerere.

The university staff and students are all very pleased with the books they have received, but would gladly receive more. The donations have alleviated the waiting time for books and provided variety, but the students are only allowed each book for a limited period of time. In particular, if anybody has any used books on East African Civil Procedure, the librarian would be extremely grateful to receive them. The situation for these and many other African universities could be dramatically improved by the donation of more books.

### 3 Volunteers

The ILBF's work, assisting in promoting the rule of law, can only be achieved through the assistance of volunteers. Volunteers to help with the packing of books for shipment are always welcome. Volunteering with the ILBF is a rewarding experience and provides the chance to assist in the development of legal systems throughout the world.

Below are some quotes from recent volunteers reflecting on their book-packing experience:



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*"I really enjoyed the opportunity to get involved with such a worthwhile cause. I love sorting things so organising the various shipments was fun, and later seeing photos of the boxes arriving at their destinations made me realise how much my efforts were appreciated. Would love to help again."*

*"It was a privilege to spend a day working with the ILBF. The team identified, sorted and packed relevant legal titles for shipment. Donated books now enjoy a new lease of life abroad, where they will help to shape the law and lawyers of tomorrow."*

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For information on volunteering, please see [www.ilbf.org.uk](http://www.ilbf.org.uk)

### 4 Feedback from Uganda

Feedback is an important part of the ILBF's work. The following is an extended extract from a report received from Alex Kibandama, Editorial Assistant at the Law Development Centre (LDC), the academic law hub of Uganda.



Outside Kampala University: Lecturer Robert Atambo (left), ILBF member Helen M Carter (centre) and LDC Editorial Assistant, Alex Kibandama (right)

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*"These new books will  
open doors of  
perception—which is what  
a lawyer of quality must  
be armed with to help  
promote justice and the  
rule of law."*

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### Alex Kibandama

When we heard about the ILBF and its commitment to donate law books to institutions and law societies involved in access to justice in common law jurisdictions, we were completely reenergised. One of the principal factors inhibiting legal advancement in Uganda, and indeed other developing nations, is the inaccessibility of the latest law publications and the high cost of the available few.

We eagerly submitted our applications, knowing well that such a donation would be much appreciated by users. Our application on behalf of the Law Development Centre was accepted, together with applications made by the Islamic University and Kampala University. We were all extremely excited by this news. I was made the focal person for coordinating the distribution of the donated books.

The books were meant to arrive on 31 December 2007 but were delayed because of the presidential elections in Kenya. The violent aftermath made it difficult for shipments to cross safely through into Uganda.

It was only after a little sanity had returned to the situation that we received a call from the Shipping & Clearing Agency. The consignment had arrived safely! This pleasant surprise quieted the relentless phone calls we had been receiving from anxious beneficiaries.

In fact, the recipients could not contain their excitement. The Vice Chancellor of Kampala University nearly shed tears of joy as he spoke about what this donation of books would mean for the university's newly introduced Faculty of Law. He called the ILBF "a Godsend", adding that the books would spruce up their law library, greatly enhance the students' learning experience and boost the university's research capacity.

The students eagerly opened the volumes and were soon engrossed, trawling through from cover to cover, pausing again and again to admire the front and back pages.

The thrill was the same at the Law Development Centre where, in the past, trainee lawyers and practitioners had had to make do with faded ink on tattered pages in books published in 1979 and earlier.

"Our library was doing badly," reported a student from Kampala University. "These new books will open doors of perception—which is what a lawyer of quality must be armed with to help promote justice and the rule of law."

Indeed our various collections of law resources were on their deathbeds; they have now been given the kiss of life, thanks to the ILBF. We want to nurture this partnership in the longterm in the hope that legal professionalism in Uganda will be advanced. On behalf of all the beneficiaries in Uganda, I would like to thank the ILBF volunteers for persistently following up this important shipment of books and ensuring their arrival at their destinations. Their commitment to this noble cause will not be forgotten.





The new library installed at the Remand Prison by APP

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*"Prisoners have a real desire to learn...for many it will be a vital basic understanding of their legal system. And with this will come more power to help themselves"*

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Toby Brown sorting legal books with the inmates for the Remand library

## 5 ILBF collaborates with APP in prison library development initiative

**Toby Brown**

The situation is dire in many African prisons—with no exaggeration. African Prisons Project aims to improve the welfare, health and education of detainees. In particular, we strive to make long-term changes by installing prison libraries and sick bays. But clearly there is only so much we can do and, as a young charity, our partnerships are particularly important, and none more so than with the International Law Book Facility.

The legal problems faced by those detained in many African jails are numerous. In many prison populations over half are on remand, still awaiting a trial—for many years on end. African Prisons Project is currently concentrating its efforts at the Luzira complex of prisons in Kampala. Earlier this year I met many inmates on remand for 4 or 5 years, some longer. A major problem, as many will know, is the real lack of free legal assistance. For most prisoners, paying for a lawyer is out of reach, nor is there a legal aid system.

Provision of legal books to the inmates is one way of helping address the legal problems. The supply of high-quality legal texts from ILBF was therefore a real boost to help us create a legal library at Luzira. These will be combined with local law books and other legal texts collected in the UK.

Prisoners have a real desire to learn. In the Luzira's Maximum Security and Death Row Prison, we are a leading member of a group working to bring university education to the inmates and, by request of the inmates, this includes law. Already they can take O and A Levels, assisted by a basic library we installed in 2004. Some inmates we hope will be able to gain distance learning qualifications, but for many it will be a vital basic understanding of their legal system. And with this will come more power to help themselves.

Therefore the ILBF books will be a vital part of African Prisons Project's new library at the prison. It is our hope that with the high-quality ILBF texts, in due course the library can become a resource that will be accessible to those in the community who can assist the detainees, whether law lecturers or local paralegals.

Organising our shipment of humanitarian goods and books from London to Uganda was certainly a logistical challenge. The exception to this was the ILBF books whose officers helped magnificently at short notice. It was a pleasure for us to then assist by shipping additional books on ILBF's behalf to other partners in Uganda.

We are certainly looking forward to partnering again with ILBF. Whilst we await the start of the university project next year, the ILBF books in our Kampala storage await their new readers!

## 6 Future Funding

The ILBF has, over the past three years, been able to collect law books, identify partners and send shipments of relevant materials. As more books are donated and more partners are identified, its scope to assist in the development of legal systems has expanded and, in 2009, the aim of the ILBF will be to make even more shipments over the course of the year. For the ILBF to continue to succeed, it requires financial donations as well as the donation of relevant books to send to partners. Please donate funds to help us meet the cost of our shipments.

## 7 ILBF's Current Donors

The ILBF is delighted to be supported by the following donors:

<b>Allen &amp; Overy</b>	<b>The International Bar Association</b>
<b>Alma and Leslie Wolfson Charitable Trust</b>	<b>Keating Chambers</b>
<b>Blackstone Chambers</b>	<b>Linklaters</b>
<b>CA Purnell</b>	<b>Lovells</b>
<b>Cadwalader Wickersham &amp; Taft</b>	<b>Mills &amp; Reeve</b>
<b>Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)</b>	<b>One Essex Court</b>
<b>CAF (anonymous donor)</b>	<b>RD Arnold</b>
<b>CAF-REMAD</b>	<b>Reed Elsevier</b>
<b>City of London Solicitors' Company</b>	<b>Russell Cooke</b>
<b>Forster Charitable Trust</b>	<b>Slaughter and May</b>
<b>Fountain Court</b>	<b>The Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust</b>
<b>GC Vos</b>	<b>Thomson Legal and Regulatory</b>
<b>Ince &amp; Co</b>	<b>White &amp; Case</b>

## 8 Administration of the ILBF

The ILBF is run by an Operating Committee comprised of volunteers from the following organisations and firms whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged:

<b>3 Verulam Buildings</b>	<b>The Law Society</b>
<b>The Bar Council</b>	<b>LexisNexis</b>
<b>Clifford Chance</b>	<b>Linklaters</b>
<b>The College of Law, Guildford</b>	<b>Sweet and Maxwell</b>
<b>The International Bar Association</b>	