

Syracuse University  
**College of Law**



**IMPUNITY  
WATCH**

## 2010 Desk Reporters Write-on Competition Information Packet



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## What is *Impunity Watch*?

*Impunity Watch* provides unbiased, objective reporting on impunity issues throughout the world. *IW* aims to expose and examine human rights and impunity issues from both a grassroots as well as an academic perspective.

The goal of *IW*'s web-based presence is to immediately alert the world to impunity issues as they arise and to provide open access to thoughtful and cutting-edge academic debate about impunity issues.

*Impunity Watch* was created through the efforts of a dedicated group of students and Professor David Crane. The website was launched in October 2007 during a special ceremony held in the atrium of the Syracuse University Barclay Law Library. Henry T. King, former Nuremberg prosecutor, attended the ceremony. *IW*'s staff has now grown to over 50 active law student members.

*IW* participates in events such as the International Humanitarian Law Dialogs and works with other organizations such as the Iranian Human Rights Documentation Center, NGOs, government officials (including U.S. State and Defense Department leaders), international lawyers (including Serge Brammertz and Luis Moreno-Ocampo) and persons around the world regularly visit the *IW* website. *IW*'s newsfeed has over 200 daily subscribers, and the website has been read in 212 different countries and territories.

As a professional organization, we have high standards. Accurate, unbiased, and objective reporting requires an in-depth knowledge of specific regions of the world. We hold ourselves responsible for knowing about a region's key political players, differences in beliefs between the majority and minority populations, and current developments. All members of the staff are dedicated to doing excellent, timely work.

**Join us in the fight against impunity.**

**<http://www.impunitywatch.com>**

Please note: *IW* is currently transitioning from [www.impunitywatch.net](http://www.impunitywatch.net)

## What is “impunity”?

In a report presented to the Commission on Human Rights<sup>1</sup>, impunity has been defined as:

the impossibility, de jure or de facto, of bringing the perpetrators of violations to account - whether in criminal, civil, administrative or disciplinary proceedings - since they are not subject to any inquiry that might lead to their being accused, arrested, tried, and if found guilty, sentenced to appropriate penalties, and to making reparations to their victims.

Impunity arises from a failure by States:

- to meet their obligations to investigate violations;
- to take appropriate measures in respect of their perpetrators, particularly in the area of justice, by ensuring that those suspected of criminal responsibility are prosecuted, tried and duly punished;
- to provide victims with effective remedies and to ensure that they receive reparation for the injuries suffered;
- to ensure the inalienable right to know the truth about violations; and
- to take other necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of violations.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission on Human Rights, Report of the independent expert to update the Set of principles to combat impunity (Diane Orentlicher) E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1 (Feb. 8, 2005). *See generally* OHCHR, Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (2003).

# Staff Position Descriptions

## REPORTERS

IW Desk Reporters research and write continuously on assigned regional area. Each Reporter must submit a minimum of two articles per week of approximately 350 words on relevant current events or impunity issues in their region. Reporters forward their reports to Senior Desk Officers for review. Weekly briefs may also be required for full coverage of breaking news in the different regions. Reporters must stay abreast of current international events. Reporters are welcomed to maintain contacts with reporters in the field if possible.

Additionally, reporters must complete two office hours per week, attend monthly IW general meetings, and attend elections during the spring semester. Reporters are also welcomed and invited to participate in other *IW* events, such as the annual IW symposium, guest speakers, and off-campus events and projects with Professor Crane.

Reporters exhibiting talent and dedication will be chosen to publish articles in the IMPUNITY WATCH ANNUAL REVIEW.

**Time commitment: between 3-8 hours/week.**

## ASSOCIATE ARTICLES EDITORS

Complete regular staff assignments and spot and address technical corrections necessary for adequate public viewing. Submit final edits on article to their respective Senior Articles Editor for publication and uploading onto *Impunity Watch*. Report to your particular Senior Articles Editor and attend meetings as designated by Senior Articles Editors. Complete two office hours per week. **Time commitment: between 3-8 hours/week.**

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS

Constantly monitor *Impunity Watch* for appropriate comments. Guidelines for what signifies appropriate comments will be established the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and Senior Desk Officers. Work on the technical side of the blog under the direction of the Technical Director. The Technical Director will designate responsibilities. Complete two office hours per week. **Time commitment: between 2-5 hours/week**

# 2010 Desk Reporter and Associate Articles Editor Write-On Competition Policy and Procedures

Applicants for the Reporter position must participate in the write-on competition. The procedure for the 2010 Reporter write-on competition is as follows:

1. Applicants will access the competition packet online through SUCOL's Student Life Blackboard site or online at [www.impunitywatch.com](http://www.impunitywatch.com) under the 'about' tab beginning Friday, April 23, 2010 at 12:00 noon. No hard copy will be available.
2. All hard-copy materials are **due by 5:30 pm on Friday, April 30, 2010** and will be submitted by placing the materials in the write-on box located inside the *Impunity Watch* office (White Hall Room 159). **All hard-copy materials should be placed in a large manila envelope bearing the Applicant's Syracuse University Identification Number.**

**Each page submitted in your envelope must be marked with your SU ID # in the upper left corner.** Do not submit any materials with identifying information (such as your name).

3. Each Applicant will compose and submit a mock IW report as follows:
  - a. The packet will contain four news reports. **Applicants should compose a news story no greater than 350 words in length based on the reports provided.** No further research is necessary or expected. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate Applicants' ability to compose an IW news story. Please see [www.impunitywatch.com](http://www.impunitywatch.com) for examples of IW reporting.
  - b. The Applicant's report must have a title in addition to the story. The news story formatting shall be as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins. The news story must be marked with the Applicant's SUID #.
  - c. Applicants shall submit 10 copies of their news story, ***in addition to all other required 2009 IW write-on materials***, in the Applicant's large manila envelope.
4. Applicants will submit 10 copies of their ILCR Memorandum or Appellate Brief.
5. Applicants will submit a letter of interest indicating:
  - a. Applicant's interest in the Desk Reporter position or in the Associate Articles Editor position.
  - b. Any experience relevant to the Desk Reporter position, or Associate Articles Editor Position (e.g., editing, writing, journalism, undergraduate coursework, international law, foreign language skills).

- c. Preferred regional desk(s) (Options: Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Oceania, North America, South America).
6. Applicants will submit a resume. Please do not include law class rank, law GPA or similar grade-based information. Please redact your name, and write your SU ID # on your resume.
7. Applicants will submit an index card, **placed in a sealed envelope with Applicant's SUID # on outside**, with the following information about the Applicant:
  - a. Syracuse University Identification Number #;
  - b. Full name;
  - c. Preferred name (nickname, etc.);
  - d. **Syracuse University** E-mail address (DO NOT submit non-SU email address);
  - e. Telephone number;
  - f. Local address;
  - g. Summer address, if known.Please note, information for (a) is used for identification purposes only, and will not be retained by the Journal.
8. The IW Editor-in-Chief will contact selected Reporters on Friday, May 7, 2010.
9. 2010 Reporters will begin reporting for an IW regional desk on May 17, 2010.
10. 2010 Associate Articles Editors will be notified

Thank you for your application. We wish you the best of luck!

Questions? Contact:

Ann Flower Seyse, Editor-in-Chief  
[aesyse@syr.edu](mailto:aesyse@syr.edu)  
(518) 339- 0206

Sovereign Hager, Managing Editor, News  
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Ryan Cole, Managing Editor Journal  
[Rcole1486@gmail.com](mailto:Rcole1486@gmail.com)

## **Applicant Checklist**

*Your envelope should contain the following pages, each with you SU ID in the upper left corner:*

- 10 copies of your news report (see ¶ 3, above)
- 10 Copies of your ILCR Memorandum or Appellate Brief
- Letter of Interest (see ¶ 5, above)
- Resume (see ¶ 6, above)
- Sealed envelope containing Applicant information index card (see ¶ 7, above)

**Application due by 5:30 pm on Friday, April 30, 2010 to Impunity Watch office, White Hall Room 159.**

## News Reports: #1

Source: <http://business.maktoob.com/20090000442446/0/PrintPage.htm>

# UAE still using child jockeys -rights group

Mar 04, 2010 at 07:48

## Anti-Slavery International says has photos of boys apparently as young as 10 at Feb race in Abu Dhabi -media.

DUBAI - Boys apparently as young as 10 are being used as jockeys in camel races in the UAE despite the practice being banned for years, international media reported on Thursday, citing a rights group.

Associated Press reported that Anti-Slavery International has photos of boys only 10 years old at a race held last month in Abu Dhabi, the UAE's capital.

UK daily Financial Times reported that the boys, who spoke South Asian languages, came from the Indian sub-continent.

The UAE in January said it had closed the chapter on an unsavoury past with the last payment to compensate hundreds of child camel jockeys who were brought to the country from Pakistan.

Thousands of children from poor countries were brought to the UAE to be used as jockeys in popular camel races before protests by human rights activists forced it to abandon the practice in 2005.

Lightweight robots are now used as camel jockeys.

Associated Press reported that representatives of London-based Anti-Slavery International attended the Feb 9 racing event in Abu Dhabi, where several boys told the group they had been racing for five years.

Children interviewed by the group spoke Bengali, Urdu and Hindi, Anti-Slavery said in a statement, adding that "many appeared to be South Asian and a minority Sudanese".

Emirati officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday, the news agency reported.

However, unidentified officials who spoke with Anti-Slavery, said no laws had been broken. They said the boys were Emiratis racing with their parents' consent.

The officials denied the boys were trafficked, adding that "soft" sand and cutting the race to three kilometres from 12 had made racing safer.

Catherine Turner, Anti-Slavery International's Child Labor program coordinator, said the use of children as jockeys "breaks international laws that protect those under 18 from dangerous work no matter what country they are from".

She added: "Soft sand will not prevent a 10-year-old child racing at up to 50 kilometers an hour from seriously hurting themselves or worse if they fall."

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## News Reports: #2

Source: <http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fluid=NzOxMDU4Me%3D%3D>

March 3, 2010

UAE defies ban on child camel jockeys

By Paul Peachey

children as young as 10 are working as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates despite a law banning underage riders, new photos reveal.

The youngsters competed in a festival last month racing at speeds of up to 30mph around a track in Abu Dhabi, according to pressure group Anti-Slavery International.

Observers from the organisation saw one child fall from a camel and narrowly escape being trampled at the Sweihan race track. Their pictures show children with badly fitting hats falling over their eyes at an event attended by dignitaries and uniformed police officers.

In 2005, after pressure from campaigners, the UAE banned under-18s from the sport. Youngsters had been killed or hurt, suffering head and spinal injuries and damaged genitals. Under the law, the use of children as jockeys is punishable by up to three years in prison and fines.

Before the ban, there were up to 3,000 child jockeys in the UAE, many of them trafficked from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan and Mauritania, but only about 1,000 were returned home under a repatriation scheme.

Catherine Turner, a child labour expert at Anti-Slavery International, said anecdotal evidence suggested that fewer child jockeys had been racing since the ban and the underage jockeys were older than before. Young riders are favoured because they are light.

Anti-Slavery's observers openly photographed abuses at the course. They spoke to children at the event who said they were from the UAE, but their appearance and the languages they used aroused suspicion.

"We are concerned that the fact the race was attended by the police and UAE dignitaries means that child protection is not being taken seriously." Nobody was available for comment at the UAE embassy in London.

## News Reports: #3

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g6OWcJqvUIzHknAkInCM1xZaiHmgD9E7AO5G2>

Rights group: Boy jockeys in Emirates camel races

By BARBARA SURK (AP) – 5 days ago

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Young boys are still abused as jockeys in camel races in the United Arab Emirates even though the practice has been banned in the Gulf country for years, an international rights group said Wednesday.

Anti-Slavery International said it has photographs showing boy jockeys — some apparently only 10 years old — at a 12-race competition held last month in the Emirates capital of Abu Dhabi.

Camel races are immensely popular in the Arab countries of the Gulf and for years young boys from Sudan and south Asia were prized as jockeys for their light weight and small size.

The Emirates nominally banned the use of children in 1993 and then in 2005 moved to actually replace them with robots, repatriating hundreds of boys to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan and Mauritania.

Representatives of the London-based group attended the Feb. 9 racing event at the Sweihan track in Abu Dhabi, however, and said they took photos of children "as young as 10-years-old" racing camels.

Several children told the group after the race they have been racing for five years. Others said they participated in at least three races a year.

Children interviewed by the group spoke Bengali, Urdu and Hindi, the statement said, adding that "many appeared to be South Asian and a minority Sudanese."

Emirati officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Unidentified officials that spoke with the group, however, maintained that no laws had been broken and the jockeys were Emiratis racing with their parents' consent. They denied children were trafficked and said "soft" sand and the reduction of the race from 12 kilometers to three had made racing safer.

The use of children as jockeys in camel races "breaks international laws that protect those under 18 from dangerous work no matter what country they are from," Catherine Turner, Anti-Slavery International's Child Labor program coordinator said.

"Soft sand will not prevent a 10-year-old child racing at up to 50 kilometers an hour from seriously hurting themselves or worse if they fall," she added.

The Emirates recently set up a program with UNICEF to reunite the former boy jockeys with their families and has provided them with a range of social and educational services in their home countries. It has also set up a compensation fund.

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## News Reports: #4

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/UnitedArabEmirates/7356558/Races-in-United-Arab-Emirates-breaking-ban-on-child-camel-jockeys.html>

# Races in United Arab Emirates 'breaking ban on child camel jockeys'

A law banning children from working as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates is being flouted, photographs taken by an anti-slavery lobby group show.



Published: 8:22AM GMT 03 Mar 2010

Last year Asian children sold into slavery as camel jockeys were paid compensation by the United Arab Emirates  
Photo: AFP

Children as young as 10 were seen competing in a festival in Abu Dhabi last month, in which they raced at speeds of up to 30mph, Anti-Slavery International claims.  
Witnesses at the festival allegedly saw a child fall off a camel and on to the ground, narrowly escaping injury.

The images, which were taken openly at the event, also allegedly depicted children riding with badly fitting hats, the Independent reports. The festival was attended by dignitaries and uniformed police officers.

Last year Asian children sold into slavery as camel jockeys were paid compensation by the United Arab Emirates for the abuse and injuries they suffered.  
Officials travelled to Bangladesh where they made payments to 879 former child camel jockeys, many of whom are now adults but still suffer from injuries acquired when they were forced to race.

In 2005, after pressure from campaigners, the UAE banned under-18s from the sport.  
Before the ban, there were up to 3,000 child jockeys in the UAE. Anti-Slavery International said the children at the festival said they were from Abu Dhabi, but that their appearance made observers suspicious.

For years thousands of children from Pakistan and Bangladesh, some as young as three, were sold by poor families to human traffickers, who passed them on to camel racers in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, where the sport is very popular. The owners preferred young children as jockeys because they believed their screams made the camels run faster.

According to children's rights campaigners, many of the boys fell while racing at high speeds and suffered serious injuries and even permanent disabilities. Some were trampled to death by other camels after falling off their mounts.