

TITLE <b>Human Rights Fund for Africa</b>		FUNDS <b>Selected Development Activities</b>	PROPOSED OBLIGATION (In thousands of dollars)		
NUMBER Various	NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	PRIOR REFERENCE None	FY 81 100	LIFE OF PROJECT Continuing	
GRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOAN <input type="checkbox"/>		INITIAL OBLIGATION FY 1979	ESTIMATED FINAL OBLIGATION FY Continuing	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF PROJECT FY Continuing

**Purpose:** The project purpose is to promote observance of civil and political rights. Civil and political rights are identified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among the civil/political rights are those involving freedom from torture or cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment; freedom of expression, association, religion, and the press; the right to follow one's cultural traditions; and freedom of movement and residence.

**Background and Progress to Date:** The program was initiated in FY 79 and funded projects in 12 African countries, including those funds provided under the Sahel Development Program. The average grant was for \$10,000, but an exception was made for the Dakar Institute for Human Rights Education. That grant was treated as a regional grant, because the Institute, Africa's first for the promotion of human rights, serves the entire Francophone community of Africa. The grant provided the Secretariat which materials to enable it to begin operating, and also funded the first seminars organized by the Institute.

**Additional projects in FY 79** were providing Human Rights materials to a new law school for civil servants in Guinea-Bissau and a three-month law graduate course on cooperative human rights problems, at the University of Togo.

The Human Rights Fund enables the U.S. Ambassadors to fund projects quickly to respond to host country initiatives for promoting civil and political rights. By beginning with relatively small grants, AID can fund "seed money" projects which will encourage host countries to develop and build upon already established activities.

**Host Country and Other Donors:** All African countries eligible for U.S. bilateral development assistance can participate. An important component is the self-help element, either financed

or in kind, in order to demonstrate local support, either government or private, for the activity. We hope as a result of these demonstration projects, it will encourage local financing.

**FY 81 Program:** In FY 81 \$300,000 is planned for human rights activities in approximately 30 African countries. Approved projects will establish dynamic, continuing activities for promoting civil and political rights.

**Major Outputs:** The overall output is the promotion of civil and political rights in the countries participating. The overall specific outputs are: increasing contact among those who are interested in human rights and development, increasing knowledge and information on human rights; developing interest in human rights, furthering advocacy, especially of minorities and disadvantaged groups; obtaining or maintaining human rights under development programs. Some specific examples of activities to be funded are seminars, conferences, and educational programs, local research or scholarship, training of those who want to encourage better human rights, assistance to local organizations which encourage better human rights observance, and ombudsman programs.

**A.I.D. Financed Inputs:** (\$ thousands)  
 FY 81  
 Other Costs: 100

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U.S. FINANCING (In thousands of dollars)				PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS OR AGENCIES
	Obligations	Expenditures	Unliquidated	
Through September 30, 1979	86	-	86	N/A
Estimated Fiscal Year 1980	300	150		
Estimated through September 30, 1980	386	150	236	
		Future Year Obligations	Estimated Total Cost	
Proposed Fiscal Year 1981	100	Continuing	Continuing	

*Ph...*

(2)

REQUEST FOR AND ADVICE OF ALLOTMENT

1. ALLOTTEE <u>Ambassador, Regional Projects</u>	2. COUNTRY <u>Africa Regional - Human Rights Fund for Africa (Ghana)</u>
3. FISCAL YEAR <u>1961</u>	4. NUMBER <u>2</u>
5. APPROPRIATION SYMBOL <u>72-111102L.6</u>	6. ALLOTMENT SYMBOL <u>146-59-641-00-75-11</u>

7. FUNCTION AND PURPOSE  
Selected Development Activities - Grants

8. REFERENCES  
Memo dtd 12/5/60 AF/I:Chanson to AFR/DP:JGovan

9. Previous Total \$10,000

10. Change +\$10,000

11. New Total \$20,000

12. LIMITATIONS

13. REMARKS  
Funds to be used for 641-9801, Human Rights Fund for Africa - Ghana, to provide legal aid for farmers.

Clearances: AFR/DP:GCauvin  
(AF/I:Chanson (Info))  
PPC/PDPR:MEak (Info)  
AFR Desk (Info)

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE ALLOTMENT ACTION REQUESTED ABOVE BE AUTHORIZED

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Title Chief, AFR/DP/PAB

APPROVAL

You are hereby authorized to incur, or to authorize the incurrence, of obligations within the indicated amounts and time periods for the purposes and under the conditions indicated on this advice. This authority is to be exercised in accordance with applicable orders, regulations and other directives, including those delegating or assigning authority to execute documents resulting in obligations of funds.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, AID:

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ CHIEF, FUNDS CONTROL DIVISION

eit/spc

Date Authorized 12-19-60

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INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

ACCRA 88764 01 OF 02 310948Z  
ACTION AF-10

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ACCRA 88704 01 OF 02 310948Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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FOR AF/1

ABIDJAN PASS TO RLA

E.O. 12865: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, EAID, XA, GH  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS FUND FOR AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 180843; (B) STATE 093457; (C) ACCRA 5347  
(D) AID A-73 (3/15/79)

1. SUMMARY. MISSION PROPOSES A HUMAN RIGHTS FUND PROJECT FOR GHANA UNDER PURVIEW OF DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA-LEGON. THE PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE LEGAL AID FOR FARMERS IN SELECTED REGIONS COVERING, INTER ALIA, LAND TENURE SYSTEM, SECURITY OF TITLE TO LAND, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT, CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION TO MAKE FARM CREDIT MORE EASILY OBTAINABLE, AND DEBT MANAGEMENT. MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF LAW WILL ORGANIZE WORKSHOPS FOR SENIOR LAW STUDENTS ON HOW TO ASSIST FARMERS IN ABOVE COMPLEXITIES OF LAW, AND THEN SEND THEM TO SELECTED REGIONS UNDER SUPERVISION OF SELECTED FACULTY. SENIOR LAW STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE REPORTS ON ALL CASES OF INSECURE LAND TITLES, AS WELL AS CASE SUMMARIES ON PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, ISSUES INVOLVED, SOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED, AND RESULTS ACHIEVED OR ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER NEGOTIATING WITH A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FUND FOR AFRICA, (DELAYED SOMEWHAT BY RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN GHANA) WE THINK WE HAVE A PRACTICAL PROJECT THAT WILL MEET THE DESIRED CRITERIA. THE PROJECT, A DESCRIPTION OF WHICH FOLLOWS, WOULD BE UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA-LEGON.

3. (A) PROJECT TITLE: LEGAL AID FOR THE FARMER.  
(B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (1) FOR SOME TIME NOW, AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT BASE FOR GHANA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING. THE MATTER HAS ENGAGED THE SERIOUS ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS; A NUMBER OF SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS, INVOLVING MAINLY AGRICULTURISTS, HAVE DEALT WITH THE PROBLEM OF INCREASED YIELD AND HARVESTING METHODS. LITTLE ATTENTION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE LEGAL EDUCATION OF THE FARMER. (2) VARIOUS SCHEMES OF LEGAL AID FOR THE POOR IN GHANA HAVE BEEN MOOTED AND DISCUSSED. ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO A CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF LAW, BENCH AND BAR EXHAUSTIVELY DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR A LEGAL AID SCHEME AND MODALITIES FOR SUCH A PROJECT. ACCORDING TO THE LAW FACULTY IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE SCHEME WOULD BE INTRODUCED WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. IT DID NOT HAPPEN. (3) THE LAW FACULTY BELIEVES THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GHANA CAN BE WELL SERVED BY PROVIDING AID IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IDENTIFIABLE UNDERPRIVILEGED CLASSES NEED ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE

EFFECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY IN THE OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS IN WHICH THEY LIVE. THE BULK OF THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN FARMING AND FISHING IN GHANA BELONG TO ONE SUCH UNDERPRIVILEGED CLASS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO WITH COCOA FARMERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE PEASANT FARMERS WORKING ON OTHER PEOPLE'S LANDS AND FARMS. SUCH FARMERS ARE GENERALLY ILLITERATE, AND IGNORANT OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF LAWS RELATING TO THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM, SECURITY OF TITLE TO LAND, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT. THEY ARE ALSO GENERALLY TOO POOR TO BE IN A POSITION TO AFFORD THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL FEES THAT ATTORNEYS CHARGE FOR WORK RELATING TO THESE MATTERS. BEARING IN MIND THAT THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN GHANA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS PIVOTAL AND THAT COCOA IS THE MAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OF THE COUNTRY, THE NEED TO RESOLVE QUICKLY SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS FOR THE FARMERS BECOMES SELF-EVIDENT. IN SUM, COMPLEX LAND OWNERSHIP LAWS BREED LEGAL DISPUTES AND TRADITIONALLY HAVE ENABLED THE POWERFUL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE POOR. (4) THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONSIDERATIONS ARGUE FOR A SYSTEMATIC LEGAL AID PROGRAM WHICH AIMS NOT ONLY AT PROVIDING INEXPENSIVE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR FARMERS, BUT ALSO AT BRINGING THE LAW TO THE DOORSTEPS OF THESE FARMERS. SUCH A PROGRAM SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE A SYSTEMATIC AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF THE FARMERS AS TO THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO ASSURE THEM MORE EQUITY FROM THE SYSTEM. IN THIS WAY THE UNSAVORY FACTORS, WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT FARMERS AND DISCOURAGE PEOPLE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE WANT TO ENGAGE IN FARMING FROM TAKING THE STEP, ARE LIKELY TO BE REMOVED OR AT LEAST THE SITUATION WOULD BE IMPROVED. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR GHANA'S OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF AGRICULTURE BE FULLY RECOGNIZED. SUCH RECOGNITION SHOULD LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY INPUTS THAT WILL HELP ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SOUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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INFO OCT-31 ADE-30 HA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 CMS-01 SP-02  
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(5) ACCORDINGLY IT IS PROPOSED THAT A LEGAL AID PRO-GRAM ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED ABOVE BE ESTABLISHED. TWO OR THREE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA-LEGON, WOULD ORGANIZE AND ADMINISTER THE PROJECT UNDER PROJECT DIRECTION FROM THE USAID. IT WOULD INVOLVE ORGANIZING SMALL WORKSHOPS FOR SENIOR LAW STUDENTS DURING THEIR VACATION TIME, AND THEN SENDING THEM TO ELECTED VILLAGES WITH AREA SUPERVISORS TO DISCUSS BASIC LAND LAW AND LANDLORD/TENANT PROBLEMS WITH, AND EXPLAINING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO, SMALL FARMERS AND GROUPS OF SMALL FARMERS. THE FIELD WORKERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO NOTE ALL CASES OF INSECURE TITLES TO LAND ON WHICH A FARMER IS ALREADY FARMING OR INTENDS TO FARM. FIELD WORKERS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PREPARE CASE SUMMARIES DESCRIBING PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED, ISSUES INVOLVED, SOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED, ANY INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED OR ANTICIPATED. AS PART OF THE PROJECT FARMERS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE PROPER TENANCY ARRANGEMENTS OR GRANTS, ETC. OTHER SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES DURING THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT ARE: (A) ORIENTING FARMERS, PARTICULARLY CROCO FARMERS, IN DEBT MANAGEMENT. THIS WILL REQUIRE INVOLVEMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF CHIEFTAINCY VIA EITHER THE REGIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS OR THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS OR BOTH; AND (B) SEEK LEGISLATIVE CHANGE TO PROTECT THE FARMER FROM EXPLOITATION BY EITHER BANKS OR "MONEY LENDERS". IF SUCCESSFUL, THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA WOULD NO DOUBT BECOME INTERESTED IN SUCH A PROJECT BECAUSE IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OTHER ONGOING EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. (6) A PILOT PROJECT IS PROPOSED INITIALLY. THIS MEANS THE PROJECT WOULD BE LAUNCHED IN NOT MORE THAN TWO REGIONS OF GHANA. DEPENDING ON IMPACT AND LESSONS LEARNED, IT WOULD THEN BE GRADUALLY EXTENDED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

4. PROJECT MANAGER. PROFESSOR SAM O. GYANDOH,  
PROFESSOR OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA-LEGON.  
HOLMES

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*Ghana*

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FY 81 Human Rights Fund, to date

Benin:	<del>FY 80 cost overrun</del> <i>travel expense</i>	\$ 2,000
Ghana:	Legal assistance for farmers	10,000
Kenya:	(a) Travel and per diem for three East African lawyers to attend Inter-African Union of Lawyers follow-up meeting in Nairobi	3,100
	(b) Travel/Study of High Court Justice Z.R. Chesoni	12,500
Sudan:	Research materials for Sudanese Bar Association	
Tanzania:	FY 80-81 Academic expenses for a degree candidate studying the role of human rights in international relations	12,650
Uganda:	Election material	\$150,000
Zaire:	Conference on Fundamental Rights of Working Women sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the National Workers Association	10,000