

Media update – Durban Review Conference:

Ahead of the conference IDSN, in cooperation with Human Rights Watch, sent out a [Press Advisory and a Press Kit](#) to key International media. The advisory and press kit alerted journalists to the issue as well as to the Press Conference on Caste Discrimination and the Durban Review Conference, which we had organized alongside LWF, HRW, Pax Romana, NCDHR, IMADR and Forum Asia, and the many other Dalit solidarity events and side events in Geneva last week. The Press Release: [UN Racism Conference fails to address caste-based discrimination affecting 260 million people](#), was released jointly by all co-organizers following the conference, and sent again to key international media and UN accredited journalists.

Following the press conference, we were contacted by a number of journalists and we arranged interviews with many of the Dalit representatives who had travelled to Geneva. Among the interested press were:

- Associated Press (AP – an International News Agency similar in size to Reuters), who have since [highlighted the problem of caste discrimination in one of its AP top stories](#) (at the end) from the conference and mentions caste discrimination in another of its top stories from the conference. The AP stories have been reprinted in hundreds of media outlets including key media such as: The Guardian (UK), MSNBC News, The Washington Post (US), The New York Times (US), USA today (US), Yahoo News, Fox News (US), Times of India etc.
- [Reuters Alertnet published the press release](#) on their website
- Ecumenical News International who did a [feature story on the issue](#) which has also circulated and has been adapted and reprinted by other large faith based media outlets
- Rai Television (Italian National Television) who interviewed Paul Divakar on camera at the UN
- Al Jazeera who did a long interview with Ganesh B.K. (DNF – Nepal) and with a representative from Human Rights Watch
- EFE – key Spanish news agency, which covered the issue, and has circulated to various Spanish media
- [Le Monde \(French National Paper\) brought an edited version of the article from Le Temps](#)
- Geo TV who did interviews with about 8 of the Dalit representatives in Geneva
- [An editorial comment in Times of India – Caste: Racism in all but name](#)

On the local news level, we worked together with NCDHR appointed local journalist Marie Martinez who [translated our press release into French](#) and made contacts to local Geneva based media with whom we arranged interviews and gave background information to. This has resulted in successful local media coverage with among others:

- [Le Temps brought a long feature article](#)
- Le Courrier brought an article
- Swiss press agency [Swissinfo](#) wrote an article
- Local television station [Leman Bleu](#) interviewed Paul Divakar live
- Ahead of the conference National Swiss television also brought coverage of the Dalit march in Geneva.

At EU level, Media agency Ampersand Global is distributing press releases and related information to key Brussels based media. In Denmark, two national newspapers have also picked up the topic.

On Friday (24/04/09) morning we released a new press release: [Human rights violations against 170 million people is not an “internal issue”](#): *In statements at the UN racism conference yesterday states and NGOs put caste discrimination on the agenda, while India objected.* This press release summed up the key developments on caste at the DRC.

Generally new articles and mentions keep ticking in, so this is all very positive.

Coverage in French language press – links:

TSR News	18.04.09	http://www.tsr.ch/tsr/index.html?siteSect=500000&channel=info#program=15;vid=10588912
Swissinfo	19.04.09	http://www.swissinfo.org/fre/recherche/Result.html?siteSect=882&ty=s&t&sid=10590631
Léman Bleu TV	22.04.09	http://www.lemanbleu.ch/leman_bleu_archive_flv.php?new=true&filename=naxoo/2009/4/22/2509-gvechaud_22-04-2009
Le Temps Ram Etwareea	23.04.09	http://www.letemps.ch/Page/Uuid/bdba1fda-2f83-11de-bbb9-6b3857fb092c/Les_intouchables_indiens_sont_les_oubli%C3%A9s_de_Durban_II
Le Monde	23.04.09	http://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2009/04/23/les-intouchables-indiens-sont-les-oublies-de-la-conference-sur-le-racisme-de-l-onu_1184685_3210.html
Le Temps Caroline Stevens	23.04.09	http://www.letemps.ch/Page/Uuid/6b32ac32-2f7e-11de-bbb9-6b3857fb092c/Castes_indiennes_le_mythe_tenace
Human Rights Tribune	24.04.09	http://www.humanrights-geneva.info/Exclus-de-Durban-II-les,4373
Swissinfo	24.04.09	http://www.swissinfo.org/fre/recherche/Result.html?siteSect=882&ty=s&t&sid=10613863
Rue 89	24.04.09	http://www.rue89.com/2009/04/24/retour-sur-durban-ii-la-lutte-contre-le-racisme-est-possible
Kipa/Apic	24.04.09	http://www.kipa-apic.ch/index.php?pw=&na=0,0,0,0,f&ki=194292
InfoSud website	24.04.09	http://www.infosud.org/spip/spip.php?article1545
Le Courrier	25.04.09	PDF