Seattle University School of Law
International Commission of Jurists
Summer Associate Position Report 2013

TO: Junsen A. Ohno, International Programs Administrator
FROM: Earl Sullivan, Associate, Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
RE: Summer 2013 International Commission of Jurists

Dates of Internship
Start: June 3, 2013
End: August 2, 2013

Supervisor:
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A survey of work at ICJ-Kenya:

I. General Office Dynamics

ICJ-Kenya is regarded as one of the premier legal organizations in Kenyan civil society. The office has 4 program areas: Human Rights Protection; Democratization; International Cooperation; and Access to Justice. Due to the interrelated nature of the programmatic areas, it is common for staff based in one program to support the work in others.

The office staff is comprised of program officers, assistant program officers and a mix of research assistants, associates and interns. The staff group is comprised of a diverse blend of men and women from different regions and is consistent with the diversity requirements, regarding gender and ethnicity, of the Kenyan Constitution.

It is also notable that Kenyan business is often conducted in a manner not entirely consistent with the western world so it is important to be adaptable, nonjudgmental, and ever sensitive to the nuances in cultural relations. While this is a general guiding principle, it may be most notable in areas such as timekeeping, the importance of greeting and socializing, and idiosyncratic usage of the English language. A visitor to the country would be well-advised to refrain from making value-based assessments of the culture and remind themselves that there is much to learn and a finite period of time to do so.

II. Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC)

As a summer associate in the Human Rights Protection programme with an interest in transitional justice, my trip was perfectly timed with the finalization of the TJRC Report. Overall, most of my work involved reading and interpreting the document and relevant laws; researching international best practices regarding other truth seeking commissions; engaging with other civil society organizations; acting as the rapporteur to the Kenyan Transitional Justice Network; drafting position papers, briefs and press releases as well as drafting letters to the Attorney General, Clerk of the National Assembly and the Clerk of the Senate.
III. Legislative Review

ICJ also monitors domestic laws and reform processes for conformity to international best practices and consistency with the 2010 Kenyan Constitution. In the furtherance of this aim I reviewed and researched the 2012 Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). In this process, I researched the relevant domestic and international legal instruments and issued an opinion as well as a draft report to the appropriate government institution.

Another piece of legislation I worked with was the police reform process (comprised of the National Police Service Amendment and the National Police Service Commission Amendment). In this capacity, after performing the relevant research and review, I attended meetings with other civil society members and governmental agencies in a consensus building process. The culmination of this effort was the police reform agenda moving forward to the National Assembly.

In and Around Kenya: What to Expect

I. Internship Preparation

A basic familiarity with Kenyan Constitution and history would prove invaluable, though is not required. The 2010 Constitution is available online and a familiarity with the historical injustices could be found by reviewing the shadow TJRC report done by ICPC (also available online). Depending on your programmatic area of interest a baseline understanding of international human rights law, humanitarian law or criminal law would also provide an important foundation to your work. Because much of your time will be spent researching, your level of background knowledge can be supplemented as needed, however, the more you know ahead of time the more you will be able to learn while on the ground. The following websites are helpful:

- TJRC http://www.tjrcKenya.org/
- Kenyan Law Reports http://kenyalaw.org/kenyalaw/klr_home/
- Kenyan Ex-pat site http://bit.ly/12F22b6

II. Logistics

It is best to contact Minnie Mangeli the office administrator for specifics regarding your placement, but be prepared to receive little guidelines and assistance. You will be expected, as a professional, to provide for your own logistical support (transportation, housing, food, etc.). However, while on work trips and when attending meetings around town the office regularly provides for taxis, and allows for a per-diem and meal stipend when appropriate. The summer schedule is flexible but ICJ would likely prefer you to work as long as is practicable, though 8-10 weeks is the norm.

The prices in Nairobi have been increasing for the last few years and many things are comparably priced to Seattle. Safety is very real consideration in Nairobi, and many non-Kenyans may be targeted for theft. Therefore, it is important to travel in groups or in reliable taxis when possible and especially after dark. You should also feel comfortable asking the ICJ staff for pointers on safety
and travel around the city as there are also areas which may be unwise to go to without a local guide. Because you will be on your own to procure housing, it is important to be realistic about your expectations for price and relative security. $300-$600 per month for your apartment or guest house rental is fairly common and it is not advisable to live anywhere without a 24 hour guard service. Further, living within walking distance to the office would be ideal, as the buses can be unreliable and dangerous and the taxis expensive.

III. Checklists

In addition, summer associates should do the following before departure:

- Purchase plane ticket.
- Obtain paperwork from Junsen.
- Locate adequate housing.
- Schedule an appointment with SU travel clinic and obtain medication (malaria medication is not necessary in Nairobi, although you may want to bring some for travel to the coast).
- Issue travel notifications to your bank.
- Register with the State Department.
- Bring a new $50USD bill for your visa at the Nairobi airport (and contact the embassy for updated visa information).
- Contact me personally, if possible for further questions.

Upon Arrival in Nairobi:

- Note the currency is Kenya Shillings (KSH) and be realistic about how much you need to have with you at all times.
- As of 2013, visas could be obtained upon arrival for $50 USD. This is a multiple entry visa and should be sufficient for your needs.
- Airport transportation can be tricky and overwhelming. Print a map and assume the cab driver will not understand it and have different road names than Google, so try to note relevant landmarks. If you are going to any normal hotel, your driver will likely know it. Agree on a price first, my standard practice was to offer half of whatever they initially quoted and end in the middle somewhere, but you can bargain at your comfort level. It is not rude at all, despite what one may try to lead you to believe. Look to pay less than $25USD for anywhere normal.
- ICJ-Kenya offices were located in Kilileshwa but the office may move within the next year. Locate the office online first, if possible, to orient yourself.
- There is WiFi and internet at most coffee shops and nicer restaurants.
- Most Ex-pats either live in Westlands, Parklands, Kilileshwa, Kilimani or Valle Arcade areas. Those areas are generally much safer than the Central District or outlying suburbs (though exceptions may be found in nicer areas like Karen). Because they are safer and nicer they cost more, but with safety there you pretty much get what you pay for. If you don’t find a place before you arrive arrange for a hotel/hostel and drive around with an Absolute Cab (a phone-based cab company ICJ uses).

Work at ICJ-Kenya

- Work attire is business wear. Men typically wear suits or collared shirts with sweaters. Ties are common and thus I would recommend bringing at least one suit and many ties. Fridays
are casual dress, which often means polo shirts and slacks. Women typically wear dress shirts and skirts, dresses, and some type of heels (while flats are kept on site for office work).

The work day begins at 8:00 or 8:30 and ends at 5:00 with tea available at 10:00 and 3:00. Typical Kenyan dishes are served for lunch from 1:00-2:00, which is available onsite for 1,000KSH per month. I found the office food to be a great deal but it may depend on your particular taste. The current office location had no viable alternatives near-by but lunch could be prepared beforehand and brought.