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**SUNSGLOW Board Celebrates
The 70th International Human Rights Day**

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Tragedies have a way of compensating with the opposite. From the Holocaust, we got Nuremberg (1945). We got a theory. The theory of personal responsibility for obeying an order that harms others without a cause. And from Nuremberg, we got The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). And in short order, we got the term “genocide” coined by Raphael Lemkin for whom I was an Assistant.

The lesson is invoked today by the SUNSGLOW community on the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration. Majestic in its simplicity; humble in its origin; a mere Declaration by a General Assembly whose resolutions have no enforcement mechanism.

The lesson is that the human person, without any distinction, have rights across all geographies and other boundaries. That human person is sovereign by mere birth into this world. Respecting that sovereignty is what gives the State, large and small, its sovereignty. Males and females are equal, and the law, both domestic and international, is a guarantor.

Human rights mothered the law; made it grow; created new vehicles, including tribunals; and ultimately universal jurisdiction. If one commits a war crime or violates with abandon the inherent right to live and to move and to believe, no boundary can shield you. If your courts cannot act, the world shall substitute. The edifice of international humanitarian intervention emerged from the original adobe of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As international law, a form of the Rule of Law to which SUNSGLOW is dedicated, flourished. Newer concepts and institutions were formed to ensure that that legal evolution is not impeded.

I remember when human rights at the UN in the 40th and 50th were only social issues. Then came the year of Africa in the 60th. Colonial peoples were set free, and the UN membership tripled from 51 in San Francisco, to 150, by the 70s.

And out of that historic evolution, not only the individual but the State itself, was a beneficiary. Saddam Hussein was vanquished in the early 90s for invading Kuwait. Sovereignty, in that case, was the vehicle for independence.

And from the League of Nations of the 20s to the UN in the 40s, the march of humanity under the banner of human rights proceeded.

So from a human rights committee at the UN, to a full Human Rights Council in Geneva in the 20th century. And from multiple tribunals for ex-Yugoslavia and Rwanda, to a one court: the International Criminal Court, born through the Rome Statute of 1998.

The spirit of the architects of the Right to Self Determination from (President Woodrow Wilson) in 1917, and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Eleanor Roosevelt in 1948 in Paris) are with us today, celebrating. Today, America's withdrawal from the international community is a mere bump in the road soon to be bull-dozed off.

From 1948, 70 years ago today, the pulse of human rights kept on accelerating. The Geneva Conventions of 1949; the Genocide Convention; the two UN Conventions on civil and political rights, and on economic, social and cultural rights were the lighthouses helping the ship of humanity towards a safe harbor. Ultimately we developed the various anti-terrorist conventions. For when the colonial regimes evaporated, in walked the maniacal terrorist regimes, now fortunately decimated by broad international coalitions.

For the past 7 decades, the struggle for the Rule of Law has been largely through human rights. Though it has taken various forms, yet as we, whether national or international actors, stand today as witnesses to one important fact: The human person is sacred. His or her sanctity guarantees the sanctity of the inherited frontiers. Which in turn are ratified through membership of the UN family of organizations.

We shall not regress, in spite of some dark clouds which today appear in the sky of globalism. Our work here, as a SUNSGLOW community, is but one ray of light guiding this human caravan to its promising destination.