

Annual Report **2011**



«Direct support to local human rights activism!»



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Front page picture:

Ophelia Massaquoi and Theresa Brown
from the organisation Women Rights Watch,
during a visit to Open Bible High School
in Buchanan, Liberia.

All photos by NHRF, unless otherwise accredited.

Change Accountability
Human rights Mobilisation
Protection defenders
Empowerment Dignity
Demands



Members of a peer watch club at the Open Bible High School in Buchanan, Liberia.

Introduction by the Chair of the Board

BY MS. KRISTIN HØGDAHL, CHAIR OF THE BOARD DURING 2011,
NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2011 WAS AN eventful year for human rights activists across the world. Among the many significant events was the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and activists Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building. The award highlights the link between women's rights and peace and democracy, and gives further momentum to the implementation of the UN Security Council 1325 on women, peace and security. The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) particularly welcomes the award of the peace prize to Leymah Gbowee from Liberia, as it underscores the indispensable contribution of civil society in holding authorities accountable for the respect for women's rights.

THE NHRF IS PROUD to have supported the struggle for women's rights in Liberia since 1996, when the country was still suffering from a brutal civil war. Since then, the NHRF grantees in Liberia have been

working in the frontline of defense for human rights – sometimes under extremely adverse conditions – and have achieved major results such as the ratification of essential human rights conventions. In spite of significant improvements since the dark years of civil war, the human rights situation in Liberia remains challenging. Even with female political leadership, awareness of women's rights is still low in rural areas. Local human rights organisations still need support to ensure that Liberia stays on a positive path.

2011 WAS THE YEAR of the Arab spring, which represents a unique window of opportunity for proponents of human rights in North Africa and the Middle East. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the NHRF should examine ways to contribute positively to the processes of change in the region so that human rights are on the agenda of new regimes emerging in various countries. Because of the rapidly changing dynamics in many countries this will be a challenging task, but it is crucial that proactive

human rights organisations can count on international solidarity at this vital stage of political change.

IN MY LAST YEAR as the Chair of the Board, I have had the privilege to oversee the early implementation of the NHRF's first strategic plan (2011–2015), adopted by the Board in late 2010. The strategy, which incorporates several recommendations from the largely positive evaluation of the NHRF in 2009, has the overall strategic objective of «Increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support». The implementation of the strategy has commenced well, and I am confident that the NHRF will benefit from a long term strategic approach.

THE BOARD of the NHRF is proud to present this annual report, which highlights some of the achievements made by the various grantee organisations throughout the year. In my opinion, the report demonstrates that small scale support to local human rights organisations is



Kristin Høgdahl, Chair of the Board.

a highly effective approach in the struggle for the promotion and defense of human rights. We hope that you will agree.

FINALLY, I WOULD like to wish the entire NHRF family the best of luck in the coming years. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Board, and I leave the position confident that the NHRF is heading in the right direction.

Kristin Høgdahl
Kristin Høgdahl,
Chair of the Board.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2011

- 28 organisations in six countries received support
- New strategy plan for the period 2011–2015 launched
- New internet page launched – www.nhrf.no
- Fundraising strategy 2011–2015 launched
- Consultation process carried out, resulting in three new eligible countries
- Local consultant hired in Colombia. The NHRF now counts on consultants in all prioritised countries
- 4 country visits carried out, to India, Colombia, Pakistan and Liberia
- Participation in networks; the NHRF was included as a member in the Norwegian NGO forum for Human Rights; the Norwegian Forum 1325 on women peace and security; and continued its involvement in the Colombia forum.
- A platform for The Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network was prepared- the network will be launched in 2012

Executive summary

IN 2011, the NHRF launched a new multi-annual strategic plan which establishes a set of objectives for the period 2011–2015. The strategy covers areas such as project selection and follow-up, capacity building of grantees as well as internal administrative and financial issues for the NHRF. The overall objective for the strategy, which was adopted by the Board in March 2011, is «Increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support». The strategy is presented in detail on page four in this report.

During 2011, the NHRF assessed a total of 91 applications, of which 28 were granted support. This represents a decrease in the number of assessed applications, reflecting a recent change in policy to lower the secretariat's administrative burden. The secretariat no longer assesses applications from non-prioritised countries, with the exception of projects working for secure working conditions for human rights defenders or specific projects recommended by owner organisations or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This administrative relief has allowed the secretariat to spend more time on following up supported projects, maintaining a steady flow of communication with grantees, highlighting results achieved in NHRF's information work, dedicating more time to networking and working in a more coherent and strategic manner.

Of the 28 organisations that received support in 2011, 27 were from the five NHRF priority countries which comprise Colombia, India, Liberia, Pakistan and Peru. One grant was for a project focusing on secure working conditions for human rights defenders, which can be supported regardless of country of origin. 22 organisations received renewed support, while six organisations were supported for the first time.

Due to budget constraints, the NHRF has rejected several applicants despite the important nature of their work. When possible, the NHRF has tried to link these organisations to other donors. Alternative sources of funding for human rights organisations are scarce, however, with most funding schemes dedicated to development and humanitarian purposes.

The majority of the supported projects applied advocacy work for policy influence or improved implementation of existing policies. This reflects the strategy's objective to prioritise projects working for access to justice through political advocacy efforts and legal aid. In some contexts awareness raising remains a necessity and an important tool in human rights work. The NHRF supports several projects combining awareness raising and empowerment with advocacy work.

Looking ahead

In June, the Board adopted a new fundraisings strategy exploring ways for the NHRF to strengthen its financial base. The secretariat launched several fundraising efforts during the year. The ability to secure a stable financial foundation for the NHRF is decisive for the sustained ability of the NHRF to respond to and support vital human rights initiatives in the years to come.

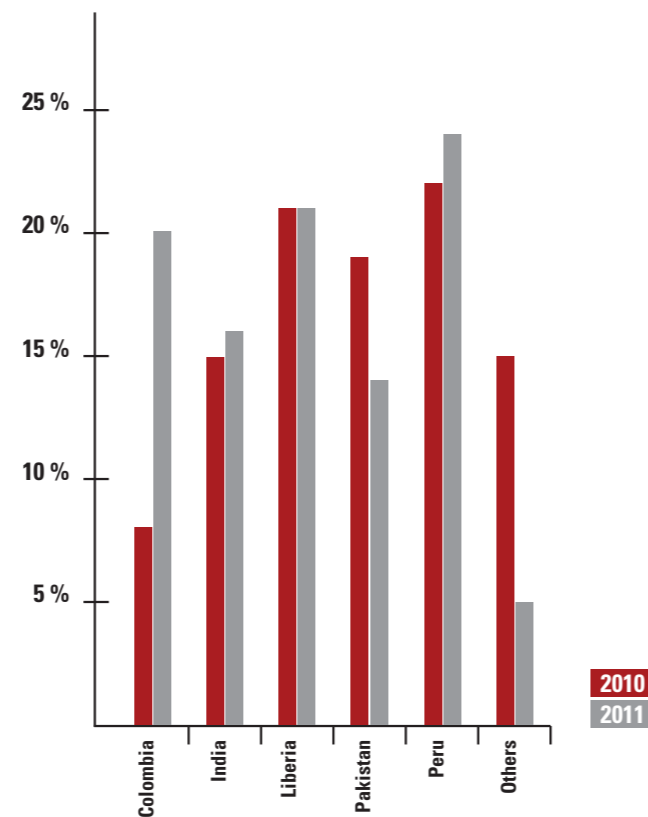


Figure: Distribution of grants in 2010 and 2011, where the main bulk was allocated to the five countries of priority.

During the year the Board also adopted a new set of criteria for the selection of prioritised countries. Based on these criteria, the secretariat initiated a broad consultation process to determine new countries eligible for support. Although relatively broad and thus allowing the NHRF to consider various countries, the new criteria put increased emphasis on the competence at the secretariat and possible synergies with the NHRF owner organisations.

During the consultation process, the NHRF received valuable input from owner organisations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Norwegian Embassies as well as academic institutions and scientists. Based on the contributions, the Board in December decided to include Mexico, Lebanon and Syria as eligible countries from 2012. The secretariat will visit Mexico and Lebanon in early 2012 with the intention of mapping the human rights situation and identifying how the NHRF can best contribute through support to local human rights organisations. ■

NHRF Strategy 2011–2015

IN 2011, the NHRF launched a five year strategic plan for the period 2011–2015. The main objective for the strategy period is «Increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support».

IN 2009, AN EXTERNAL evaluation of the NHRF was conducted by the Danish consultancy firm COWI. The evaluation was largely positive, and concluded that the majority of the NHRF grantees seem to have succeeded in getting the best out of small amounts of seed funding. Among the recommendations made by the evaluator was the need for more strategic thinking to guide NHRF operations. Consequently, in 2010 the Board adopted a five year strategic plan, which provides direction and establishes objectives and priorities for the NHRF in the period 2011–2015.

Main objective for the NHRF: Increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support

In order to achieve the overall objective, the following secondary objectives were set for the strategy period:

- Ensure a high level of accuracy in the selection of projects that apply political advocacy and a high level of quality in the work of the NHRF
- Increased capacity to carry out human rights work among grantee organisations
- Improved financial base for the NHRF for increased predictability and effectiveness
- Improved communication of profile and results achieved for increased visibility in the Norwegian rights community and Foreign Service
- Increased efforts to prevent corruption and mismanagement of funds

In line with the recommendations from the external evaluation, the Board has adopted more targeted geographical priorities. According to the strategy, the NHRF will direct the majority of funds to a selection of 3–5 prioritised countries. As of 2012, these include **Colombia, India, Liberia and Pakistan**. In order to ensure continued relevance and flexibility of the NHRF funding scheme, prioritised countries are periodically circulated. The strategy thus includes a set of criteria for the selection of new prioritised countries, which relate to the human rights situation in the country and the ability of the NHRF funding scheme to contribute to improve the situation. In addition, emphasis is given to the availability of country expertise in the NHRF or in Norwegian academic and rights communities.

IN ORDER TO enhance the ability of local organisations to carry out human rights work, the NHRF will increase efforts to build capacity in addition to financial support to grantees. The capacity building efforts focus specifically on the areas of organisational routines and financial management. Strengthening organisational routines and improving the quality of financial management will contribute to increased sustainability of grantees as well as the prevention of corruption and mismanagement of funds. The NHRF local consultants are instrumental in this work, as they conduct regular field visits to grantees and provide advice and counseling. Another central tool in the ca-



FOTO: JAKOB CARLSEN/DSN

Pakistan

capacity building efforts is the NHRF Annual Seminar for grantees, which are carried out in India, Liberia and Pakistan.

A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE financial base is a prerequisite for the NHRF's ability to operate with effectiveness and support important human rights initiatives. Accordingly, one of the objectives for the strategy period is to improve the financial base for the NHRF. Measures towards this end include attracting new owner organisations and explore alternative sources of funding.

ANOTHER CENTRAL OBJECTIVE in the strategy, which is also crucial to strengthen the NHRF financial base, is increased communication of profile and results achieved with NHRF support. Improving communication was among the recommendations from the 2009 external evaluation, and the NHRF has already made significant progress in this area. In 2011, a new website was launched (www.nhrf.no), which provides a continuously updated list of supported projects and periodically presents «human rights stories» to highlight important results. Other measures include the production of easily comprehensible annual reports with accessible information about the NHRF and periodic presentations of the NHRF's work to owner organisations.

THE LAST SECONDARY objective set for the strategy period is increased focus on efforts to prevent corruption and mismanagement of funds. The target group for the NHRF funding scheme is primarily small and medium-sized organisations operating in rural areas, often in politically sensitive contexts. These organisations are often characterised by weak administrative and financial systems, which entails the risk for corruption and mismanagement of funds. Based on its long experience from working with the target group, the NHRF employs a wide range of measures to mitigate this risk. Several of these are described in the strategy, and include the use of international references, field visits by local consultant and NHRF secretariat and internal audits of grantee organisations.

THE STRATEGY WAS launched in 2011, and the NHRF is well underway with its implementation. At the end of each year, the NHRF will review its performance in implementing the strategy, and adapt the strategy based on lessons learned during the year. ■



Leader of NHRF owner organisation Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, Berit Hagen Agøy (left), accompanied NHRF on their visit to India in 2011, as part of NHRF's efforts to include the owners in its work. Here with Mr. T. Ravi Kumar from FIAN Andra Pradesh.

Funding a difference

WHEN VISITING INDIA as a representative of the NHRF owner organisations, Berit Hagen Agøy met with nomads that were fortune tellers, circus acrobats and snake charmers who brought a cobra to greet her. What made the biggest impression on her, however, was the poor living conditions of these tribes and how they organised themselves and fought for better ones.

BY ANNE HELSETH

BERIT HAGEN AGØY is the secretary general of Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, one of six NHRF owner organizations. As part of NHRF's efforts to include these in its work, Agøy was invited to accompany executive director Sandra Petersen on her visit to the supported organisations in South India in 2011. She didn't think twice.

– Actually meeting people always does something to you that theoretical knowledge can't, she points out.

– Meeting dalits who in the midst of a miserable life situation, organises themselves and fight for better rights, made a big impression on me. It also gives you faith in the good in man despite all the evil that exists.

The deadlocked castes

During her five days in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, Agøy grew surprised with just how many challenges still exists in the country – in form of the caste system. Agøy describes the system as «a bigger reality than I was aware of», and with her background as an historian she points to Indian culture history, the colonial past, hindusim and social and economical structures all add up to a complex system of caste and

class, where even castes belonging to the same economical class are effectively segregated.

– What baffles a visitor is how the seemingly invisible caste system is a reality to the Indians. When asked how one knows which caste a person belongs to, a common answer is «you just know». Even if you change your name and move to a different city, it is hard to get away from your caste affiliation – in the eyes of others as well as your own, she explains.

Lawless landlessness

The dalits, the casteless, are amongst those suffering most from this system as they fall outside it entirely. The same goes for the nomads, adivasis and native tribes, all of which are categories that Agøy describes as somewhat overlapping and often referred to collectively as dalits. Why does that label have such bad connotations?

– All these groups are experiencing increasing poverty. In the tension between traditional lifestyle and modern economy, many of these groups lose not only land but also identity and culture, she says, and recounts meetings with nomads living in the slum and proudly showing off their skills in everything from



PHOTO: JAKOB CARLSEN/IDSN

Local human rights organisations reported that an acute problem for Dalits is the lack of land. Bonded labour and debt slavery affect millions of Dalits in the country.

snake-taming to acrobatics. She recalls feeling odd about seeing traditional culture detached from its origins and made into tourist entertainment, with particularly the adivasis living in degradation in city slums.

– The most acute problem for the dalits seems to be lack of land, Agøy concludes, and connects this both to local landowners as well as the acquisitions of multinational companies.

– Land is sold to international companies at low prices, and that includes land that the authorities could have distributed to dalits, as the legislation demands.

Fighting the implementation gap

The Indian legislation does in fact admit the dalits a number of special rights, but the people Agøy met in field lived in a world very different from that prescribed in the paragraphs.

– The reality is that neither the national state nor the local state authorities see to the implementation of the special provisions, Agøy states, and goes on to explain that Indian law provides different rights to what it defines as «scheduled castes» and «scheduled tribes», spurring a fight amongst the different groups to get the identities acknowledged.

– It was interesting to see how the partners of NHRF work to increase people's awareness of their own rights and to create solidarity across the groups, Agøy says. She speaks of a democracy that «obviously has its weaknesses», with the authorities unwilling to ensure the fulfillment of the rights of their citizens, and the human rights organisations are fighting continuously and against both the traditional structures of power and the

«Meeting dalits who organise themselves and fight for their rights, made a big impression on me»

BERIT HAGEN AGØY,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHURCH OF NORWAY COUNCIL ON
ECUMENICAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

economic globalisation for the acknowledgement of their rights.

– Still, experiencing human rights work in a democratic state was very educational. After all, the Indian human rights activists have access to the tools that come with a democracy, which they know to put to use. They are organised in several NGOs, have access to human rights expertise and an ability to mobilise the people. They are also determined that change must come from within.

Fixing demands to funds

That change could also be needed within some of the organisation, was one of the subjects during Agøy's, Petersen's and →



The nomadic people in TENT Society were eager to show Berit and the rest of the NHRF delegation their skills, including circus acrobatics, snake charming and fortune telling. The plastic bag to the right contains a cobra.

local NHRF consultant Paul's meetings with the different partner organisations.

– I was impressed with the balance act Sandra and Paul demonstrated in listening to and understanding the local needs, while at the same time challenging the partners based on our standards of documentation and achievement of objectives, Agøy, who is herself a former secretary of NHRF, says.

– I noticed that they were clearer about their expectations to the work of the organisations than what I am used to from the church. This might be related to our notion of the global church fellowship as a close siblinghood in which equality and reciprocity has been emphasised to a degree where we have toned down some of the mutual criticism, she ponders.

– The communication between NHRF and its partners was a useful reminder that good partners can endure challenging each other, she says, and continues praising:

– As an old teacher I also took delight in – and learnt from – the way Paul explained things and started meaningful debates.

Children of God – but which one?

Praise and the likes is of course something a church council leader has a particular eye for, and during the field visits she learned that a great percentage (some claim 90) of the dalits are Christian. Gandhi actually renamed the dalits «harijans», meaning children of God, and, although Hindus to begin with, the

lowest castes of India seems to have been appealed to by Christianity's and Islam's way of looking at man. The Christian dalits that Agøy met were reporting that the harassment they face is not due to their Christian faith, but to their dalit descent.

– Even in the church we can find elements of discrimination on the grounds of caste, says Agøy.

– We also heard criticism of how the churches do not challenge the caste system as such, but instead remedy the damage done through mercy ministries aimed at the poorest. Hinduist religious leaders seem to be even less popular, as they do little to counter the social and economical consequences of the caste system for the poor.

Grateful giver

Criticism and negativism is however not what Berit Hagen Agøy took with her in the luggage home from India. Amongst colorful Indian fabrics and spices was something carrying even more weight: gratefulness for having experienced firsthand what important work the owner organisations make possible through NHRF.

– Even in the most dilapidated of slums we were met with such hospitality, joy and courage that it made someone who comes from a wealthy country a little sad – but also glad that NHRF can actually contribute to real change for these people who fight for their rights. ■



Grassroots human rights groups and activists are essential in the promotion and protection of human rights in rural areas.



Results of NHRF activities in 2011

The NHRF is proud to be able to support local organisations working in the first line of defense for human rights, and regularly witness the excellent work performed by grantees through their reports, reports from local consultants and first-hand during field visits.

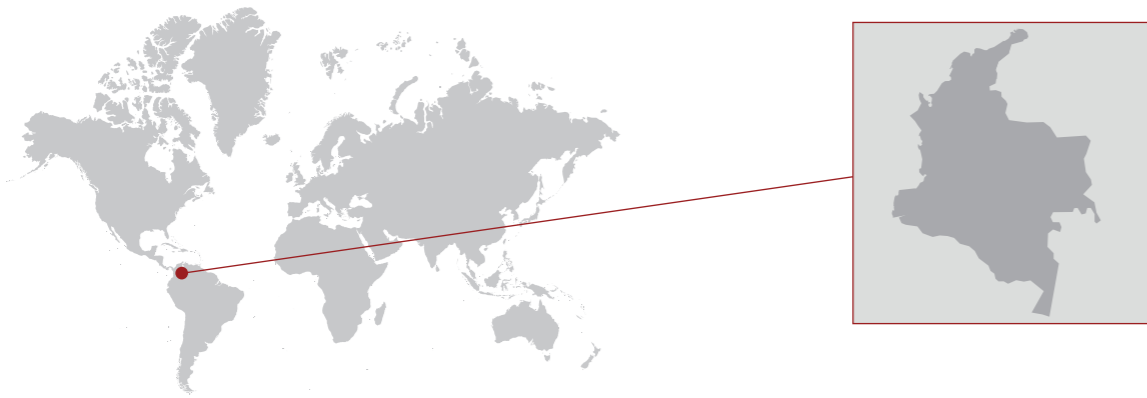
THE TARGET GROUP for the NHRF funding scheme is small and medium-sized organisations operating on a grassroots level. One of the characteristics of this target group is limited experience with project reporting. The experience of the NHRF is that most grantees carry out excellent work in the field, but have room for improvement in reporting on results achieved beyond the activities carried out. Consequently, the NHRF recently standardised its reporting procedures to ensure that grantees report on outcomes and impact of their work. The NHRF also works with grantee organisations in prioritised countries to increase capacity in this area.

WHEN URGENT ASSISTANCE to a human rights project is needed, the NHRF provides support for one single year. In these situations, grantee organisations are only able to report on immediate and short-term results (outputs). However, the NHRF recently extended the maximum number of grants to five in prioritised countries and three grants in eligible countries. This change in guidelines is intended to give grantees the opportunity for long-term work for sustainable results and lasting improvements of the human rights situation on local and national levels. To improve the documentation of results achieved, the NHRF in 2010 also initiated regular end-assessments of grantees who have received multiple grants.

THE NHRF RECOGNISES the importance of documenting results of the supported projects and the effect on the human rights situation on local and national levels. On the following pages, we

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present a few examples of the results achieved by organisations supported by the NHRF in 2011. We have tried to highlight a few examples from each country of priority. The grants have different time frames and the NHRF has not yet received final reports for all projects supported in 2011. The majority of the examples presented here therefore represent a cross-section of supported projects where at least part of the work was carried out during 2011. ➔



NHRF support to Colombia

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

The armed conflict in Colombia has lasted for more than 45 years, and the government's tough fight against the leftist guerrillas continues with serious human rights violations committed by both sides. Right wing paramilitary groups add to the insecurity, and there have been numerous revelations of cooperation between these groups and elements in the security forces. A flawed demobilisation process initiated in 2003 failed to disarm the paramilitary groups. All parties to the conflict are responsible for atrocities including extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, forced displacement, arbitrary detentions and torture. The situation of forced displacement is among the highest in the world, with figures varying from 3.3 to 5.9 million internally displaced people.

In 2010, Juan Manuel Santos was elected president of Colombia, appearing more committed to the respect of human

rights than his predecessor Álvaro Uribe. Santos initiated a law that seeks to compensate internally displaced people for their loss of land, dubbed Ley de Víctimas (Victim's Law), which came into effect in January 2012. Despite the positive change in rhetoric and the law initiative, the human rights situation remains alarming. In 2011, attacks against human rights defenders increased, and a large number of both unionists and persons involved in the processes of land restitution were murdered. The level of impunity remains high for crimes committed by all parties, including the security forces.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN COLOMBIA

In 2011, five human rights organisations received support from the NHRF, four of which had previously received support. Geographically, the NHRF supported organisations working in southern and western departments as well as in Bogotá and its environs. The thematic focus of the NHRF remains linked to the effects of the armed conflict, with main working areas being the monitoring of human rights violations, the fight against impunity and for safe working conditions for human rights defenders and the efforts to expose the truth and preserve the memory of victims of the armed conflict. Below are some examples of organisations that reported on projects in 2011.

Fight against impunity

The persistent high level of impunity is among the main obstacles to an end to the armed conflict in Colombia. One effective strategy applied by Colombian civil society organisations in the struggle against impunity is the careful documentation of human rights abuses and the compilation of a national database of human rights abuses. In 2011, the NHRF supported two organisations that are instrumental in providing data from a local level to the national database of human rights violations, namely the Southern Colombian Observatory of Human Rights (OBSURDH) and Fundación Guagua. The database, which is an important tool for advocacy on a national level, is the main comprehensive register of human rights abuses in Colombia and is increasingly cited in international reports and diplomatic documents.

In the period 2006–2010, the database was used to publicly expose and denounce the practice of *Falsos positivos*. This term refers to incidents of extrajudicial killings carried out by the military with the victims subsequently dressed in guerrilla uniforms and presented to the public as killed in combat, generating internal perks to soldiers and the impression that the military is advancing in the war. The practice was widespread in Colombia but largely unknown for the press and large parts of the public, allowing the perpetrators to continue the practice with impunity. With sustained efforts to raise awareness about the issue, some sections of the media and eventu-



Julia Victoria Mora Trujillo is the executive director of NHRF grantee Abogados Sin Fronteras, which works for secure working conditions for human rights defenders in Colombia.

ally a small number of Congressmen finally brought the issue onto the political agenda. The revelation of the practice resulted in a scandal that attracted international attention, and led to accusations and trials involving high ranking military officials. The scandal also led to a substantial reduction in the number of incidents. In 2011, NHRF grantee OBSURDH reported in their biannual publication *Voces y Silencios* that the number of extrajudicial killings in the southern Department of Huila decreased from 85 cases in 2007 to 5 cases in 2010. Despite this progress, incidents of falsos positivos continue to occur, and the level of impunity for perpetrators remains at unacceptable levels.

Protection of Human Rights Defenders

The security situation for human rights defenders remains precarious in Colombia. Individual attacks against defenders increased by 126 % in the first half of 2011, when compared to the same period in 2010. The NHRF in 2011 continued to support the work of the organisation Abogados Sin Fronteras (ASF) for improved working conditions for human rights defenders. With NHRF assistance, ASF has compiled a report with comprehensive information about attacks on human rights lawyers in the period 1990–2010. The report is based on systematic monitoring and documentation of incidents, and will be an important tool for advocacy efforts to improve the security situation for human rights defenders. The NHRF recently granted ASF with renewed support for a project that will employ the report in targeted advocacy efforts and to put focus on the situation of human rights lawyers. ■

THE NHRF IN COLOMBIA

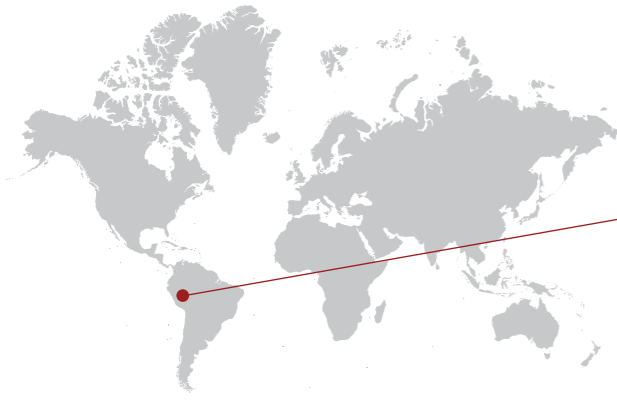
- Colombia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The geographical focus is organisations working outside of Bogotá
- The thematic focus is monitoring of human rights violations and threats against human rights defenders, work against impunity, and the rights of internally displaced persons
- Priority is given to projects involving advocacy work on local and national levels
- Elena Rey was hired as a consultant for the NHRF in Colombia in 2011

STATE IS A PARTY:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The number of internally displaced persons in Colombia is among the highest in the world. Many have settled in the surroundings of Cali, where NHRF grantee Fundación Guagua works for the rights of victims of the conflict.



NHRF support to Peru

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PERU

Peru is still recovering from the internal armed conflict (1980–2000) when insurgent movements and official armed forces both committed severe human rights abuses. Almost 70 000 people died or were subject to enforced disappearances during the conflict, the majority of the victims being from poor rural areas and primarily indigenous peoples. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission presented their report in 2003, but the process of holding those responsible for human rights violations accountable and providing compensation for the victims is progressing slowly.

Peru has one of the world's fastest growing economies, but persistent high levels of social and economic inequality denies large parts of the population to benefit from the economic boom. The number of social conflicts related to extraction of natural resources is increasing, occasionally resulting in the loss of life. A major challenge to human rights work is the continued poor security situation for human rights defenders. In September 2011, the Minister of Defense accused two prominent human rights organisations advocating for accountability for human rights violations during the armed conflict for trying to «destroy the armed forces».



Representatives from Centro de Desarrollo Humano meeting with the regional government in Puno in southeast Peru.

In June 2011, former army officer Ollanta Humala defeated Keiko Fujimori, daughter of imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori, in the second round of the Presidential elections. Humala, a left wing candidate, won support from large parts of Peru's poor and indigenous population, but was heavily criticised by human rights groups for declaring a state of emergency in the Cajamarca region in December 2011, following large protests related to planned gold mining activities.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN PERU

In 2011, five human rights organisations received support from the NHRF, all of which had previously received support. As the NHRF is phasing out the country, support to existing grantees is prioritised in order to maximise sustainability. Most grantees in Peru focus on the areas of access to justice and compensation for the victims of the armed conflict. These groups are particularly exposed to threats and intimidations, and NHRF grantees continued to experience serious incidents in 2011. The general elections in 2011 and the ensuing change in the political environment has produced mixed results for the work of NHRF grantees. While some report on improved working relations with the authorities, other lament broken promises and the lack of priority of compensation for the victims of the armed conflict under the new government.

Advocacy for the rights of disabled persons

In March 2011, the organisation Comisión Diocesana de Servicio Pastoral Social (CODISPAS) completed their third project supported by the NHRF for the rights of disabled persons in the Ancash region north of Lima. Building on previous progress in registration of persons with disabilities and strengthening of local organisations, CODISPAS has increased their efforts in advocacy for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. During the course of the project, CODISPAS successfully pressed for the establishment of municipal offices for the rights of disabled persons in four municipalities, with a mandate to map and address physical and mental barriers for disabled persons. In one municipality, the office is staffed by persons with disabilities. Another concrete result of the advocacy efforts is the adoption of a law providing for development programs specifically targeting persons with disabilities in one municipality. CODISPAS also facilitated cooperation between the municipality of Huarez and the national engineer University, which resulted in the establishment of capacitating courses for persons with visual impairment or blindness.

During the project period, CODISPAS continued their work to strengthen the organisations of people with disabilities in a regional network for disabled persons' rights. One major goal has been to build the capacity of local organisations to participate in processes of participative budgeting which determine



Comisión Diocesana de Servicio Pastoral Social mobilises for the rights of persons with disabilities.

the allocation of public resources. Simultaneously, CODISPAS has advocated with decision-makers for the inclusion of these organisations in participative budgeting and other spaces for policy influence on a local level. CODISPAS also continued their work to officially register persons with disabilities and provide them with identity cards that guarantee access to various social rights.

Compensation for the victims of the armed conflict

In late 2011, the organisation Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CEDEH) completed their fourth project with support from the NHRF. Established in 1998, CEDEH works for the rights of the victims of Peru's armed conflict and for compensation to the victims in the eastern region of Puno. CEDEH has previously been active in advocating for the elaboration of a regional plan for compensation for the victims, and received renewed support for their work to ensure the plan's implementation.

The October 2011 general elections offered both opportunities and challenges for the work of CEDEH. Taking advantage of the political campaign period, CEDEH applied pressure on various candidates to state their position on the regional plan for compensation. One of the candidates who had signed a pledge to implement the plan eventually won a seat in the regional government. Due to the lack of predictability and increased focus on the campaign for re-election, the outgoing regional government did not give priority to the issue of compensation during 2011. During an early meeting with the new administration, however, CEDEH received assurance of the administration's commitment to proceed with compensation in the form of health and education services for victims of the conflict.

During the project period, CEDEH has also continued their work with legal aid and registration and accreditation of victims of the armed conflict. Being registered as a victim of the conflict is significant, as it guarantees the access to various social rights. With more than 1200 new persons officially accredited as

victims of the armed conflict, CEDEH believes the registration process in Puno is now complete. Having acquired experience within this line of work, CEDEH was recently requested by the National Council for Reparations to assist in the continuing work with registration, localisation and communication with accredited victims. ■

THE NHRF IN PERU

- The NHRF has supported human rights projects in Peru since 1990
- Peru has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- In 2010, the Board decided to phase out Peru as a prioritised country from 2012
- Priority is given to organisations working on grass-roots level outside of Lima
- The thematic focus is the follow-up of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and projects working with Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Domestic Violence and Torture; and Discrimination, including of indigenous peoples

STATE IS A PARTY:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



NHRF support to Liberia

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LIBERIA

From 1979 to 2003, civil war claimed the lives of almost 150 000 people in Liberia. In 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf emerged as Africa's first elected female head of state. In October, Sirleaf was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, before being reelected President after two rounds of presidential elections. With significant international assistance, Liberia has stabilised politically, with two subsequent peaceful elections that despite some irregularities were largely praised by international observers. However, the general elections in 2011 created an atmosphere of tension, leading to incidents of political violence and opposition claims of electoral fraud.

The human rights situation has improved significantly in several areas since the end of the civil war in 2003. Still, the legacy of the war and a political system based on exclusion, continue to lead to human rights violations in the country. The weakness and inaccessibility of the Liberian judicial system and police, especially in rural areas, remain serious barriers for the realisation of human rights and inhibits the implementation of progressive laws such as the 2005 rape law. Various instruments have been put in place to address the issues of sexual and gen-

der based violence, including a task force and a special court dedicated to the issue. These operate under resource constraints, however, and their scope remains largely limited to Monrovia and its environs.

The level of corruption remains high and constitute another serious challenge to human rights work in the country. So far, Johnson-Sirleaf has not been able to deal with the issue in a convincing manner, and this will be among her principal tasks in the current presidential period. Widespread poverty and unemployment continue to deny most Liberians fulfilment of their economic and social rights, with the country ranking in 182nd place out of 187 countries in the 2011 UNDP Human Development Index.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN LIBERIA

In 2011, six human rights organisations received support from the NHRF, three of which had received support previously. The geographical focus is highly diverse, though all grantees operate outside of Monrovia. Thematically, most supported projects focus on the rights of women and youth, while some projects also address issues of labour rights and anti-torture. The following stories provide a few examples of what was achieved with NHRF assistance in 2011.

Against sexual exploitation and abuse in schools

In 2011, two grantees reported on progress made in their work against sexual exploitation and abuse of students in schools. The organisation Women Rights Watch (WORIWA) has carried out awareness campaigns and established peer watch clubs and redress committees in a total of 34 schools in Grand Bassa County, in order to monitor and report cases of human rights violations. In the last project period, 64 cases of abuse were registered and reported. The cases had various outcomes, including the dismissal of several teachers and one principal responsible for sexual harassment and abuse. During its visit to the country, the NHRF secretariat met with peer watch clubs in two schools around the city of Buchanan and discussed the situation with the student activists. The students confirmed that their activities in raising awareness about women and youth's rights combined with monitoring and reporting had led to a significant reduction in incidents of abuse. Other effects include a reduction in school girl pregnancies and breaking of the taboo of sex.

In the southern county of Sinoe, the organisation Self Help Development and Relief Agency (SHDRA) carries out similar work. Their efforts have produced notable results, such as the end of physical punishment in schools, the end of forced labour for students and the reimbursement of illegally collected school fees in public schools. In 2011, following SHDRA and other organisations' persistent advocacy work targeting legislators, a



Women Rights Watch staff at the Buchanan office.



Facilitator Oscar Bloh and director of grantee NIPO, Roseline Richards, during the NHRF seminar in Monrovia in December 2011. The topic for the seminar was «Human Rights Approaches and Strategies».

human rights component was officially included in the national curriculum for elementary, junior and high school levels. While this achievement is the result of a campaign involving several actors, the contribution of SHDRA was an important one and testifies to the potential of local grantees to influence national policy through strategic advocacy work.

Ending female genital mutilation

Last year, the organisation Youth Care reported on their work to prevent the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), which remains a very sensitive issue despite its high prevalence throughout the country. FGM is commonly carried out as part of the rituals of the Sande secret society, which is a deep-rooted society with a long history and presence in large parts of Liberia. Parts of the Sande rituals are seriously detrimental to women's rights, such as placing young girls in special schools for periods for up to three years, where they are circumcised and tutored in traditional female tasks such as household, entertaining and submission.

Through a thoughtful and strategic approach, Youth Care has managed to engage Sande figures of authority as well as village chiefs and local official authorities in their work against FGM in Bomi County, west of Monrovia. The main achievements so far include increased attendance of girls in public schools, the suspension of the activation of a Sande school, and preventing several girls to be enrolled in Sande schools. Youth Care's work has encountered resistance, however, and it is apparent that discouraging deep-rooted traditions require long-term and resilient efforts. ■

THE NHRF IN LIBERIA

- The NHRF has supported organisations in Liberia since 1996
- Liberia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The geographical focus is organisations working in rural areas
- Thematically, the NHRF primarily supports work for women and children's rights
- Since 2007, the NHRF has arranged annual seminars for grantees in Liberia. The 2011 seminar focused on «Human Rights Approaches and Strategies»

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

State is a party:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of the Child

Signed but not ratified:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



NHRF support to Pakistan

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

The human rights situation is assessed as poor and there is a broad range of both political and civil rights violations as well as social, cultural and economic rights violations in Pakistan.

The conflicts in many parts of the country have given rise to a serious degradation in the protection of human rights. Violations of rights include enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, torture, deaths in custody, attacks on minorities and punishments resulting from traditional practices that are not in line with international human rights laws and standards.

The parallel legal system, or local level systems for conflict resolution, often applied in family cases and at village level, rarely favours women and girls. On the contrary, women's access to justice and protection is negotiated and traded off and lead to cases of naked parading, loss of mobility, child marriages and serious cases of violence like gang rape.

Poverty and lack of access to proper education, health services and clean water are serious issues of concern, and among factors that make the militants' schools and services relevant to many. Many human rights groups are deeply worried by the flood relief efforts and that the Islamists and militant groups have proven effective in their delivering of aid, resulting in increased support among the population.

Internal factors such as the embedded corruption and the inability of the state to provide protection to fulfil rights in addition to external factors such the drone attacks, the Afghanistan war and the war against terror are all components that

human rights actors point to as reasons for the growing populist support in the country in 2011.

A FEW SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF WORK IN PAKISTAN:

In 2011, five organisations received support, all former NHRF grantees. The NHRF has over the last years supported work against child marriages and work to secure more protection of workers' and women's rights. Below are two examples from organisations who undertook projects during 2011 and some of the achievements reported on.

Protection of workers' rights in KPK

SAHARA Development Association is working for the protection and promotion of labour rights in the province in Khyber Pakhtun Khawa (KPK). With three year support from the NHRF, the organisation has set up a Labour Resource Centre (LRC) that provides legal assistance to workers in acquiring their legal entitlements. The LRC is dealing with collective and individual labour rights violation cases. By the end of 2011 Sahara could report that there is more alertness from the industrial side and the work on illegal termination has given results. This is indicated by a significant reduction in complaints registered compared from the previous two years from 300 cases to less than 100 cases in 2011.

In 2011, 700 workers, where 33% were women, were informed about their core labour rights. 116 of these workers had additionally been trained in leadership, as well as paralegals.

Sahara can report that labour activists are engaged in mass mobilisation and that workers are unified in the struggle. This year 400 workers joined hands on the international labour day protesting against labour rights violations and closure of industries.

Sahara's contribution to the Hazara Labour Federation is now giving some results and the federation is able to respond actively to labour rights violations in the province such as demanding the establishment of District Vigilance Committee, demanding enhanced pension rates and the inclusion of new unions in the federation. Sahara has continued to facilitate meetings of groups of lawyers and journalists. The lawyers' forum has passed recommendations for reforms on legal and policy framework and the organisation can report that these journalists are highlighting the issues of labour rights violation cases in the printed press.

The organisation also reports that labour related government departments, judiciary and parliamentarians have been sensitized from previous years' efforts. The government has taken steps in the promotion of labour rights such as reactivating the Labour appeal tribunal after pressure from civil society organisations. This is now functioning.

Sahara continues to build on the work and activities support-



The Awareness walks in the villages attracted media as well as highlighting the issue of child marriages in the villages.

ted by the NHRF the last years and received a new two year support from 2012 to work with labour rights in KPK.

Reduction in Child marriages

Sujag Sansar Organization (SSO) is located in Sindh and received support from the NHRF for the first time in 2010 for a pilot-project to work on the issue of child marriages.

Pakistan has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Child, which prohibits child marriages. In addition, under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance, a girl must have attained the age of 16 and a boy must have attained the age of 18, and both need to give their consent before the marriage can take place. Although formal law prohibits the practice of child marriage, the courts do little to address it, allowing informal justice systems to implement a law of their own.

During the first phase of the NHRF supported project the SSO conducted a baseline survey on the attitudes and the practices of child marriages in the project area. At the beginning of the project SSO could report that out of 131 marriages, 55 marriages involved children. This year the amount was reduced to three child marriages in the targeted villages. This gives strong indications that the project has had an effect on the issue of child marriages in the area. SSO has throughout the project managed to maintain a dialogue on this very sensitive issue with the communities and with the religious leaders who perform the marriage ceremonies (Nikahkhwan). Activities undertaken have been awareness-raising through theatre, with community groups and sessions with Nikahkhwans and local journalists. In spite of the hurdle of working with an issue assessed as a family matter, SSO can report, that during the pilot-project, community members themselves have taken positive steps to respond to the issue and 11 marriages have been prevented. After the sessions with religious leaders some of them have refused to perform underage marriages.

SSO has managed to engage journalists and civil society organisations resulting in awareness walks, blogs on the issue, and an increase in number of printed cases in the media highlighting the issue.

The local Sindh based organisation has also been included in an international network facilitated by »The Elders« on a campaign on »Girls not brides« to share their experiences from the work on child marriages in Pakistan for a wider international audience.

SSO received a second year support from the NHRF in 2011 to expand the work in 10 more villages and to also address the gap of implementation of the law by strategic advocacy efforts towards law enforcement personals and local elected representatives. ■

ABOUT THE NHRF IN PAKISTAN:

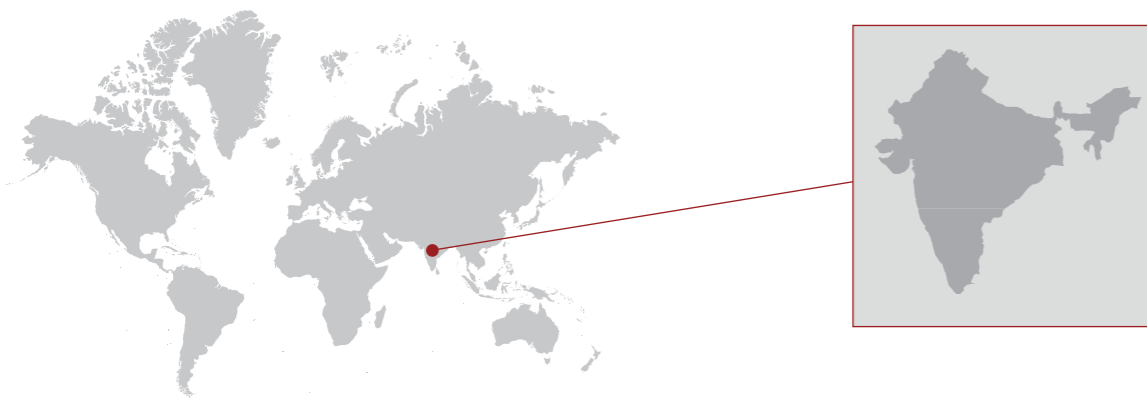
- Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF supports organisations working with the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, minorities and an increased focus on workers' rights
- The NHRF supports organisations in three provinces; Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh
- The NHRF has had a consultant in Pakistan since 2004
- The NHRF arranged two grantee seminars in 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



In December 2011 a conference was arranged, focusing on labour issues in KPK where a list of recommendations was shared with the media and labour department working towards reform in line with ILO conventions.



NHRF support to India

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA

In the world's biggest democracy a large number of the population are living in deep poverty despite rapid economic growth. There is no doubt that the state has formulated some very good policies and legislation to meet the challenges. Many of the human rights challenges lie within the implementation of these and with discrimination in the service delivering system, leaving human rights violations rampant in India. Corruption has affected every institution, and as a consequence, access to justice is denied to the most vulnerable, such as the «dalits», also



Sichrem reports that as a result of filing cases and monitoring the human rights commissions by the support of NHRF, the Human Rights Commission in Karnataka got more resource allocated, ordered by the High Court in November 2011.

referred to as the «untouchables». Even though India is perceived to have a vibrant civil society and civil society space, one can still argue that the interventions are limited in terms of number, extent of work and the human rights focus.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF WORK IN INDIA

NHRF supported six grantees in India in 2011, of which the National Centre for Labour received support for the very first time. The organisations, operating in Karnataka, Andra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, have worked for and achieved increased access to economic and social rights, increased empowerment and participation for vulnerable groups, as well as policy changes on state level. They have also demonstrated how local human rights groups can contribute to the national and states campaigns on human rights. Below are two examples from organisations who undertook projects during 2011.

Fighting human wrongs with human rights in Karnataka

In order to «make human rights a household concept», as their slogan goes, the South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring (SICHREM) does exactly that – educates and monitors. It also does it in quite obvious ways – by using the tools already available in the legislation – but with results that are everything but given. «Justice delayed is justice denied», executive director Mathews Philip says to explain why they long fought for a human right commission, an institution meant to offer simpler and speedier procedures than the often intolerably slow courts, to be established in their state. The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission was established in 2007, and for the last five years SICHREM has acted as a watch-dog of an institution that they praise for its potential but criticize for its shortcomings, which they have shed light on both in a research study of this and five other human rights institutions, and by continuously filing cases with the commission to assess its efficiency. Cases filed include those of police torture, starvation deaths and extra-judicial killings. In 2011 NHRF granted SICHREM support for a two year project fighting these atrocities both in the commissions and outside them, using case filing, research studies and human right campaigns as their main tools. And while SICHREM has gained ground both with a high court order for the human right commission to receive more resources and with many of the atrocity cases filed with the commissions, they are not entirely satisfied. «With the commissions recommending compensation for the victims rather than prosecution of the perpetrators in the majority of cases, the commissions are becoming nothing more than a compensation evoking system,» Mathews Philip says. SICHREM seems prepared to continue the fight until justice is not just on time, but also in line – with both India's national laws and international obligations.



TENT has become a rally point for nomadic tribes in Tamil Nadu demanding accountability and human rights change from the government.

Empowering the nomads in Tamil Nadu

TENT is the suitable acronym for The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes, a grantee working to better guarantee and realize the human rights of the Indian nomads. TENT continuously tries to reach out to the different nomadic tribes and now organises about 10 of them, all travelling most of the year and subsisting on skills like snake-taming, self-whipping, circus acrobatics and fortune telling. Organising people whose main single feature is that they always travel can seem like quite a headache, and after eight years' work the organisation reports on a heavy workload and a long way to go, but also on substantial results. NHRF has supported the development of a baseline and a charter of demands based on this, as well as human rights training of, and a state level conference with, the different tribes. Having first identified the main problems of the nomads, TENT set about organising awareness training programs and protest rallies. India's legislation both offers free education and several special provisions for the «Scheduled Tribes» and «Scheduled Castes», but as far as there are solid reasons for this, the solidity of the implementation is more discussable. As they often do not possess any papers to prove the origins of their community, the nomads face problems obtaining their «Scheduled Tribe community certificate» and, with that, claiming their rights. In an effort to make their voices heard, and with the support of NHRF, TENT organised two state level conferences, gathering first 1000 then 2000 nomads despite many of them not having access to any means of communication. The last conference was held November 2011 and visited by the district collector, who was presented with the nomad's charter of demands including that of community certificates, identity cards, a «nomadic tribe» classification, separate welfare boards for nomads, 5 % reservation in education and the termination of police excesses. During the last months, TENT has enjoyed in seeing a number of these demands fulfilled on state level. ■

THE NHRF IN INDIA

- India has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF has supported organisations in the southern part of India since early 1990s
- The NHRF has had a consultant in India since 2002
- Since 2003, the NHRF has arranged annual seminars for grantees in India
- The geographical focus of the NHRF is Andra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states
- Thematically, the NHRF supports work to enhanced social and economical rights such as land rights, labour rights and anti discrimination
- The NHRF focuses on the vulnerable groups where Dalits and indigenous people's rights have been central to the interventions of the NHRF.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

State is a party

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Signed but not ratified

- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Support to other countries

THE SUPPORT RENDERED to the countries of priority represents the main bulk of the NHRF's funding. However, in order to maintain the flexibility of the funding scheme and to be able to support projects which are particularly relevant to the mandate of the NHRF, a small percentage of the funds have been granted to projects in other countries. Since 2010, exceptions from geographical priorities are made for projects for secure working conditions for human rights defenders, previously supported organisations in other countries, as well as applications forwarded by owner organisations or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

DURING 2011, the NHRF approved only one project from the category non-priority countries. This project focused on human rights defenders at risk. However, there were three ongoing projects during 2011 in South Africa, Uganda and Thailand.

THESE PROJECTS ADDRESS several issues in coherence with the thematic priorities of the NHRF, including support to human rights defenders, women's rights and the attainment of economic and social rights. Below is an example from one of the supported grantees from a non-prioritised country that undertook parts of the work in 2011.

Paralegal training of grassroots and ethnic minority women in Thailand

IN 2010–2011 THE NHRF supported the work of Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development (FORWARD) for a project on paralegal training for grassroots and ethnic minority women in northern Thailand on women's rights. FORWARD has extensive experience with paralegal training, and with NHRF sup-

port, the organisation was able to include a new batch of minority women in their program. During and after the training the participants were included in a network called «Paralegal Coalition of Rural Women». This coalition actively advocates gender equality, monitors the implementation of policies on a local level, influences local decision-making, and monitors the enforcement of progressive legislation on domestic violence. In 2011, the network actively pushed for the passing of a Bill on Promotion of Equal Opportunity and Gender Equality.

Theory and exposure

Between 33 and 50 participants received paralegal training on issues such as Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act B.E. 2550, the National Health Act B.E. 2550, the Reproductive Health Protection Act, the abortion law as well as the effects of election law in the constitutional amendment on women's political participation, community land title deeds and land law, community rights and environment as well as invisibility of women in the constitutional amendment.

In order to enhance the trainees' understanding of the lessons, the project also provides for the women to explore issues concerning the lessons through study visits to places where the issues emerged. During the program, study-visits were carried out to government and non-government organisations in Bangkok working for women's and children's development and human rights promotion, as well as to institutions and organizations in Chiang Mai province.

The organisation also reported on challenges related to training rural women in law. These include low levels of education and a lack of capacity to understand legal lessons. Through many years of experience FORWARD has found that the combination of exposure visits, facilitating opportunities for women to discuss with affected persons experience-sharing and questions and answers sessions with resource persons after lectures, is effective to develop the learning process of the participants.

Way ahead

FORWARD reports that through the project, grassroots and ethnic minority women have been empowered with information



Exposure visits and the opportunities for women to meet and link up with human rights organisations regarding real situations has been an important part of the project.



50 rural women have been trained in law on issues of domestic violence, heritage, land rights and women's political participation.

about the situation of women in Thailand, basic human rights as well as essential legal knowledge, feminist approaches and strategies for gender justice. They also reported that many women are already applying the acquired knowledge in concrete situations in their communities, including cases of domestic violence cases, child custody and on security issues.

One of the participants in the program, Ms. Wanidchaya Kantayuang, explains in her own words: «Working in the community is very difficult. I have faced a lot of threats, fears and so on. I am trying to set up women's network in the community to strengthen women's power. I want further training and I am waiting for the certificate of the paralegal training when finishing the whole course because this can make me more confident to work for community development as well as women's empowerment.»

The project supported by the NHRF has given grassroots and ethnic women the opportunity to address their community's problems and to link women working in their communities to a larger network of organisations and other rural women. The flexibility of the NHRF to be able to support the organisation's work after a long-term funding partner ended their support has helped FORWARD to continue the important work in

«I have faced a lot of threats, fears and so on. (...) The project has made me more confident to work for women's empowerment»

MS. WANIDCHAYA,
PARTICIPANT

2010–2011 and to obtain new funding from a new long-term donor. FORWARD has now successfully attracted further funding from Finnish KIOS to continue with paralegal training and work on rural women in Northern Thailand. ■



Grantees in a group discussion during the annual seminar in Lahore in October 2011, with the topic «Practical challenges and opportunities for human rights in Pakistan».

Capacity building

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE for the NHRF is to enable local organisations to carry out human rights work through financial support. To ensure the best utilization of this support the new strategy added a focus on capacity building aimed at strengthening grantee organisations' capacity to carry out human rights work.

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF the NHRF funding scheme lies in its ability to support small and nascent human rights groups and initiatives. This entails a responsibility to provide feedback and counselling to grantees on the planning and implementation of projects as well as organisational issues such as financial management. In the current strategy period (2011-2015), the NHRF will increase its efforts to strengthen grantee organisations' administrative and financial routines. This increased emphasis on capacity building will improve grantees' ability to carry out human rights work and simultaneously assist the NHRF in its

efforts to prevent corruption and mismanagement of funds through closer monitoring and follow-up of grantees.

ANNUAL SEMINARS IN selected prioritised countries and local consultants in all prioritised countries are important tools towards this end. The annual seminars provide a platform for mutual learning, experience sharing and encouragement for human rights activists. In 2011, annual seminars for all local NHRF grantees were arranged in Pakistan and Liberia. In Pakistan two seminars were held. While the first focused on accounting and financial management, the second seminar was arranged in cooperation with the Finnish Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS), focusing on human rights opportunities and challenges. In all countries of priority, regular monitoring visits were carried out by the respective consultants and the NHRF secretariat during country visits. ■

GOALS FOR THE NHRF'S CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS:

- Grantee organisations' ability to carry out human rights work is improved
- Grantee organisations in prioritised countries have strengthened their administrative and financial routines

ACTIVITIES IN CAPACITY BUILDING:

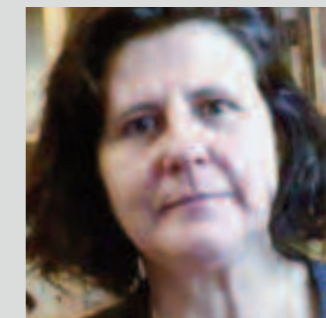
- Annual seminars in selected prioritised countries for mutual learning and experience sharing
- On-site interaction with organisations through visits and local consultants and resource persons.
- Internal audits with feedback to the organisations
- Continue follow-up of grantees in application processes and reporting

CONSULTANTS

In order to ensure a high level of accuracy in the selection of projects, the Board in 2011 decided that the NHRF should employ local consultants in all countries of priority. In 2011, the NHRF appointed a local consultant in Colombia, thereby counting on consultants in all prioritised countries.

The main tasks of the consultants include capacity building of grantee organisations and monitoring of projects, as well as advising the NHRF secretariat on strategies and project applications. The NHRF also uses international networks, references from likeminded funders and national and international human rights organisations in the selection of projects.

All four NHRF consultants are qualified human rights activist with extensive experience from working with grassroots organisations in their respective countries. The consultants work part time on a contract basis. ■



COLOMBIA: Ms. Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer was employed as a consultant in 2011. Elena is originally from Spain, but has lived in Colombia for more than ten years working with human rights.



INDIA: Mr. E.V. Paul is stationed in Bangalore and has been a consultant for the NHRF since 2002.



LIBERIA: Mr. Aloysius Toe has been a consultant for the NHRF since 2004. In 2011, Aloysius has been undertaking his masters degree in the USA in combination with his work for the NHRF. Other resource persons from the Liberian organisation FOHRD has been used for field visits and for follow-up of local grantees.



PAKISTAN: Ms. Tanveer Jahan lives and works from Lahore and has been a consultant for the NHRF since 2003.

Administration and organisation

THE SECRETARIAT

The secretariat has two full time positions in addition to a part time accountant. There were no changes in the secretariat during 2011.

Executive Director Ms. Sandra Petersen remains responsible for the Asia and Middle East desk, while project coordinator Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth is responsible for projects in Latin America and Africa. Ms. Bjørg Haugstulen is the NHRF's accountant.

The secretariat would like to express our gratitude for the useful and generous assistance of trainees Annette Thun Johannessen and Miriam Sethne during 2011.

Amnesty International Norway has hosted the secretariat of the NHRF for the last few years. The sharing of offices with Amnesty provides the secretariat with an inspiring working environment, both professionally and socially.

During 2011, the secretariat has travelled to India, Pakistan, Colombia and Liberia for project visits. The project visit to Pakistan was carried out in coordination with the Finnish Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS). In addition, the secretariat attended the annual KIOS seminar in Helsinki in October, and a network meeting with two other Norwegian organisations at the International Dalit Solidarity Network's head office in Copenhagen, Denmark. . ■

→ The project visit to Pakistan was carried out in coordination with the Finnish Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS). Kristiina Vainio (left) from KIOS, NHRF consultant Tanveer Jahan and executive director Sandra Petersen with Director I.E. Rehman at the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan



Accounts

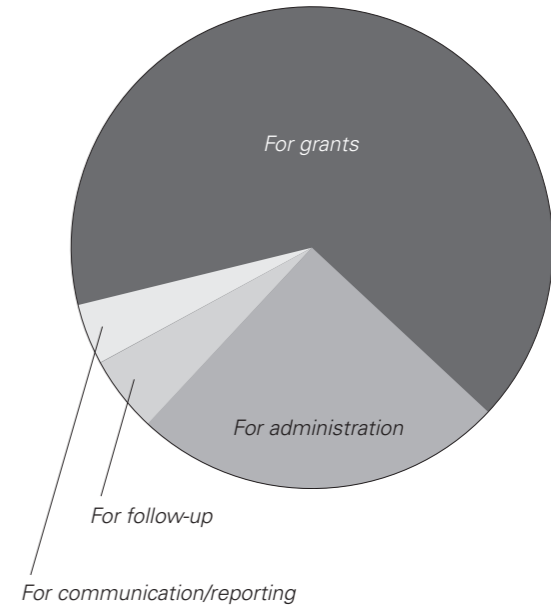
THE TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME in 2011 was NOK 4 537 604,- (US\$756 267,-). The main part of the budget was covered by two grants from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one being for NHRF general operations and one earmarked our program in Liberia. The remaining part of the budget was covered by the owner organisations of the NHRF.

A TOTAL OF NOK 2 961 733,- (US\$ 493 622,-) was granted to Human Rights projects during the year under review. NOK 1 152 631,- (US\$ 192 105,-), or 25% percent of the income for 2011, was spent on administrative expenses, such as salaries and office costs in Norway.

NOK 243 070,- (US\$ 40 511,-) was spent on follow-up of the projects through the NHRF's local consultants, training seminars for grantees in countries of priority, and field trips abroad executed by the secretariat in Oslo.

NOK 140 677,- (US\$23 446) was spent on communication and reporting.

ACCOUNTS IN 2011	USD	NOK
Total income	756 267	4 537 604
From owners	144 167	865 000
From Government	608 333	3 650 000
Other income	3 767	22 604
Total expenses	749 684	4 498 111
For grants	493 622	2 961 733
For administration	192 105	1 152 631
For communication/ reporting	23 446	140 677
For follow-up	40 511	243 070



THE BOARD OF THE NHRF

In 2011, the Board has held four ordinary meetings. While the main tasks of the Board are to make strategic decisions and to supervise the NHRF's economy and administration, each board meeting has dedicated time to discuss the human rights situation in the prioritised countries and the supported projects. In March 2011, the new NHRF website was launched along with the new multi-annual year strategic plan (2011–2015). In June, the NHRF consultant in Pakistan, Ms. Tanveer Jahan, participated in a Board meeting, giving a presentation of the human rights situation in Pakistan and of the supported organisations. In September, the NHRF project coordinator Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth shared impressions and experiences from the project follow-up visit to Colombia two months prior. At the last board meeting in December, executive director Ms. Sandra Petersen gave a presentation of the role of the local consultants in the NHRF work. ■

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE NHRF 2011 HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS (ONE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH OF THE SIX OWNER ORGANISATIONS):

Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations: Ms. Guro Almås
Amnesty International Norway: Mr. Gerald Folkvord
Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions: Ms. Nina Mjøberg
The Atlas Alliance: Ms. Rikke Bækkevold
Norwegian Centre for Human Rights: Ms. Kristin Høgdaahl (chair of the board)
Norwegian Bar Association: Mr. Arne Gunnar Aas.

ONE ORGANISATION AND ONE INSTITUTION HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE BOARD AS AN OBSERVER:

Norwegian Mission to the East: Mr. Ed Brown and Kristin Storaker
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD): Ms. Turid Arnegaard, after September 2011: Ms. Margot Skarpeteig.



PHOTO: GREG RØDLAND BUCK

↑ Representatives of the Board of the NHRF in December 2011. From left: Gerald Folkvord (Amnesty International Norway), Kristin Høgdaahl (Norwegian Centre for Human Rights), Nina Mjøberg (Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions), Rikke Bækkevold (The Atlas Alliance)

NHRF-funded projects carried out in 2011



AFRICA

LIBERIA

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Community Development Foundation (CDF): «Promoting Active Women Participation in Human Rights Activities through Establishing Women's Rights Defence Networks in Rural Communities»
- Youth-Care: «Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women & Girls in Suehn-Mecca District»
- National Institute for Public Opinion (NIPO): «Breaking the Silence of Violence Against Women»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2011

- National Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Human Rights (NAPRHR): «Combating sexual and gender based violence against women and promoting their protection»
- Women Rights Watch (WORIWA): «Women Rights Advocacy and Empowerment Campaign in Bassa County»
- Self Help Development & Relief Agency (SHDRA): «Increasing Human Rights Awareness Amongst Students and Young People In Sinoe County»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2011

- Liberia Policy Research Group (LPRG): «Protecting Women Workers on the Cavalla Rubber Plantation»
- Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHDRA): «Fighting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities & Schools»
- Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS): «Empowering Women through Human Rights Awareness and Civic Education Campaign»

SOUTH AFRICA

Organisation approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of its project in 2011

- Inner City Resource Centre NPO, Johannesburg «The Human and Housing Rights Advice Centre»

UGANDA

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Kasese District Women with Disabilities (KADIWOD): «Increased Human Rights Awareness for Social Integration and Empowerment»

ASIA

INDIA

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Human Rights Network Foundation (HRNF), Chennai, Tamil Nadu: «Securing land for landless Dalits people through a Districtwide movement in the District of Thiruvallur in Tamilnadu State»
- Association of relief Volunteers for Food First Information and Action Network Andhra Pradesh (FIAN AP), Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh: «To protect and promote right to adequate food through advocacy and lobby»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2011

- All India Aravanigal Rights Rehabilitation Centre (AIARRC), Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu: «Strengthening Aravanis Rights Movement (ARM) for obtaining social recognition, basic rights and constitutional protection.»
- MANASA Centre for Development and Social Action (MANASA), Bangalore, Karnataka: «Undertaking advocacy work in monitoring and strengthening the Human Rights Institutions in Karnataka»
- People's Movement for Development (PMD), Salem District, Tamil Nadu: «Ensuring Right to Livelihood; Civil, Economic and Social Rights of Palmyra Workers»
- Team for Reformation of Education and Environmental Services (TREES), Kolar District, Karnataka: «A Struggle of The Landless Agriculture Labourers»
- The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT), Madurai, Tamil Nadu: «Empowerment of Nomads in six districts thorough nomads federation»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2011

- National Centre for Labour: «Building unorganized workers organisations in South India.»

PAKISTAN

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Women Workers Help Line (WWHL), Lahore: «Women For Implementation to Stop Harassment (WISH)»
- SAHARA Development Foundation (SDF), Haripur, KPK: «Promotion and Protection of Labour Rights»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2011

- Global Vision Organization- Pakistan (GVO), Islamabad: «Youth as human right defenders»
- Harmony Foundation, Faisalabad: «Education and training of the workers and labor leaders of textile industry on labor laws and trade union»

- Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM), Faisalabad: «Advocacy for Protection of Rights of Women with Disabilities»
- Chanan Development Association (CDA), Lahore: «Women are Human & Human Have the Rights-II»
- Sujag Sansar Organization (SSO), Sindh: «Reducing Child marriages and promotion of over all human rights in Taluka Johi»

THAILAND

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development (FORWARD), Chang Mai: «The Paralegal Training for Grassroots and Ethnic Women in Northern Thailand on Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality»

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA

Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2011

- Colectivo de Mujeres Al Derechos (COLEMAD): «Strategic Judicial and Political Action at National and International Level on behalf of Women that are Victims of the Armed Conflict and form part of the Network Women's Multi-cultural Space»
- Humanidad Vigente para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (HVDDH): «Strengthening Humanidad Vigente's institutional capacity for the defence of Human Rights, year 2009»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2011

- Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia (OBSURDH): «Fortalecimiento Operativo de la Unidad de Analisis del Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia y la Red Departamental de Derechos Humanos»
- Abogados sin Fronteras Colombia (ASFCOL): «Observatorio de la Situación de Derechos Humanos de los y las Litigantes en Colombia»
- Fundación Guagua: «Galería de la Memoria Tiberio Fernández Mafla»

- Asociación Colombiana para la Exigibilidad del Derecho a la Salud: «Capacitación para la Aplicación y Desarrollo de los Derechos Colectivos»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2011

- Centro de Estudios para la Justicia Social («Tierra Digna»): «Avanzando en la defensa del derecho al agua de las comunidades locales en los departamentos de Cauca y Cundinamarca, afectadas por su privatización y comercialización en Colombia»

PERU

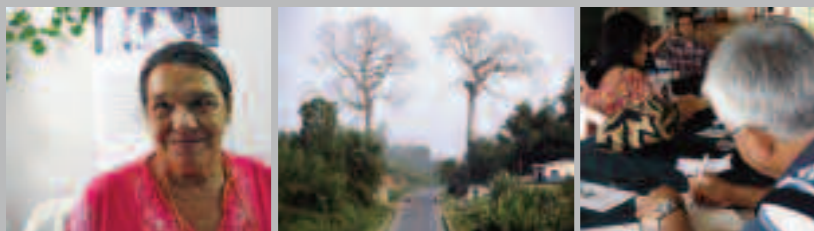
Organisations approved for support in earlier years that carried out part of their project in 2010

- Comisión Diocesana de Servicio Pastoral Social (CODIS-PAS): «Social Advocacy for the Implementation of Public Policies that guarantee the Fundamental Rights of Disabled Persons in 5 Municipalities in Ancash Region»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2011

- Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchipaq (ADEHR): «Logrando Acceso a Justicia y Lucha contra la Impunidad. En el Marco de las Recomendaciones de la Comisión de la Verdad y Reconciliación»
- Asociación Reflexión de Inocentes Liberados (ARIL): «Posicionamiento político organizativo de los inocentes liberados en la defensa y promoción de los derechos humanos, en el marco del Plan Integral de Reparaciones, en el Perú»
- Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CEDEH): «Fortaleciendo el Proceso Para Establecer Políticas Regionales con Enfoque de Derechos Humanos»
- Centro de Iniciativas para el Desarrollo Humano (CEIDHU): «Incidencia en el cumplimiento del Plan Regional de Derechos Humanos – Junín»
- Comisión de Solidaridad, Desarrollo y Justicia (COSDEJ): «Fortalecemos el Acceso a la Justicia, con la activa participación de la Ciudadanía y actores jurisdiccionales, en la Región Lambayeque»

In addition, the NHRF supported a project on human rights defenders at risk. The organisation carrying out this project requested that information about project not be published.



www.nhrf.no

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

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*Please do not direct the letter to a contact person
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WHAT IS THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND?

THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

was established in 1988 by Norwegian Non-Governmental Organisations to protect and promote Human Rights internationally.

Through **THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND**, the owner organisations provide financial support to human rights organisations working in the first line of defence for human rights where the human rights situation is particularly difficult, either in general or for specific groups of the population.

THE NHRF provides financial support to organisations that are not covered by other Norwegian Governmental or non-Governmental support schemes.

THE NHRF aims at having a quick and flexible decision making process on applications.

THE NHRF is financed by donations as well as contributions from the owner organisations and from the Norwegian Government.

THE NHRF is governed by a Board consisting of one representative from each of the owner organisations, plus one permanent observer from The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

OWNER ORGANISATIONS DURING 2011:

- Amnesty International Norway
- Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations
- Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions
- The Atlas Alliance
- The Norwegian Bar Association