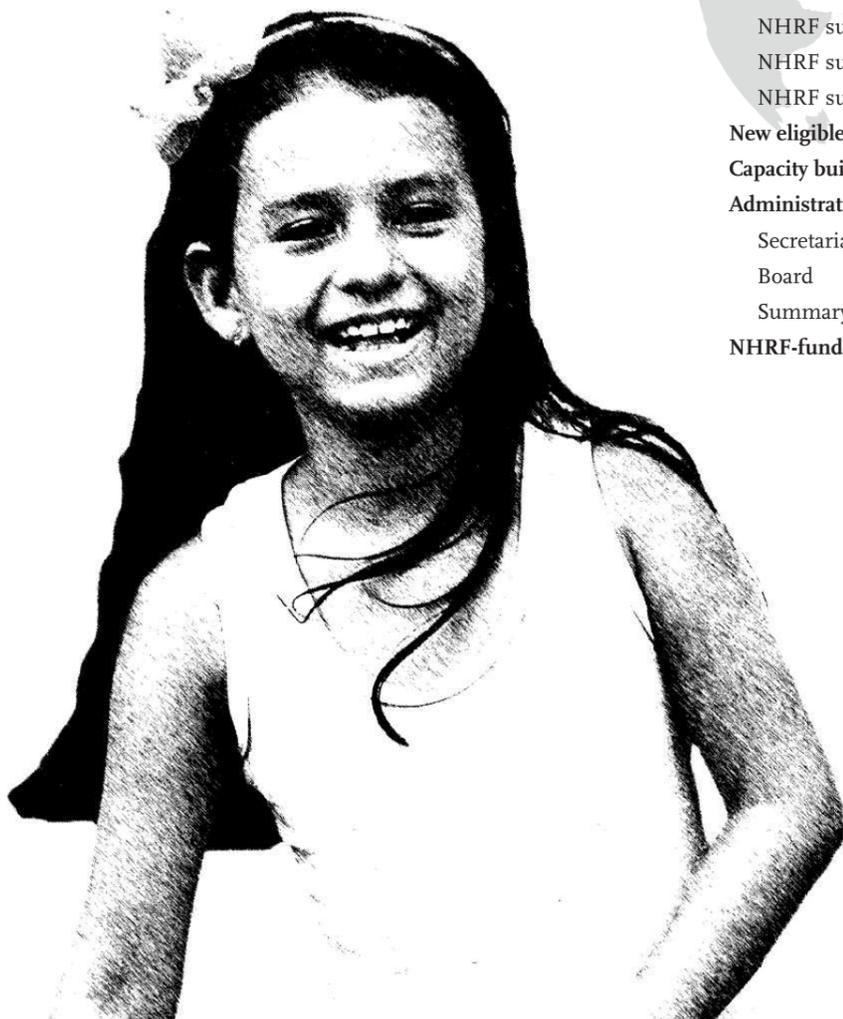




Direct support to human rights defenders

Contents

Introduction by the Chair of the Board	3
Executive summary	4
Joining forces for a caste free world	6
Results of NHRF activities in 2012	7
«Exit Peru»	
Interview with Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth	8
NHRF support to Peru	10
NHRF support to Colombia	12
NHRF support to Liberia	14
NHRF support to Pakistan	16
NHRF support to India	18
NHRF support in other countries	20
New eligible country: Mexico	20
Capacity building	22
Administration and organisation	24
Secretariat	24
Board	25
Summary of accounts	25
NHRF-funded projects carried out in 2012	26



Front page picture:
 Mothers of victims of extrajudicial killings
 committed by the Colombian military organise
 an exhibition to raise awareness in the main
 square in Soacha, south of Bogotá.
 Photo: Carlos Gómez

(All photos by NHRF,
 unless otherwise accredited.)

Introduction by the Chair of the Board

BY CAMILLA RAVNSBORG ASCHJEM (CHURCH OF NORWAY COUNCIL ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS), CHAIR OF THE BOARD 2012.



Camilla Ravnsborg Aschjem,
 Chair of the Board

«With direct and small scale financial support from the NHRF, local human rights organisations continue to achieve important and impressive results.»

continue with civilians paying the costs. The NHRF has taken an active part in the efforts by Norwegian and Colombian civil society to ensure that these perspectives and concerns are included on the agenda.

UNFORTUNATELY, the security situation for human rights defenders remains poor in Colombia, as well as in other countries targeted by the NHRF funding scheme such as Pakistan and Mexico. Here, human rights defenders are subject to systematic harassment, threats and physical attacks. Several persons involved in projects supported by the NHRF live under constant fear of attacks against themselves, family members and colleagues, and are forced to adjust daily routines and lifestyles in order to minimise the risk. These conditions place an enormous burden on human rights defenders and threaten to undermine local struggles for justice. As the NHRF encourages and supports people working in the first line of defence for human rights, we have a responsibility to take their security situation seriously. In 2012, the NHRF has given increased emphasis to the challenging security situation for human rights defenders involved in supported projects, and has provided additional funds earmarked measures and tools that may mitigate security threats. Looking ahead, in 2013 the NHRF will strengthen the focus and increase capacity in this area. This will be done by developing a toolbox for the benefit of grantee organisations and by implementing a more coherent and systematic approach to the issue of security for human rights defenders.

IN 2012, the NHRF continued the implementation of the multi-annual strategic plan (2011–2015), and is making progress in various areas. One important achievement is the successful efforts to raise funds for increased effectiveness and predictability for the NHRF. During 2012, the financial base of the NHRF has been significantly improved, and prospects are good for the coming years. We interpret the increased support, primarily from the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as further confirmation that the NHRF funding scheme is an effective tool in the struggle for increased respect for human rights. This is a timely and important recognition as we approach the 25 year anniversary of the NHRF, which will be celebrated in late 2013. In our view, this report and the highlighted results demonstrate the continued relevance of the NHRF funding scheme.

IT HAS BEEN a great pleasure to serve as Chair of the Board and the achievements in 2012 would not have been possible without highly professional and dedicated staff and consultants both in Oslo and in the field. Serving as the Chair has furthermore been special for me personally, as it is an honour I share with my late father who was the Chair of NHRF in 1998. I wish the Board, local consultants and the secretariat the best of luck in the coming years.

Camilla R. Aschjem

Camilla Ravnsborg Aschjem,
 Chair of the Board.

A MAJOR GLOBAL EVENT in 2012 was the launch of official peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP guerrilla, raising hopes for an end to the almost 50 year long armed conflict in the country. The peace talks offer a unique opportunity for Colombia to emerge from the devastating conflict. In order to achieve lasting peace, however, it is essential that the process and eventual settlement is firmly anchored in Colombian civil society. It is also of crucial importance that perpetrators of war crimes on all sides are held accountable and that impunity is avoided. For too long, impunity for perpetrators of violence has allowed the conflict to

Norway on Ecumenical and International Relations, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and The Norwegian Bar Association.



The Norwegian
 Human Rights Fund

The mandate of the **NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND** (NHRF) is to promote human rights internationally. The NHRF provides direct support to organisations working in the first line of defence for human rights and supports projects that aim to protect and promote the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The **NHRF** is anchored in Norwegian civil society organisations, which contribute both financially and professionally to human rights projects and the operations of the NHRF. As of 2012, the following were owner organisations: *Amnesty International Norway, the Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Church of*

The main objective of the NHRF is increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support.

NHRF strategy 2011–2015



Women rights activist Garmai Molee works for the organisation National Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Human Rights in northern Liberia. With support from the NHRF, the organisation has documented numerous cases of women's rights violations in the local communities which have led to the sentencing of perpetrators.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2012

- 33 organisations in eight countries received support
- Increased global support to projects for the protection of human rights defenders
- Annual seminars organised in Pakistan, Liberia and India
- 2 country visits carried out to NHRF priority countries; India and Liberia
- 2 assessment trips conducted to Lebanon and Mexico. Mexico was chosen as a new eligible country for funding
- Established Country Strategies for Liberia and Colombia
- Participation in networks: NHRF continued its involvement in the Colombia forum; Forum 1325 on women, peace and security; the NGO forum for Human Rights in Norway as well as the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network, launched in January 2012.
- Participation in Nordic donor meeting in Finland in September
- Participation in UN Universal Periodic Review on Pakistan in Geneva in October
- Strengthened its financial base for 2013–2015.

Executive summary

THE NHRF CONTINUES to receive a steady stream of applications and requests from human rights organisations in need of support. In 2012 the NHRF assessed a total of 124 applications, of which 33 were granted support.

About the support

Out of the 33 organisations that received support, 30 were from the eligible and priority countries of the NHRF which comprise Colombia, India, Liberia, Pakistan, Mexico and Peru. As the NHRF has been phasing out of Peru since 2010, only one organisation in the country received renewed support in 2012.

Additional funds granted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the latter half of the year enabled the NHRF to include a few new organisations that otherwise would not have received support. A total of 20 organisations received renewed support in 2012, while 13 organisations received support for the first time. This contrasts to 2011, when only six organisations were new grantees.

NHRF priorities

The main objective of the NHRF is increased respect for the human rights of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups resulting from NHRF support. The NHRF has four overall thematic priorities; civil, social and economic rights; women and children's rights; worker rights; and the protection of human rights defenders. On country level the NHRF narrows the scope of its intervention with country-specific strategies. Beyond the thematic priorities, the relevance of the projects, effectiveness, clear strategies and the potential of the organisations are all important factors when the NHRF assesses project proposals. The majority of the supported projects used the methods of advocacy and access to justice. However, in some contexts, awareness raising about human rights is a necessity and seen as an important tool.

New eligible country

After a consultation process in 2011, the NHRF decided to include new eligible countries in 2012. After visits to Mexico and Lebanon in early 2012, the NHRF concluded that it would open up for support to organisations in Mexico. Later in the year, the NHRF granted support to two Mexican human rights organisations working on marginalised group's rights; one on the rights of indigenous people and one for its work combating violence against women. The NHRF is planning to increase support to organisations in Mexico in 2013, and will also include new eligible countries during the year.

Protection of human rights defenders

Notwithstanding firmer country strategies and structures with local consultants, annual seminars and follow-up routines in the countries of priority, the NHRF strives to maintain the non-bureaucratic, bold and flexible nature of our funding scheme and to continue supporting front line organisations. To this end, the NHRF has since 2011 maintained a flexible pot for projects focusing on the protection of human rights defenders. The NHRF experiences an increased number of applications and enquiries from organisations working in countries with authoritarian regimes where funding to human rights work is difficult.



Tent Society is working for the nomadic community's access to social and economic rights in Tamil Nadu and is one of the 33 organisations that received support in 2012.

Due to lack of funds the last two years, the NHRF has not been able to support many such projects. However, with increased funding from 2013 the NHRF will be able to grant more under this category. To be strategic in this support, the NHRF will establish firmer criteria for this bulk of its funding scheme for the remaining three years of this strategy period.

Security for grantee organisations

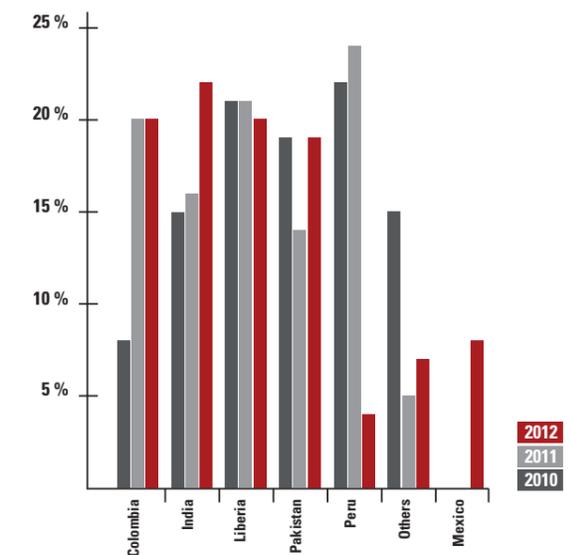
Many of the grantees are working in rural areas out of the limelight of the diplomatic communities and larger organisations, and many work with sensitive human rights issues such as access to justice for victims of armed conflicts. In 2012, the NHRF received warnings and urgent action requests from grantees that experienced threats and repercussions from various actors as a consequence of their human rights work. The NHRF acknowledges its responsibility to increase attention to the security of the human rights defenders involved in the projects and to discuss ways of reducing risk with grantee organisations. In 2013, the NHRF will establish a practical «tool box» to be used for this purpose. This was one of the recommendations in the external evaluation in 2009, and the NHRF now have the means to follow-up.

Networks

In 2011, the NHRF was included in several networks in Norway, and in 2012 participated in giving input to UN Universal Periodic Review processes and to raise concerns from grantee organisations in forums and meetings with Norwegian authorities and stakeholders. The NHRF believes that this is an effective way to use the experience from country level and from local human rights organisations to inform Norwegian policy makers.

Way ahead

The NHRF has been working to strengthen its financial base for increased predictability and effectiveness. From 2013 the NHRF will have increased support from its main donors. This will help the NHRF to fulfil its goals and to continue supporting frontline human rights defenders working tirelessly for the defence of human rights in their countries. ■



Distribution of grants in 2010–2012, where the main bulk has been allocated to the countries of priority.



The Panel (from left:) Berit Hagen Agøy, Silje Vold, Rikke Nöhrind and Sushil Raj. Ed Brown in the front right, chairing the panel.

Joining forces against castebased discrimination

50 PEOPLE AND REPRESENTATIVES from 30 organisations participated at the hearing about caste discrimination in Oslo last year, initiated by the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network (DSN Norway). National, international and Norwegian perspectives on the issue were provided by the invited speakers.

The NHRF is active in four networks in Norway. The Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network is one of them.

Hidden apartheid and triple oppression

Paul Divakar, General Secretary of the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights, described the practice of untouchability as hidden apartheid, using the term default discrimination. Practice of conscious as well as unconscious discrimination takes place when Dalit school

children are placed in the back of the class, simply because it is the order of things. As Divakar explained: «It's in all people's minds, you can't always see it. That makes taking a stand on it both harder and less pressing.»

His colleague, Asha Kowtal, confirmed that within the Indian society people can tell who is Dalit – untouchable – by customs and by the food they eat. Additionally, Ms. Kowtal brought to attention the triple oppression Dalit women often suffer, by being poor, untouchable and women.

Change in attitude

The panel also included Silje Vold, child rights advisor in Plan Norway. Plan supports partner organisations that educate Nepalese children on how to change the thinking of self-worthlessness. When children find their self-worth, their way of perceiving the world will affect their choices, and hopefully build a better future for them.



The caste mentality is deeply entrenched in the Indian society, making it extremely resistant and difficult to deal with. In picture: Asha Kowtal (left) and Paul Divakar from NCDHR.

Challenges

Rikke Nöhrind, panelist and representative of International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), said that reluctance to discuss the issue among states and in international forums must end in order to close the gap between Human Rights rhetoric and action. Sushil Raj, panelist and representative from the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed the need to strengthen the judicial system in Nepal to be able to achieve equality and non-discrimination.

Solidarity in the end

Though it is not only a matter of solidarity, the representative from the Norwegian Church, Berit Agøy, said it is important to stand together with fellow Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists in solidarity with their struggle. ■

«Dalit women often suffer from triple discrimination; being poor, untouchable and women.»

ASHA KOWTAL,
INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER



With NHRF support, the organisation Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchiqpaq work for justice for the victims of Peru's armed conflict (1980–2000). Here they are entering the penal court in Lima where one of their cases is in process.

Results of NHRF activities in 2012

THE NHRF is proud to be able to support local organisations working in the first line of defence for human rights, and regularly witnesses 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, often addressing complex human rights issues. One of the characteristics of this target group is their limited experience with project reporting. In the experience of the NHRF, 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 has standardised our reporting procedures to ensure that grantees report on outcomes of their work. The NHRF also works with grantee organisations to strengthen 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 im-

mediate and short-term results (outputs). However, the NHRF recently extended the maximum number of grants from three to five in prioritised countries. This change is intended to give grantees the opportunity to engage in more long-term work for sustainable results and positive impacts on the human rights situation on local and national levels. To improve the documentation of results achieved, the NHRF also strive to conduct end-assessments of grantees who have received multiple grants.

THE NHRF RECOGNISES the importance of documenting results of the supported human rights projects and the effect on the human rights situation on local and national levels. On the following pages, we present a few examples of the results achieved by organisations supported by the NHRF in 2012. 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 2012. 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 2012. ➔

Interview with **Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth**,
Project Coordinator in Latin-America



Project coordinator with the NHRF grantee organisation *Comisión de Solidaridad, Desarrollo y Justicia* in Chiclyao in northern Peru.

Exit Peru

TEXT: VIKTORIA MYRHOLT

You recently came home from an end assessment visit to Peru. Could you share some of your impressions from the visit?

My overall impression is that the NHRF grantees carry out important and relevant work with significant impact in their local contexts. The Peruvian human rights community appears to be well organised, with a strong umbrella organisation based in Lima.

Is there any encounter that made a particularly strong impression on you?

During the visit, I was able to visit three organisations in the field and the two remaining ones in Lima. I had the opportunity to observe the work of *Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchippaq (ADEHR)*, which is an organisation working for the rights of the victims from the armed conflict in Peru. I was invited to observe a session in Lima's penal court, in a case that dates back to 1986 when four persons were detained by the military and subjected to enforced disappearance. Their bodies have never been found. A high ranking military officer is accused of responsibility for the crime. ADEHR has collected evidence and testimonies, provided psycho juridical assistance to victims, covered costs for relatives to travel to Lima and provided them with a lawyer.

Immediately after the opening of the session, however, the lawyer of the accused military officer called for a postponement of the session as he had not had the opportunity to prepare properly. The judges accepted, postponing the session with more than a week. The time, effort and considerable costs related to travelling to Lima were thus in vain for the relatives, as well for the ADEHR staff. According to ADEHR, this is a well-known technique used by accused state actors to frustrate and deny the poor relatives equal access to justice.

While the police and military are guaranteed cover for legal expenses by the State, the relatives of victims have no such arrangement and rely on organisations such as ADEHR to be able to continue their struggle. This was a striking example of how equal access to justice is negated for the poor in Peru.

The NHRF has supported Human Rights projects in Peru since 1990, and it has been a country of priority since 2002. Why did Peru become one of the prioritised countries?

The NHRF's engagement in Peru has been primarily related to the internal armed conflict (1980–2000) and the severe human rights abuses committed by the parties to the conflict, as well as with the discrimination of Peru's indigenous peoples. Around 70 000 people were killed or subject to enforced disappearance during the conflict, the majority of victims being from poor rural areas and indigenous groups.

Because of the significant support to local organisations in the 1990s, Peru had already been a de facto priority country for the NHRF by the time it was given the status in 2002. The end of the Alberto Fujimori regime in 2000 opened up opportunities to re-establish the rule of law and improve the human rights situation in Peru. The NHRF wanted to contribute in this window of opportunity by increasing support to Peruvian human rights organisations.

In 2003, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report with recommendations for reparations and reforms. This has been an important tool for Peruvian human rights organisations, and the NHRF has supported work to secure proper follow up of the recommendations.

You have been involved in the implementation of the exit strategy of Peru. Could you share some of your experiences from the process?

There were several reasons behind the Board's decision to phase out of Peru. Most importantly, there has been a notable improvement of the human rights situation as Peru is gradually moving away from a post conflict condition and towards increased political stability. Secondly, the NHRF guidelines limit the number of times each organisation can receive support. Supporting the establishment of new organisations in a situation where existing ones struggle to access funding is not necessarily desirable and may undermine sustainability.

In the exit strategy, we have attempted to maximise opportunities for sustainability for the supported organisations through offering the maximum number of grants and to encourage the organisations to apply for more stable and long-term donors. We have also tried to encourage cooperation and coordination of the Peruvian human rights community by



A meeting in the regional human rights network is taking place in Huancayo in central Peru. With NHRF support, the organisation *Centro de Iniciativas para el Desarrollo Humano* coordinates the network to ensure proper implementation of the human rights plan in the department of Junin.

ensuring that the supported organisations are members of the principal human rights network in Peru, the *Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos*.

The issue of security and working conditions for human rights defenders has been a concern in the period. Despite some improvements, human rights defenders still face serious risks as a consequence of their legitimate work. Since 2010, there have been several serious incidents of threats against people involved in projects supported by the NHRF in Peru. The NHRF will continue to consider supporting projects for improved security for defenders in Peru and elsewhere.

What has been most difficult, and which dilemmas have surfaced?

The decision to phase out of Peru was difficult, as there are still serious human rights challenges that need to be addressed. These include the slow progress towards justice for the victims of the armed conflict and the continued discrimination of indigenous people, which is a contributing factor to the increasing number of social conflicts related to extractive industries.

Many Peruvian human rights defenders feel that the success story narrative about Peru – based on strong economic growth and political stability – does not correspond to the situation on the ground, and that many international agencies are leaving on the wrong grounds. However, there are other countries in Latin-America where the human rights situation is more critical, and in the opinion of the NHRF, with a more acute need of international support to local human rights organisations.

What would you say has been the most important contribution of the NHRF to Peru?

As concluded in the external evaluation of the NHRF in 2009, the projects supported in Peru have been highly effective and

have had positive impacts on both local and national levels. In a crucial and transformative period in Peru's history, as the country has moved from armed conflict to a post-conflict phase with opportunities and challenges, the NHRF has contributed to ensuring that respect for human rights for vulnerable and marginalised groups have been put on the agenda. ■

HOW DOES THE NHRF SELECT PRIORITY COUNTRIES?

In 2011, the NHRF adopted a set of criteria for the selection of countries eligible for support. The criteria include a general assessment of the human rights situation, the potential for improvements, the nature of the human rights community and the need for the small scale support offered by the NHRF.

FOR WHAT REASON(S) DO THE NHRF CHOOSE TO PHASE OUT OF A PRIORITISED COUNTRY?

The NHRF periodically considers the relevance of our funding scheme in prioritised countries. The above-mentioned set of criteria is an important tool to assess the continued relevance. Tendencies in the human rights situation and the nature and status of the human rights community are key issues in this assessment.



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 negatively affecting local communities is increasing, often resulting in the loss of life. A major challenge to human rights work is the continued poor security situation for human rights defenders. NHRF grantees continue to face serious threats as a consequence of their legitimate human rights work.

In 2011, former army officer Ollanta Humala defeated Keiko Fujimori, daughter of imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori, in the second round of Presidential elections. Humala, a left wing candidate, won support from large parts of Peru's poor and indigenous population, but has since been criticised by human rights groups for giving priority to investment and extractive industries companies over local communities and indigenous' rights.

RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN PERU

In 2012, five human rights organisations received support from the NHRF, all of which had previously received support. As the NHRF is phasing out of the country from 2012, support to existing grantees has been 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.

In February 2013, the NHRF visited Peru for the last time to perform end evaluations of the projects supported in the exit strategy period (2010–2012). A separate evaluation report documenting the results achieved will be published in early 2013.

In 2012, Norwegian Journalist Åse Karen Westad Fjeld visited Peru. The following is a short version of her story about the NHRF grantee Asociación Reflexión de Inocentes Liberados (ARIL):

«We have a voice and we can construct our own future, not letting our selves being victimised.»

EDGAR RIVADENEYRA MACEDO
CHAIRMAN OF ARIL

Fighting stigma and seeking justice in Peru

Text: Åse Karen Westad Fjeld

– These people have no reason to claim their rights. They are liars and terrorists! A male bystander interferes aggressively in ARIL's information stand. We are in Lima at Plaza de Armas, only an hour before the ceremony is due to take place. In Peru, the submission of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is celebrated every August.

ARIL has received financial support from the Norwegian Human Rights Fund over five years. The organisation consists of people who were imprisoned on false charges of belonging to subversive groups during the internal armed conflict in Peru between 1980 and 2000. Many were jailed under the anti-terrorist legislation, enacted by former President Alberto Fujimori. Approximately 8.000 people became unjustly imprisoned.

Still attacked. Peru entered a political transition in 2000, but as the angry interruption above illustrates, the subject is still extremely controversial for many Peruvians. The mistrust persists despite that the anti-terrorist law has been declared unconstitutional and contrary to human rights, by both the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and by the Constitutional Court of Peru. Members of ARIL have received death threats and bombs placed outside of their office. Someone wants to create fear and in that way silence ARIL.

– It has not been easy but we have not been released to hide under the bed, Edgar Rivadeneyra Macedo explains. He is the chairman of the association and was himself imprisoned for ten years. He cannot obtain work because of his criminal record. The state never deleted this from his papers, even though he was released.

– When we were released we had to start reconstructing our families and readapt to society. Homes were destroyed, children abandoned. The first task was to bring the family together again. The children had other ways of understanding reality than their parents, and had become used to living without them. The second challenge was to defend ourselves against stigmatisation and judgments in our community. We had to fight.

Lack of political will. Despite Peru now having laws that recognize the rights of victims, there is no significant progress in the implementation of the reparations, according to ARIL. Challenges include a lack of knowledge about the reparation program in rural areas, continued impunity for the accused military and the national media's stigmatisation of victims. Recently a Peruvian politician laughed during a trial and ridiculed the testimonies of victims, calling them actors. The political pressure from associations like ARIL and the active



The ARIL-association together at Plaza de Armas before the annual commemoration. All members have been imprisoned and tortured for several years. Some received a sentence, others never did.

participation of those affected is still crucial to ensure that the government fulfills its obligations.

Started as self-help. Common for all ARIL- members are their physical and psychological problems as a result of extensive torture. In addition many lost their jobs, land and houses. ARIL was founded when some of the survivors started meeting in parks.

– With international support, we now have our own offices, Edgar explains. When released, the members of ARIL did not know how to turn on a computer. Today, they run an Internet TV program, a virtual bulletin and a printed newsletter, creating awareness and promoting human rights. They also produced radio until former President Alan Garcia decided that it should be closed.

Promoting peace and democracy. Eight years ago a group of ARIL members received reparation in the form of a piece of land during the governance of Alejandro Toledo. Just recently they have been able to start constructing houses, and not just wooden sheds. Today approximately 1000 people live in this community south of Lima, divided into 250 housing units.

– This was a dream, today it is realised, Edgar says, pointing to the bricked and colored houses. – Now we have light, electricity, a playground and a school.

– We have decided to see ourselves as citizens and residents. We have a voice and we can construct our own future, not letting our selves being victimised, says Edgar.

History cannot repeat itself. According to ARIL their motivation is to create a culture of peace, to be a voice of the disappeared and not let people forget the past.

– The compensation amount is not important, but the causes of political violence must disappear. Our main task as an association is to prevent this from happening again, to contribute to democracy, and destroy the breeding ground for what led to human rights violations initially. By creating a more cohesive society, we can avoid this, Edgar explains.

Today ARIL has accomplished several victories, but continue their struggle against the stigmatisation, discrimination and prejudice still existing in the Peruvian society. Politicians, police, media and individuals are still quick to shout «terrorist».

It is a strongly rhetorical term, highly charged with hatred and with associations to a dark period of Peruvian history. However, ARIL has the ability to respond to this situation. ■

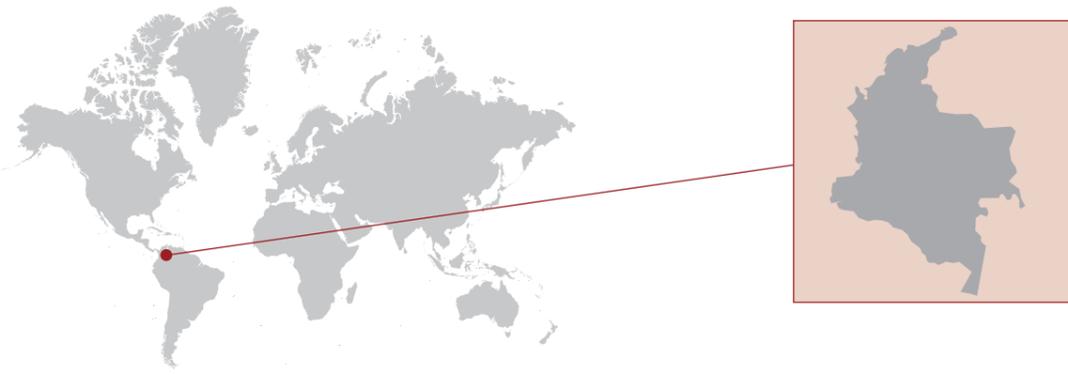
THE NHRF IN PERU

- The NHRF has supported human rights projects in Peru since 1990
- Peru was selected a country of priority in 2002
- Priority has been given to organisations working on grassroots level outside of Lima
- The thematic focus has been the follow-up of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and projects working with 1) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 2) Domestic Violence and Torture; and 3) Discrimination, including of indigenous peoples
- In 2010, the Board decided to phase out of Peru as a prioritised country, adopting an exit strategy for the period 2010–2012. In the exit strategy period, emphasis was given to sustainability of grantee organisations and cooperation and coordination of Peru's human rights community
- From 2013, Peru is no longer a priority country for the NHRF

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The 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 Colombia

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

In 2012, the Colombian government and the FARC rebels announced the launch of peace negotiations that is hoped to bring an end to the 48 year old armed conflict. As the talks are underway in Cuba, however, the conflict continues to lead to serious human rights violations on the ground in Colombia. All parties to the conflict are responsible for atrocities including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, forced displacement, arbitrary detentions and torture. The number of internally displaced people is among the highest in the world, with figures varying from 3,3 to 5,9 million. Paramilitary groups add to the insecurity, and are responsible for threats and attacks against human rights defenders in collusion with elements from Colombian security forces. Human rights defenders

claiming justice for victims in cases of extrajudicial killings carried out by military forces (**falsos positivos**) continue to receive threats from State actors, as recently documented by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The 2011 'Victims Law' that sets out to compensate victims of the conflict and restore lost land has provided civil society organisations with a platform for action, but still lacks convincing implementation. Despite the positive change in rhetoric and several encouraging initiatives under the Presidency of Juan Manuel Santos, the situation on the ground for marginalised groups and human rights defenders remains critical. In 2012, attacks against human rights defenders continued, 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 2012, five human rights organisations received support from the NHRF, three of which had previously received support. Geographically, the NHRF supported organisations working in the departments of Huila/Caquetá, Valle del Cauca, Norte de Santander and Cundinamarca. The thematic focus of the NHRF remains linked to the consequences of the armed conflict, with main working areas being the monitoring of human rights violations; work against impunity and for the preservation of the truth and the memory of victims of the conflict. Below are some examples of organisations that reported on projects in 2012.

Struggle against impunity

In 2012, the organisation **Fundación Guagua** continued its work for the rights of victims of the conflict. With support from the NHRF, Guagua has established a centre in the city of Cali where they denounce human rights abuses and spread awareness through a permanent gallery and a mobile exhibition in public places, libraries and universities. The gallery has been operated by volunteers since its beginning in 2007, and has gradually increased its scope of activities. The centre offers victims of the conflict a space for experience sharing, psychosocial treatment and for discussing strategies for their cases in the judiciary.

A major part of the work of Guagua is the systematic documentation of human rights abuses in Cali and surrounding areas. In 2012, Guagua documented 52 cases of forced displacement, 20 cases of forced disappearance and 20 cases of extrajudicial killings. In the same period, Guagua achieved that several cases previously considered mere disappearances were recognised as forced disappearances, with significant legal implications. One of these is the case of Sandra Viviana Cuellar, a 26 year old advocate for equal participation of local communities in environmental decisions that affect them. Cuellar was subject to



A member of the OBSURDH operated regional human rights network studies a threat from a paramilitary group during a meeting at La Plata municipality in the department of Huila. The threat is part of so-called social cleansing (*limpieza social*), where paramilitary groups target 'immoral' elements such as political activists and sexual minority persons.

enforced disappearance in February 2011, and has not yet been recovered. Her story testifies to the high level of risk faced by human rights defenders and activists in and around Cali.

Guagua is one of several organisations supported by the NHRF that provides the national database of human rights abuses with information from the ground in their area. Operated by the Bogotá – based organisation CINEP, the national database has been a crucial tool in exposing crimes against humanity such as the practice of **falsos positivos** (extrajudicial killings carried out by military forces with civilian victims dressed up in guerrilla uniforms to generate perks and bonuses for the military).

Documentation of human rights abuses

Another major contributor to the database is the organisation **Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia (OBSURDH)**, which has established itself as one of the principal human rights actors in the Huila/Caquetá region in southern Colombia with support from the NHRF. In 2012, OBSURDH continued their efforts to strengthen the human rights network in this war affected region, and equipped four member organisations with the knowledge and tools to collect and analyse information about local human rights abuses. During the year, OBSURDH carried out various human rights missions with the Ombudsman and UN agencies to document cases and identify ways to minimise the risk in local communities.

In the same period, OBSURDH published four new issues of the journal *Voces y Silencios*, which documents abuses and analyses trends. Through this and other publications, OBSURDH has had a great impact in giving visibility and raising awareness about the human rights situation in Southern Colombia, and has built a solid platform for advocacy work on local, regional and national levels. ■

THE NHRF IN COLOMBIA

- Colombia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- In 2012, the NHRF adopted a new strategy for activities in Colombia
- The thematic focus is the rights of groups particularly affected by the armed conflict
- Priority is given to projects working to end impunity and for justice for the victims of the armed conflict
- Priority is given to projects applying advocacy work on local and national levels
- The NHRF hired a local consultant in Colombia in 2011, and annual seminars for all grantee organisations will be organised from 2013 and onwards

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The 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



Poster dedicated to Sandra Viviana Cuellar, who disappeared in February 2011. Forced disappearances is a serious risk facing human rights defenders in Cali and the surrounding areas.



NHRF support to Liberia

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LIBERIA

From 1989 to 2003, civil war claimed the lives of more than 200 000 people, displaced one million and destroyed the country's infrastructure and economy. The 2003 Accra Peace Agreement led to democratic elections in 2005, in which Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected the first female head of state in Africa. She was re-elected in 2011, and will remain President until her last period expires in 2017.

With significant international assistance Liberia has stabilised politically, though the security situation remains fragile and serious humanitarian needs persist in rural and urban areas. The 2011 elections and its aftermath highlighted the fragility; isolated incidents of political violence and high tensions, incited by an opposition boycott of the second round of the Presidential elections, may have served to deepen fault lines in society.

Much progress has been achieved to restore civil and political rights since the war. Elections have been largely free and peaceful, and Liberia has advanced legislation on the freedom of information. Progressive laws and mechanisms for the promotion of women's rights have been established, though they often lack proper implementation. Despite the progress since the end of the war, however, several of the root causes of the conflict remain unresolved. These include a polarised society and political system; corruption and nepotism; impunity (both for perpetrators of violence during the civil war and crimes committed in present); youth unemployment; and widespread poverty. Violence against women was commonplace during the armed conflict, with a 2005 World Health Organisation survey indicating that 72 % of Liberian women were raped during the war. Despite much effort, violence against women remains a critical problem throughout the country,



Women from Palala and surrounding communities gather in the local women centre, where they receive training and discuss strategies on how to claim their rights. With NHRF support, the organisation Rural Women Rights Structure works to end sexual and gender based violence in the area.

denying women and girls the benefits of Liberia's peace. The incidence of rape of women and girls continue to be alarmingly high, with the majority of victims under the age of 16.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN LIBERIA IN 2012

In 2012, five Liberian human rights organisations received financial support from the NHRF, four of which had previously received support. The geographical focus is diverse, though all grantees implemented projects outside of Monrovia. All supported projects focused on women and children's rights, with the main focus being work against gender-based violence. The following stories provide a few examples of what was achieved by the Liberian grantee organisations with NHRF support in 2012:

Mobilising against sexual and gender-based violence

In the town of Palala in Bong County, a group of local women have mobilised to demand an end to sexual and gender-based violence and to enhance respect for women's rights in their area. Their organisation, Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS), consists of around 500 women who work on a voluntary basis for women's rights. In 2011, the NHRF approved support to the organisation for their first externally funded human rights project. In 2012 the group reported on encouraging results. With small scale financial support, RWRS has provided training in human rights investigation, monitoring and documentation of human rights violations for 133 persons, the majority of which are women. Equipped with new knowledge and tools, they have set up monitoring committees to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and other human rights violations. During the first months of operations, the committees have reported a total of 44 cases of sexual and gender based violence and violations of women's rights, demanding that authorities assume their rightful responsibility to protect women and that perpetrators are held to account. While most cases are still pending in the local court system, two perpetrators of rape have been found guilty and received prison sentences.

In addition to monitoring and reporting activities, RWRS have used the financial support from the NHRF to establish a resource centre in Palala. Here, women can come together to discuss their challenges and receive advice on how to defend their rights. The centre offers relevant literature and internet access to its users. During the course of the project, RWRS have reached around 1300 persons in Palala and surrounding communities with awareness raising activities, using loud-speakers, posters and stickers to spread information about women's rights. RWRS was recently granted renewed support from the NHRF to continue and expand their important work.



Members of a peer watch club at SDA High School in Buchanan, Liberia. The peer watch clubs monitor and report cases of sexual and gender based violence

Against sexual exploitation and abuse in Liberia's schools

Various organisations supported by the NHRF continued their work against exploitation and abuse of children in Liberia's schools in 2012. In River Gee County, bordering Ivory Coast in the east, the organisation Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) completed their first project supported by the NHRF to reduce incidents of sexual and gender based violence in local schools. Preparing for a long term intervention, SHIFSD carried out a baseline research documenting the challenges in the area. Among the findings was that two out of three female respondents had experienced some form of sexual and gender based violence, and that incidents of rape and domestic violence are common throughout the target area. Responding to this critical situation, SHIFSD has recruited and trained students in five local schools to set up monitoring clubs to document and report such incidents and demand that the authorities assume their responsibility to end impunity for violations of women's rights.

In Grand Bassa County in central Liberia, the organisation Women Rights Watch (WORIWA) has carried out similar work with the support of the NHRF for four consecutive years, and continues to achieve important results. In 2012, WORIWA reported that the student monitoring clubs had documented and reported 25 cases of domestic violence, of which seven were rape cases. In two of these cases, the perpetrators have received prison sentences. As a result of abuses, three teachers were suspended from their jobs. WORIWA continues to expand their work, and in 2012 trained 60 women on monitoring, documentation and reporting, and set up monitoring bodies in three new communities and 11 schools. Beyond direct financial support, WORIWA has received capacity building from the NHRF over a period of several years, in order to strengthen their organisational systems and human rights approaches. With assistance from the NHRF, WORIWA managed to secure more longer term and substantial funding from another international donor in 2012, thereby increasing the opportunities for impact and sustainability. ■

THE NHRF IN LIBERIA

- The NHRF has supported organisations in Liberia since 1996
- Liberia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- In 2012, the NHRF adopted a new strategy for activities in Liberia
- The thematic focus is women and children's rights; and economic, social and cultural rights
- The target group is primarily organisations based in rural areas with sustained links to the target area
- Since 2007, the NHRF has arranged annual seminars for grantees in Liberia. The 2012 seminar focused on the issue of financial management

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The 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

Signed but not ratified:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



NHRF support to Pakistan

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan's democracy is fragile and the country remains politically unstable. The various conflicts in different parts of the country have caused a serious degradation when it comes to the respect for human rights. Serious human rights abuses include enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, torture and deaths in custody.

Poverty and lack of access to education, health services and clean water are serious issues of concern. The lacking ability of the state to deliver basic social services and security to its citizens contributes to increased social unrest and facilitates the recruitment to armed groups.

Pakistan was reviewed at the UN Universal Periodic review (UPR) in 2012, and the international community expressed concerns about the human rights situation for vulnerable groups and problematic legislation such as the blasphemy law. Over the last years, Pakistan has ratified important legislation including the Convention Against Torture and the Convention for Civil and Political Rights and has passed important national legislation on women's rights. These steps were warmly welcomed by the international community during the UPR. National human rights groups, however, express concern about the reservations to the conventions made by Pakistan. It also remains to be seen how Pakistan will integrate the conventions into national legislation and its eventual implementation.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002 and has been regularly visited by the secretariat. In accordance with the NHRF strategy, support has been given to organisations working for vulnerable groups' rights, including women, children, unskilled workers and minority groups. In 2012, a total of



Awam staff in a lobbying meeting with government officials of District Kasur, about the disability registration process.

six organisations received support. Out of these, four worked with labour rights, one on the issue of child marriages and one with the rights of disabled women. Below are two examples of results achieved by organisations that implemented projects in 2012.

Rights of disabled women: Work to counter stigma and assigning accountability to the State

In 2012, the organisation Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM) reported on the second project supported by the NHRF. The main objective of the project was: 'Better policies, practices and networking to protect the rights of women/persons with disabilities'. The project also aimed at educating and sensitising diverse groups of society, including the general public, legislators, policy makers and civil society groups about issues facing disabled persons.

AWAM has engaged various disabled peoples' organisations in the implementation of project activities, and trained them to speak out for the rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, an advocacy cluster of different stakeholders including persons with disabilities, human rights activists, media personnel and community leaders has been established, increasing the number of advocates for disabled persons' rights. The organisation also reported that lobby meetings with parliamentarians and ministries have created an enabling environment when it comes to bringing the disability issue into debates.

Among the anticipated results were improved knowledge among women with disabilities and obtaining disability registration certificates and national identity cards with a disability logo to secure access to social services. During the project the organisation assisted women to register and a total of 275 women to obtain registration certificates and identity cards with disability logo. A total of 93 women got benefits from other organisations on the basis of having obtained identity cards, 32 women with disabilities submitted the application for financial assistance to Bait-ul-Maal office, and 13 disabled persons achieved financial support from Benazir Income Support Programme of Government. 25 women obtained assistive devices by utilising their certificates and Computerized National Identity Cards.

Promotion & Protection of Labor Rights in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)

In January 2012, the organisation SAHARA Development Foundation received a two year grant from the NHRF to continue their work for labour rights in KPK, previously supported with three grants.

Initially, the program was started to improve working conditions for workers in the Haripur District. However, the outreach of the project has been enhanced up to the provincial level aiming to benefit the formal and informal workers. Objectives of the program include influence for pro labour legislation in the



Four out of six supported projects in Pakistan in 2012 focused on labour rights issues. Picture: Striking workers in Haripur, KPK.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan, to educate and enable workers to assert their rights and legal entitlements and enhance their access to legal entitlements by providing them with legal and technical support.

In 2012, SAHARA reported that the Labour Resource Center (LRC) has continued to play a significant role in easing access to legal entitlements of the workers and their families, as well as in facilitating interaction between the workers and relevant ministries and employers. During the year, a total of 899 cases were registered for technical support at the LRC, out of which 674 are still being processed and 225 successfully processed. 60 cases were brought before relevant courts, of which 40 are still pending. In total 20 cases resulted in a positive outcome for the workers. In this work the lawyer community of Haripur has contributed by rendering pro bono services for legal and technical support of workers as well as by providing assistance for analysis of labour laws and in the articulation of recommendations.

With technical support from Sahara, the trade union Hazara Labour Federation (HLF) and the Labour Rights Movement (LRM) have remained actively engaged in the rights struggle particularly in organising workers events, analysing laws, forwarding recommendations and actively responding to the critical labour issues. SAHARA has continued to work closely with the media and has experienced that the issues of the workers are regularly highlighted.

Significant efforts have been made to influence provincial labour legislation, although the process has been slow and attempted hampered by different stakeholders. However, the organisation has received strong signals by provincial assembly members that a pro labour contribution will be included upon tabling of labour-related laws in the provincial assembly.

After four years of support from the NHRF, SAHARA's contribution as a rights-based organisation, with a specialty in Labour Rights is well recognised on local, provincial and national levels. It has given input to the UPR process and is currently drafting a working paper on Labour Legislation in Khyber Pakh-

tunkha to analyse and highlight challenges and opportunities for pro-labour legislation in the province. SAHARA works in close networks and cooperation with other national organisations, such as PILER. ■

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 workers' rights
- The NHRF supports organisations in three provinces; Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh
- The NHRF has had a local consultant in Pakistan since 2004
- Since 2010, the NHRF has arranged annual seminars for grantees in Pakistan. The 2012 focused on the issue of organisational and financial management

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The State is a party:

- 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



NHRF support to India

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA

While observers frequently point to India's vibrant and independent civil society as a sign of a thriving democracy, central Indian human rights actors and groups stated at the end of 2012 that the human rights situation in the country is deteriorating. Large parts of India's population remain marginalised with many groups facing entrenched discrimination, violence and neglect, including women, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities and religious minorities.

In the India session at the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on May 30th, 80 countries participated and submitted a total of 169 recommendations on critical human rights issues to the Government of India. Among these was the need to urgently ratify the UN Convention Against Torture; enact comprehensive reforms to address all acts of violence against women; consider abolishing the death penalty; and to safeguard the situation of human rights defenders. The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders visited India in 2012 and expressed grave concerns about the situation of the defenders, particularly women defenders and those representing marginalised communities. She further recommended that the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, which places restrictions on NGOs, should be critically reviewed or repealed. In August 2012, more than 4000 Indian civil society organisations lost the right to receive funding from abroad.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN INDIA

The NHRF grantees in India work on civil, economic and social rights within a wide range of areas, including the rights of unorganised labourers, land rights and access to health rights. The



Workers from the unorganised sector in Bangalore voicing their demands on May Day 2012 under the umbrella of NCL. After the dharna a memorandum was sent to the government.

method of advocacy is used alongside awareness raising by most of the organisations. During the year, the organisations operating in three states (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu) have worked for increased access to economic and social rights and empowerment and participation for vulnerable groups such as dalits and tribals in defending their rights. All of the organisations are advocating for policy change at state levels. In 2012, seven organisations received support from the NHRF. Below are two examples of results achieved by organisations that implemented projects during the year.

Access to Land for Landless Dalits

The organisation Team for the Reformation of Education and Environmental Services (TREES) has worked since 1995 for the recognition of dalit's human rights in the Kolar District in Andhra Pradesh, with a particular emphasis on land rights. Possessing land gives families access to political decision making in the villages and guarantees access to food through parts of the year.

In 2012, TREES reported on its fourth grant from the NHRF for the project «Right To Land: A Struggle of the Landless Agriculture Labourers». TREES reported that 146 selected community leaders had been trained and that 12 cases against the dominant caste for illegal encroachment of land had been filed by the community as a result of this training. According to TREES, many families were granted access to economic and social rights: 13 families were granted 19.17 acres of land; 170 families got access to social welfare schemes; and a total of 117 families got access to housing from the government as a result of the project activities.

The organisation concluded a study on the conditions of landless labourers and found that a total of 18765 families in Kolar are landless and that nine farmers had committed suicide due to insolvency and debt. In the wake of the survey, six atrocity cases were filed. The findings of the report were duly brought to the government's attention.

Over the last few years, TREES has also focused on the issue of burial grounds. People live according to caste in the villages, and the dalits live segregated from the upper caste people. The organisation has demanded that separate burial grounds should be sanctioned to every village in the dalit communities due to the discrimination and violence that occurs when the public roads to the burial sites are used or when they have to pass an upper cast village. In 2012, 76 villages were allotted such burial grounds as a result of the advocacy efforts.

During the year, the organisation mobilised 3000 people as well as the local communities in rallies with the aim of securing dalits' ownership of land and access to social and economic rights. In mid 2012, TREES received their last grant from the NHRF earmarked their work on land rights for agricultural labourers.



The founder of TREES, Mr. Narayana Swamy, works with his community to identify land and to claim land for landless dalit agricultural labourers in Kolar according to land reforms and Indian law.

Building Unorganised Workers' Organisations in South India

The National Centre for Labour (NCL) is a confederation of independent Unorganised Labour Organisations in India, formed in 1995. Through its constituent members, NCL represents the interests of agricultural labourers, construction workers, fishermen, forestry workers, contract labourers, domestic workers, migrant labourers, loading and unloading workers, garment workers, the self employed, hawkers and small vendors and the likes. NCL has around 1 000 000 members spread over 12 Indian states.

The organisation works for a sector that represents 477 million people in the country and whose contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is more than 60%. However, 98.5% of the workers forming this sector are not included in any kind of Social Security Coverage scheme. Workers encompassing these sectors are exploited on a large scale when it comes to salaries, working hours, sexual exploitation and absence of compensation for work-related accidents.

By the end of 2012, the organisation reported on its first grant from the NHRF for a project entitled «Building Unorganised Workers Organisations in South India». NCL stated that training programs had been organised in all four states to educate workers, emphasising the need for labour organisations. In each programme, between 200 and 700 workers participated. The NCL reported that they were able to build confidence among the workers and in the course of the year were successful in motivating the workers to unite and voice their demands.

The NCL also reported that workers demanded the implementation of laws directly related to their welfare. The organisation has been working strategically to sensitise relevant bureaucrats and politicians to the issues of unorganised labour through public meetings and training programmes, through organising popular actions and protests in addition to using the media.

By the end of the year the NHRF supported the NCL with a second grant for its work for the unorganised sector in India in 2013. ■

THE NHRF IN INDIA

- India has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF has supported organisations in India since the 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 NHRF has three priority states in South India: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- Thematically, the NHRF supports work to defend social and economical rights such as land rights, labour rights and anti-discrimination
- The NHRF focuses on the rights of vulnerable groups, such as dalits and indigenous peoples.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The State is a party:

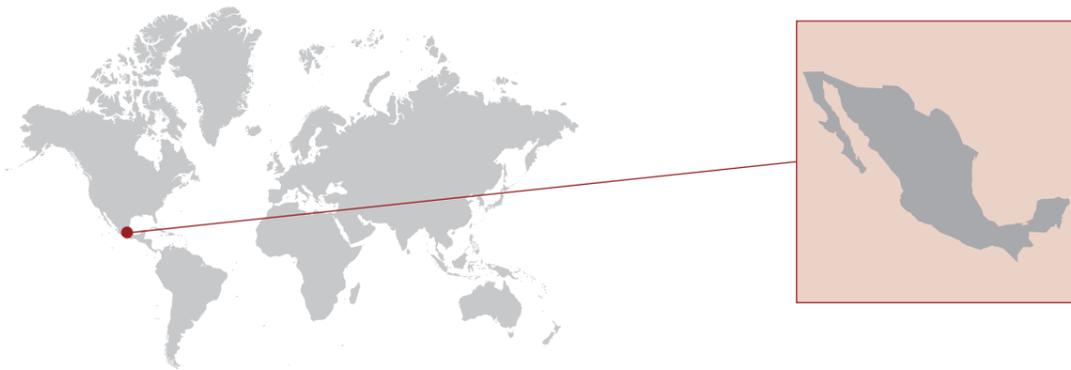
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the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



Following the visit to Mexico in 2012, the NHRF approved support to the organisation Indignación. Promoción y defensa de los derechos humanos A.C. for their work for women and indigenous peoples' rights on the Yucatán Peninsula. Here, a workshop on women's rights is taking place in the Mayapán community in the state of Yucatán.



New eligible country: Mexico

AS A RESULT OF A CONSULTATION process involving the owner organisations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other stakeholders, the Board of the NHRF decided in late 2011 to make Mexico an eligible country for support. Following the decision, the secretariat visited the country on a mapping exercise in April 2012. The intention of the visit was to gather first hand information about the human rights situation in the country and map the human rights community in order to establish priorities for NHRF support to Mexico.

The visit strengthened the NHRF's analysis that the human rights situation in Mexico is deteriorating, in some areas quickly. The level of violence has increased rapidly since the war on the drug cartels was initiated in 2006, and has cost a total of

55 000 lives so far. Beyond general insecurity, the conflict has negatively affected the rights of various groups, including indigenous peoples and migrants.

The NHRF had identified three possible thematic priorities prior to the visit, namely i) the protection of human rights defenders; ii) indigenous peoples' rights; and iii) women's rights. The visit confirmed the relevance of these areas in the current Mexican context, and the NHRF was encouraged to maintain these preliminary priorities. In addition, the issue of migrants' rights emerged as an area in need of international engagement, with a large number of small organisations that fit the NHRF funding scheme.

The human rights community in Mexico consists of a large



The NHRF met with several key human rights actors during the visit to Mexico in April 2012. Among these was the Mexico branch of Amnesty International, here with Executive Director Alberto Herrera.

number of capable and experienced organisations. There is a clear trend of diminishing opportunities for financing of human rights work, owing partly to the financial crisis. In this context, the NHRF may provide skilled and experienced human rights organisations with much needed funds to carry out important human rights work.

Following the visit, the NHRF approved financial support to two human rights projects in Mexico. The supported projects focus on the issues of indigenous' rights and women's rights in the southern Yucatán Peninsula and the state of Tabasco. During 2013, the NHRF is likely to increase the number of grantee organisations in Mexico. ■

Change *Accountability*
Human rights *Mobilisation*
defenders
Protection
Empowerment **Dignity**
Demands

Support to other countries

THE MAIN BULK of NHRF funds in 2012 was allocated to the countries of priority. 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 has been granted to projects in other countries. In the current strategy period, exceptions from geographical priorities are made for projects for protection of human rights defenders, as well as applications forwarded by owner organisations or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ALTHOUGH THE UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders (2000) clearly states that everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels, this is unfortunately not the reality in many countries where human rights defenders are targeted both by state and non state actors.

IN 2012, 7% of NHRF funds was allocated to projects in this category. Five such projects were carried out in four different countries. Two projects were forwarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED networking of human rights defenders at risk and support to initiatives that enabled spaces for strategic discussions between defenders working in hostile environments; juridical assistance and follow-up of imprisoned defenders; monitoring of the situation of human rights defenders at risk; publication of reports and advocacy for the protection of human rights defenders.



Session on financial management during the annual NHRF seminar in Monrovia in 2012.

Capacity building

The main task and stated ambition of the NHRF is to enable local organisations to carry out human rights work by providing financial support. While the NHRF supports many human rights organisations that have been working for many years for the rights of marginalised groups, the distinctiveness of the NHRF funding scheme is the ability to support small and nascent human rights groups and initiatives as well. This entails a responsibility to provide feedback and counselling to grantees on the implementation of projects. In the current strategy period, the board has decided that the NHRF will increase its capacity building efforts and create spaces for mutual learning and experience sharing between grantee organisations. The annual seminars in prioritised countries constitute an important tool in this work, in addition to input and visits by local consultants to the grantee organisations.

ANNUAL SEMINARS: India

Between the 6th and the 8th of February, a three day seminar was arranged in Bangalore with the topic «the rights to life». The issue of the rights to life is embedded in the Indian constitution and is in many respects a mainstream right in all the NHRF activities and projects when it comes to work for the Dalits and Adivasis, the unorganised sector, and land rights.

Both current and recent grantees participated in the seminar. 12 organisations attended the training, with a total of 23 partici-

pants. The seminar was filled with lectures, interactive sessions and time for reflections on the work that is undertaken.

The NHRF grantee organisation Sichrem organised and facilitated the training together with the local consultant.

The seminar included an interactive session where the grantees presented their projects currently funded by the NHRF including challenges and opportunities, and finally comments and feedback on strategies and interventions.

Pakistan

A two-day capacity building workshop was organised for current NHRF grantees in Pakistan on the 11th and the 12th of October 2012 in Lahore. 14 representatives from six organisations attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the NHRF consultant in Pakistan, Tanveer Jahan, while financial advisor Sikandar Hayat conducted one session on internal control and financial systems.

The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Provide grantees with an orientation in tools for good governance and organisational management
- Help grantees to analyse their respective organisations by applying these tools
- Facilitate grantees to identify the structural and capacity gaps of their respective organisations and formulate strategies to fill these gaps.

«Overall this training helps us to analyse ourselves at the organisational level and how to prepare strategic planning.»

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANT AT THE ANNUAL SEMINAR FROM PAKISTAN

Liberia

For the sixth consecutive year, the NHRF hosted an annual seminar for all current grantees in Monrovia. The seminar took place in central Monrovia on the 4th to the 5th of July. NHRF grantee WORIVA was responsible for hosting the seminar. In addition to capacity building in various areas, the seminar's intention was to create a space for grantees to network and share experiences and strategies.

The focus for this year's seminar was two-fold; the first day was dedicated to the issue of financial management, and the second day to advocacy strategies. Mr. Richard Karbor, who normally serves as a financial management trainer for the Ministry of Health, was responsible for facilitating the main session on July 4th, under the heading «Financial Administration and Management». NHRF consultant Aloysius Toe facilitated the session on advocacy strategies on the second day of the seminar.

Attendance at the seminar was high with more than 20 participants, most of which took actively part in discussions. Among the key topics that triggered lengthy discussions was the issue of Female Genital Mutilation. ■

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
- Continuous 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 has decided that the NHRF should employ local consultants in all countries of priority.

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 and references from likeminded funders and national and international human rights organisations in the selection of projects.

All four NHRF consultants are qualified human rights activists 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 Maqueira 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 2012, Aloysius has been undertaking his master's degree in the USA in combination with his work for the NHRF.



PAKISTAN: Ms. Tanveer Jahan lives and works in 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 2012.

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 gratitude for the useful and generous assistance of volunteer Miriam Sethne, as well as two interns from the Master program in the Theory and practice of Human Rights at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo: Agnieszka Cybulska and Greisy Lorena Rodriguez Medina.

Amnesty International Norway has hosted the secretariat since 2007. The sharing of offices with Amnesty provides the secretariat with an inspiring working environment, both professionally and socially.

Travels and follow-up: during 2012, the secretariat has visited **India** and **Liberia** for project visits. The NHRF was unable to obtain a visa to Pakistan and the trip was postponed to 2013. The owner organisation the Church of Norway Ecumenical Council, represented by Vice Secretary General Mr. Einar Tjelle, accom-

panied the NHRF to India. In addition, Anne Helseth, freelance journalist and law student, followed the NHRF's program for five days and later published an article on the situation of Dalits in India in the national Norwegian newspaper Dagsavisen. Freelance journalist and sociology student Åse Karen Westad Fjeld visited a NHRF grantee in Peru and contributed with an article published on the NHRF website and in this annual report.

On the visit to Liberia, the NHRF was accompanied on selected activities by Reidun Sandvold, representative from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), which in 2012 provided a grant for NHRF activities in Liberia.

Two assessment trips were conducted to **Libanon** and **Mexico** (see page 21).

In addition, Sandra Petersen and the Swedish Amnesty Fund participated in a Nordic donor meeting hosted by KIOS in **Helsinki** in September. The purpose was to share experiences and to explore further cooperation and mutual areas of interest.

With financial assistance from the NGO forum for Human Rights, the NHRF staff travelled to **Geneva** in an NGO delegation with Kristiina Vainio from KIOS in Finland, Ed Brown and Kristin Storaker from the Stefanus alliance in Norway. The purpose of the visit was to take part in the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan, participate in side events and to get familiarised with organisations working in Geneva. The NHRF would



Mr. Einar Tjelle from the Church of Norway Ecumenical Council accompanied the NHRF on the visit to India. Here together with the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights in New Delhi.

like to express gratitude for the coordination of the trip by the **Human Rights Foundation House's office in Geneva** that facilitated a session on capacity building for the delegation with selected organisations working in Geneva and meetings with different offices of special rapporteurs. ■

THE BOARD OF THE NHRF

In 2012, the Board has held four 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 2012, the annual report 2011 was launched and plans for 2012 discussed. In June, the NHRF project coordinator Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth held a presentation about the visit to Mexico and gave recommendations for further support to the country. In September, Political advisor Beate Ekeløv-Slydal from the owner organisation Amnesty International shared experiences, dilemmas and opportunities related to fundraising; a summary with recommendations was given from the visit to Lebanon; as well as discussions on the funding situation for the NHRF. The last board meeting in December focused on the budgets and programming for 2013 and beyond. ■

Members of the Board of the NHRF 2012 have been as follows (one representative for each of the six owner organisations):

- Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations:** Ms. Camilla Ravnsborg Aschjem (Chair of the Board)
- Amnesty International Norway:** Mr. Gerald Folkvord
- Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions:** Ms. Nina Mjøberg, after September 2012: Ellen-Kathrine Fauske
- The Atlas Alliance:** Ms. Rikke Bækkevold
- Norwegian Centre for Human Rights:** Ms. Cecilie Figenschou Bakke
- Norwegian Bar Association:** Mr. Arne Gunnar Aas.

NORAD has been participating in the Board as observers:

- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD):** Ms. Margot Skarpeteig.



Board Members in April 2013. From left: Ellen-Kathrine Fauske (Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions), Cecilie Figenschou Bakke (Norwegian Centre for Human Rights), Gerald Folkvord (Amnesty International Norway), Gørild Mathisen (Norad), Einar Tjelle (Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations) and Trine Cecilie Riis-Hansen (The Atlas Alliance)

Accounts

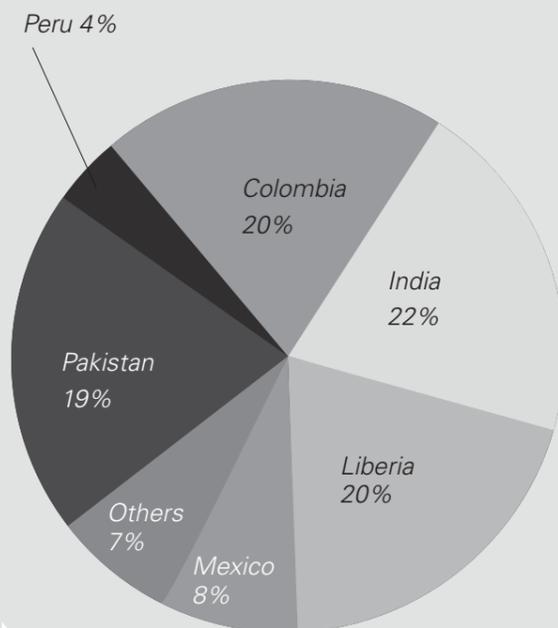
THE TOTAL INCOME in 2012 was **NOK 5 067 605,-** (US\$ 873 725,-). The main part of the budget was covered by grants from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to the work in Liberia. The remaining part of the budget was covered by the owner organisations of the NHRF and small donations from individual donors, and the EU/IDSN. A total of **NOK 3 397 157,-** (US\$ 585 716,-) was granted to Human Rights projects during the year under review.

NOK 1 214 815,- (US\$ 209 450,-), or 23,9 % percent of the income for 2012, was spent on administrative expenses, such as salaries and office costs in Norway.

NOK 331 018,- (US\$ 57 072,-) was spent on follow-up and capacity building 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 61 456,- (US\$ 10 595) was spent on communication and reporting.

NOK 72 129,- (US\$ 12 436) was spent on The Norwegian Solidarity Networks activities in Norway covered by EU/IDSN funding.



ACCOUNTS IN 2012	USD	NOK
Total income	873 725	5 067 605
From owners	108 189	627 500
From Government	74 6479	4 329 579
Other incomes	19 056	110 526
Total expenses	875 271	5 076 577
For grants	585 716	3 397 157
For salaries and administration	209 450	1 214 815
For communication/reporting	10 595	61 456
Capacity building and monitoring	57 072	331 018

NHRF-funded projects carried out in 2012

AFRICA:

LIBERIA

Organisations approved for support in previous years that carried out part of their project in 2012:

- National Institute for Public Opinion (NIPO): «Breaking the Silence of Violence Against Women»
- Liberia Policy Research Group (LPRG): «Protecting Women Workers on the Cavalla Rubber Plantation»
- Self Help Development & Relief Agency (SHDRA): «Increasing Human Rights Awareness Amongst Students and Young People In Sinoe County»
- Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS): «Empowering Women through Human Rights Awareness and Civic Education Campaign»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2012:

- Youth-Care: «Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women & Girls in Suehn-Mecca District»
- National Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Human Rights (NAPRHR): «Combating sexual and gender-based violence against women and promoting their protection»
- Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD): «Fighting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities & Schools (Year 2)»
- Women Rights Watch (WORIWA): «Women Rights Advocacy and Empowerment Campaign in Bassa County»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2012:

- The Forum for Women Rights Defense (FORWORD): «Advocacy for Punitive Actions Against Abusers of women and girls»

ASIA:

INDIA

Organisations approved for support in previous years that carried out part of their project in 2012:

- 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»
- MANASA Centre for Development and Social Action (MANASA), Bangalore, Karnataka: «Undertaking advocacy work in monitoring and strengthening the Human Rights Institutions in Karnataka»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2012:

- 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), Karnataka: «A Struggle of The Landless Agriculture Labourers»

- The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT), Madurai, Tamil Nadu: «Recognition of and increased respect for civil, social and economic rights for the Nomadic community in Tamil Nadu»
- National Centre for Labour, Karnataka: «Building unorganized workers organisations in South India»
- Virudhunagar District Udeyam Construction and unorganized sector women labour rights sangam (Trade Union), Tamil Nadu: «Empowerment of unorganised sector women in Virudhunagar district»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2012:

- EVIDENCE, Tamil Nadu: «To ensure access to justice for the dalits in Tamilnadu and Pondichery»
- Jagruti/ JANA AROGYA ANDOLANA KARNATAKA (JAAK) Karnataka: «Monitoring and revitalizing of taluka and district hospitals for availability and accessibility to health care»

PAKISTAN

Organisations approved for support in previous years that carried out part of their project in 2012:

- Harmony Foundation, Faisalabad: «Education and training of the workers and labor leaders of textile industry on labor laws and trade union»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2012:

- SAHARA Development Foundation (SDF), Hariipur, KPK: «Workers have increased access to legitimate rights and entitlements»
- Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM), Faisalabad: «New draft of the comprehensive disability bill is evolved with consensus among stakeholders for establishing, improving and strengthening support mechanisms ensuring conducive environment for persons with disabilities»
- Chanan Development Association (CDA), Lahore: «Increased Protection of Female Domestic Servant's Human Rights»
- Sujag Sansar Organization (SSO), Sindh: «To reduce child marriages in Sindh province through advocacy and awareness»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2012:

- Encourage the human development, Multan: «Ensuring Entitled Rights of Bonded labour in Multan»
- Sindh Community Organisation (SCO) Sindh: «Cotton picking women are organized, educated and have sufficient equal wedges; with strengthened voice on women economic rights protection and justice and their economic and labour rights are protected»

LATIN-AMERICA:

COLOMBIA

Organisations approved for support in previous years that carried out part of their project in 2012:

- Abogados sin Fronteras Colombia (ASFCOL): «Observatory for the situation of human rights for litigating lawyers in Colombia»
- Centro de Estudios para la Justicia Social ('Tierra Digna'): «Advancing in the defence of the right to water in communities in Cauca and Cundinamarca affected by privatisation and commercialisation of water in Colombia»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2012:

- Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia (OBSURDH): «Strengthening of the analysis unit of the Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia and the departmental network of human rights»
- Fundación Guagua: «Galería de la Memoria Tiberio Fernández Mafla»
- Asociación Colombiana para la Exigibilidad del Derecho a la Salud (SaludalDerecho): «Capacitating for the application of development of collective rights – second year»

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2012:

- Madres y familiares de los casos de falsos positivos de Soacha y Bogotá: «Strengthen the organisational process of Mothers and Relatives of cases of extrajudicial killings from Soacha and Bogotá through training, communication and preservation of the historic memory.»
- Comité de Integración Social del Catatumbo (CISCA): «Improvement of capacities of the social and victims' organisations integrated in CISCA to demand access to the rights guaranteed by the Victims' Law in the new dynamic of the armed conflict»

MEXICO

Organisations that were provided first time support in 2012:

- Asociación Ecológica Santo Tomás A.C. (AEST): «Improve implementation of the law on gender-based violence (Ley Estatal de Acceso de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia) by the authorities in the state of Tabasco»
- Indignación. Promoción y defensa de los derechos humanos A.C.: «Contribute to the plain enjoyment of the human rights (rights of native peoples); women's rights and gender equality; and economic, social, cultural and environmental rights) and access to justice for the historically discriminated groups, including the Maya population, on the Yucatán Peninsula»

PERU

Organisations approved for support in previous years that carried out part of their project in 2012:

- Asociación Reflexión de Inocentes Liberados (ARIL): «Political positioning of the freed innocents for the defence and promotion of human rights in the framework of the regional integral plan for reparations in Peru»
- Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CEDEH): «Strengthening the process to establish regional policies with human rights focus»
- Centro de Iniciativas para el Desarrollo Humano (CEIDHU): «Advocacy for the fulfilment of the regional plan for human rights in Junín»
- Comisión de Solidaridad, Desarrollo y Justicia (COSDEJ): «Strengthening the access to justice with the active participation of the citizens and judicial actors in the region of Lambayeque»

Organisations that were provided further support in 2012:

- Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchiquaq (ADEHR): «Psycho juridical strategies for the achievement of access to justice and struggle against impunity in the framework of the recommendations from the truth and reconciliation commission»

In addition, the NHRF supported five projects in four different countries in 2012 that due to the sensitive nature of the projects, the grantees requested that information about the organisations not be published. The main bulk of these projects focused on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Four of these projects received support in 2012, while one continued after receiving support in 2011.



www.nhrf.no



WHAT IS THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND (NHRF)?

Since its inception in 1988, the mandate of **THE NHRF** has been to promote human rights internationally. The NHRF provides direct support to frontline human rights organisations and projects working to protect and promote the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The niche of **THE NHRF** lies in its ability to be a flexible donor that can take risks by supporting nascent initiatives which are targeted and smart, without intermediary links or time-consuming procedures. The NHRF can provide support in politically sensitive contexts, thereby acting as a daring contributor in the struggle for the respect for human rights.

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

THE NHRF is anchored in Norwegian civil society organisations, which contribute both financially and professionally to human rights projects and the operations of the NHRF.

OWNER ORGANISATIONS DURING 2012:

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

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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VISIT ADDRESS AND EXPRESS DELIVERY:

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