



Direct support to human rights defenders

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Team for the Reformation of Education and Environmental Services (TREES) received its fifth and last grant from the NHRF for the period 2012-2013. TREES works to identify and claim land for landless agricultural labourers in Kolar district, Karnataka state, India. The picture shows a cultural performance by TREES women's movement.

Front page picture: The NHRF supports work against sexual exploitation and abuse in Liberia. In the township of West Point in Monrovia, local women have mobilised and formed West Point Women for Health and Development to demand action against perpetrators of violence against women. From left: Nelly S. Cooper, Diana M. Dennue, Matenneh Kamara and Hawa Bao.

Back page pictures: NHRF local consultants and representatives from the NHRF owner organisations: Terje Olav Olsson, Berit Hagen Agøy, Trygve Nordby and Trine Riis-Hansen. All photos by Siv Dolmen.

All photos by the NHRF or grantee organisations, unless otherwise accredited.

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 2013, the following were owner organisations: Amnesty International Norway, the Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.

Introduction by the Chair of the Board

BY CECILIE FIGENSCOU BAKKE,
NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SINCE ITS CREATION in 1988 the Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) has worked consistently to support frontline organisations and human rights defenders around the world. The NHRF is an efficient and flexible civil society actor supporting the promotion of rights for marginalised and vulnerable groups. Human right is one of the three pillars of the United Nations (UN) and the enjoyment of rights is secured in the UN Universal Declaration (UDHR) and a large number of international human rights instruments. In 1998 the UN General Assembly also adopted the landmark Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, supported by two new resolutions in 2013. However, much work is needed to translate international ideals and standards into reality, and this is where the NHRF has a key role to play.

THE ONGOING GLOBAL struggle for respect for human rights clearly shows the continued relevance and importance of the NHRF funding scheme. While the human rights machinery and international

mechanisms continue to be strengthened, the human rights situation in various countries is still worsening and requires urgent action. The struggle for democracy and human rights during the Arab Spring is increasingly being overtaken by violence. Simmering problems in several African countries have evolved into full-scale armed conflicts and international drug trafficking continues to undermine security and basic service delivery in Mexico and other parts of Latin America.

THE SECURITY SITUATION for human rights defenders remains poor in many countries. Those advocating for legitimate rights are subject to systematic threats and violence as a consequence of their work. Two of the NHRF prioritised countries, Colombia and Pakistan, remain cases in point. In 2013, the NHRF strengthened efforts to increase its capability to respond to threats against human rights defenders and to improve the capacity of grantee organisations in mitigating security risks.

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL crisis and a general shift in donor priorities away from middle-income countries have led to reduced financing for human rights work in many parts of the world. Persistent high levels of inequality in some of these fast growing economies are generating both new and continuous human rights problems for marginalised and vulnerable groups. Their struggle for human rights needs our attention and support, and it is with this realisation that the NHRF recently decided to open up for support to human rights defenders in countries such as Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

THE NHRF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY in October 2013 clearly demonstrated that the NHRF is a highly efficient organisation to promote the struggle for human rights. It has been a true pleasure to serve as Chair of the Board in 2013, and I would like to thank the highly competent and dedicated staff and consultants in the field, board members, owner organisations and



others who have supported the NHRF over the last year. The achievements would not have been possible without all of you.

Cecilie Figenschou Bakke
CECILIE FIGENSCOU BAKKE,
Chair of the Board.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2013

- 34 organisations in 10 countries received support
- Annual seminars organised in Colombia, Pakistan, India and Liberia
- 4 country visits carried out to the NHRF priority countries: Colombia, Pakistan, India and Liberia
- 2 assessments visits undertaken to Thailand and Indonesia; the NHRF will open up for support to organisations in both countries from 2014
- Participation in networks: the NHRF continued to be involved in the Colombia forum; Forum 1325 on women, peace and security; the NGO forum for Human Rights in Norway, and the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network
- Hosted Nordic donor meeting in Oslo in October
- Participation in the UN Universal Periodic review on Mexico in Geneva in October
- Arranged and hosted the 25th anniversary seminar «In the Frontline of Defence for Human Rights», followed by a reception of NHRF stakeholders
- Internal discussions with local consultants in Oslo
- Mid-term revision of the NHRF strategy 2011–2015

The NHRF aims to support projects that can all help fulfil the strategic goal of increased respect for vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups as a result of the NHRF support.

NHRF strategic goal 2011–2015



PHOTO: SSO

Sujag Sansar was one of six supported organisations in Pakistan with activities carried out in 2013. The organisation is based in the Dadu district of Sindh and works to stop the practice of child marriages.

make Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka countries eligible for support. The secretariat visited both Thailand and Indonesia at the end of the year and met with possible grantees, as well as with key human rights actors and networks. In addition, the NHRF will include at least one new eligible country in 2014.

Tool box

As planned, the NHRF also started a process of developing a tool box to be used in the NHRF's daily work and interaction with its grantees, when it comes to security and protection. Consultations with grantees, consultants, donors and stakeholders were undertaken, and the work will continue into 2014 in order to be finalised for practical use.

Reflection

As 2013 is the third year in terms of the NHRF Multi Annual Strategy Plan (MASP), the Board and secretariat had a joint exercise of mid-term reflection and assessment. The MASP is perceived as an important guiding tool and working document.

With the 25th anniversary celebrations, the NHRF had a chance to invite the local consultants to Norway. Several days were allocated to experience sharing and exchange, and this provided a chance to think ahead and give recommendations to the Board and the NHRF's future work.

Moving ahead

2014 will be a year of consolidation, both when it comes to organisational matters, geographic priorities, project support, capacity building and networking.

The NHRF will welcome discussions on the NHRF's role and will start preparing for long term thinking. At the same it will continue to offer direct support to local human rights work for the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups in 2014 and beyond.

Executive summary

Looking back on 25 years of support to human rights organisations and projects, 2013 was a memorable year for the NHRF. Apart from taking the time to reflect upon the NHRF's role and support mechanisms during the 25th anniversary, the core activities of direct financial support to human rights organisations were upheld and strengthened. A total of 125 full project proposals were handled by the secretariat, out of which 34 organisations received support. The secretariat communicated and corresponded with many more organisations in regard to their request for funding to human rights projects.

Supported projects

The NHRF aims to support projects that can all help fulfil the strategic goal of increased respect for vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups as a result of the NHRF support. The ways and methods used to achieve this goal vary both on a project level and from country to country.

67 % of the grants in 2013 were allocated to 22 organisations in prioritised countries: Colombia, Pakistan, India and Liberia. In Mexico, which was made into an eligible country in 2012, the amount of funded organisations increased from two to four. A reduced allocation to organisations in India was due to administrative changes in the NHRF and an attempt to change the cycle in the portfolio.

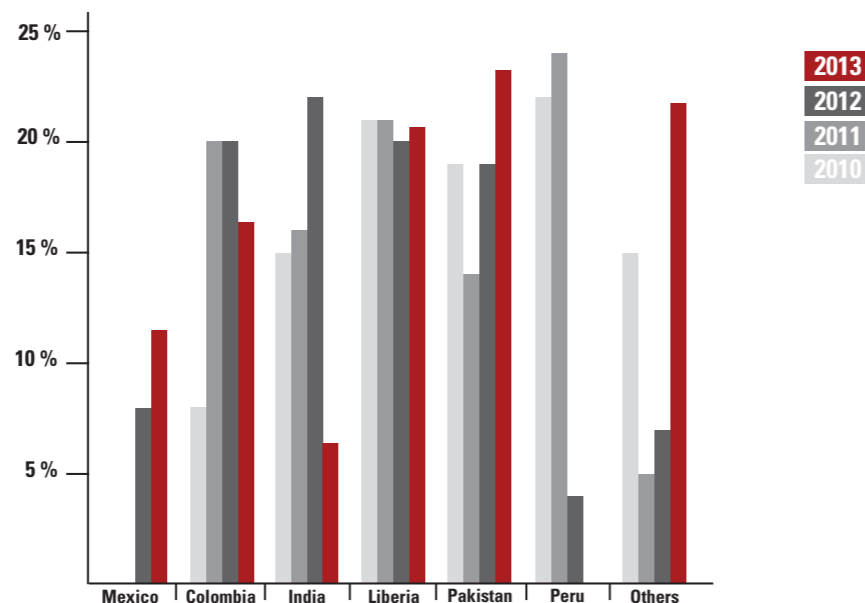
In the past year the NHRF has proven that it can continue to provide support in politically sensitive contexts. Part of the NHRF's mandate is to be a daring contributor in the struggle for the respect for human rights. In 2013, the NHRF managed to allocate 22% of its grants to projects focusing on the protection of human rights defenders. Two of these were in the Middle East and the remainder in Asia – all in all a total of eight organisations in five countries.

Out of the 34 supported organisations, 20 organisations received support for the first time. In Pakistan, the NHRF entered into partnership with a national human rights organisation for a pilot project on the protection of human rights defenders in the country. At the end of the year, the 18 months long project concluded its first phase after holding provincial consultations. A practical capacity building phase will continue into 2014.

New eligible countries

A new framework agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allowed the NHRF to think development and expansion. After a consultation process during early autumn, the Board decided to

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS IN 2010–2013



1988 NHRF established in December by Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, Church of Norway on Ecumenical and International Relations/Norwegian Church Aid and Norwegian Red Cross. First Chair of the Board: Vesla Vetlesen. First Secretary of the Board: Jan Egeland.

1989 NHRF assessed 23 applications, 18 received funding.

1990 NHRF assessed 40 applications, 22 organisations received funding.

1991 Norwegian Jurist Association (Juristforeningen) Humanitarian Campaign raised funds for NHRF's support for human rights work in El Salvador. Norwegian People's Aid and Save the Children joined NHRF as owner organisations.

1993 NHRF assessed 82 applications, 39 were granted support.

1994 NHRF's secretariat relocated to Church of Norway on Ecumenical and International Relations' office, Norwegian Church Aid.

1996 Assessed 123 applications, 114 organisations in 43 countries received funding. Nigeria became a focus country.

1998 NHRF got its own logo and implemented measures to deepen grantees' sense of partnership with NHRF. Human rights activists Olisa Agbakoba (Nigeria) and Gurusamy (India) invited to Norway to raise awareness about the human rights conditions in their countries. NHRF visited nearly 100 human rights organisations in Liberia, Nigeria, Colombia, Brazil, Bhutan, Nepal and India. NHRF database established, in which all the 800 organisations that had been in contact with the NHRF during the first ten years were registered.

1999 NHRF database improved, a total of 1100 organisations now registered.

2001 Amnesty international Norway joined the NHRF as owner organisation. NHRF rules and guidelines were revised. Prioritised countries introduced for increased geographical focus from 2002.

2002 New NHRF structure: first Executive Director from the Secretariat, Tale Longva. Priority countries: India, Pakistan, Peru, Colombia, Nigeria, Liberia and Zimbabwe. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) joined NHRF Board as observer. NHRF received funds from NORAD earmarked projects in Nigeria. Local consultants Ibiere Akpana (Nigeria) and E. V. Paul (India) hired.

2003 The secretariat relocated to Norwegian Red Cross' office.

2004 Local consultants Tanveer Jahan (Pakistan) and J. Aloysius Toe (Liberia) hired. The NHRF co-organised a meeting in the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN).

2006 Nigeria discontinued as prioritised country. Norwegian People's Aid withdrew their NHRF ownership. Local consultants Tanveer Jahan and Aloysius Toe visited Norway. NHRF together with FIAN Norway organised the seminar «Violations of the Right to Food in India – How Can the Poor Gain More Political Bargaining Power?» at the Norway Social Forum.

2007 NHRF received 406 applications, 57 were granted support. NHRF relocated to new office with Amnesty International Norway and the Norwegian Human Rights House.

2008 Norwegian Red Cross withdrew their NHRF ownership. Atlas Alliance joined NHRF as a new owner organisation. Uganda included in the group of priority countries. NHRF hosted the 20th Anniversary Seminar: «Fighting for the Fulfilment of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Experiences from the South».

2009 NHRF was evaluated with a positive outcome. Norwegian Bar Association joined the NHRF as owner organisation. Save the Children and the Norwegian Church Aid announced their intention to withdraw their ownership in 2011. Zimbabwe discontinued as priority country. Change in the NHRF guidelines for support: increase in available grants from 3 to 5 for organisations in priority countries. Pakistan strategy launched as first NHRF country strategy.

2011 New NHRF strategy plan 2011–2015 launched. Priority countries: Colombia, Peru, Liberia, Pakistan and India. New internet page launched – www.nhrf.no. Fundraising strategy 2011–2015 launched. Local consultant Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer (Colombia) hired. Now NHRF had consultants in all prioritised countries. NHRF was included as a member in the Norwegian NGO forum for Human Rights; the Norwegian forum 1325 on women peace and security; and continued its involvement in the Colombia Forum.

2012 Mexico given status as country eligible for support. NHRF participated in Nordic donor meeting in Finland and Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan. Annual seminars organised in Pakistan, Liberia and India. Country strategies established for Liberia and Colombia. Last year of support from Norwegian Bar Association.

2013 NHRF secretariat staff increased from 2 to 3 persons. Guidelines for support on protection of human rights defenders established. Country strategy on India established. Pilot project in Pakistan on security of human rights defenders with partner organisation. Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka included as countries eligible for support. NHRF 25th anniversary seminar: «In the Frontline of Defense for Human Rights». Change of consultants in India, Mathews Philip hired. All NHRF consultants invited to Norway. Priority countries: Colombia, Liberia, Pakistan and India.



JAN EGELAND



JULIE GROMELLON



JOHN PEDER EGENÆS



ANNE RIMMER AND ELENA REY MAQUIEIRA PALMER



JAN HELGESEN

PHOTOS: SIV DOLMEN



GEIR SJØBERG



TANVEER JAHAN



J. ALOYSIUS TOE

In the Frontline of Defence for Human Rights

The NHRF celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013 by organising an anniversary seminar. The seminar provided an opportunity to reflect upon the overall situation for human rights defenders (HRDs) and human rights work today, addressing different trends over the last decades and possible responses to the current situation. Norwegian and international resource persons were invited to give their perspectives on the issue. With the participation of the NHRF's local consultants, the seminar also included a panel debate on defending human rights in conflict areas.

NHRF Executive Director Sandra Petersen opened the seminar by drawing attention to the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998. Describing the diversity of human rights defenders (HRDs) supported by the NHRF, their different activities, focus areas and methods, she emphasised that the core work shared by them all is the promotion and protection of internationally recognised human rights norms through peaceful means.

Geir Sjøberg, Senior Human Rights Adviser from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), talked about the serious nature of risks faced by human rights defenders in many regions of the world today. He highlighted trends of increasing stigmatisation and criminalisation of HRDs and their work, and underlined that national authorities must be challenged on this critical issue when they act in contravention of international

human rights law. Stressing that HRDs clearly are in need of special protection, Sjøberg described Norway's engagement in the work for HRDs at the global, regional and national level. He highlighted Norway's active role in promoting resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council, including the unanimous adoption of «Protecting Human Rights Defenders» in March 2013. At the regional level he pointed to the important role of institutions such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, stressing that such institutions, although not always perfect, are indeed needed and in need of enhanced support in key areas. At the national level Norway has developed guidelines for Norwegian diplomatic missions and the MFA to systematise measures and intensify efforts to support HRDs on the ground.

Jan Egeland, current Secretary General at the Norwegian Refugee Council, was instrumental in establishing the NHRF in its very beginning. Egeland gave an introduction to his engagement in the NHRF. He emphasised how it is meant to fill a niche in providing small scale economic support to grassroots human rights organisations, which other Norwegian donors and organisations cannot support. Moving on to describe some of the larger trends in the world over the past decades with regards to poverty and armed conflicts, Egeland pointed to how both climate change and organised crime today create new human rights challenges across the globe. With regards to organised crime he poin-

ted in particular to the complex situation in parts of Latin-America where non-state actors, many of whom are protected by the state, represent a real and serious threat to human rights. Repression thus takes new forms which challenge our future responses and strategies.

Julie Gromellon from the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) was invited to the seminar to speak specifically about the Annual Report 2013 from the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, «Violations of the right of NGOs to funding: from harassment to criminalisation». The report puts the spotlight on a new setback impeding the work of HRDs, namely access to funding. The report reveals that in particular foreign funding is increasingly being hindered by governments, with the aim of silencing HRDs. Instead of outright banning an NGO, many states use sophisticated restrictive legal, administrative or practical measures that are less visible than other forms of human rights abuses, and therefore less likely to incite international condemnation. Not only is this a violation of universally recognised human rights standards, since the right to funding is an integral part of the right to freedom of association. It also has serious impacts on efforts by civil society to promote and protect human rights. The report lists several recommendations to states, including their negative obligation not to impede and to fully respect NGOs' right to funding, as well as the positive obligation to create a framework that facilitates NGO access to funding.

Jan Helgesen, Deputy Director at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and Chair of the Venice Commission, gave his comments and reflections to the previous speakers' presentations, highlighting among other points the clear setbacks to human rights in Europe seen in recent years. In particular, how the fight against terrorism has led to the acceptance of restrictions on civil rights in several countries.

Concluding comments and responses focused on the need for advocacy towards governments, translation of relevant documents to local languages, making these documents easily accessible for all and making sure that the information reaches the relevant actors. «With the good work actually taking place at the UN level recently, we need to get the information out to HRDs», Sjøberg said. He also pointed to the three pillars of the UN (peace and security, development and human rights) and to the mismatch in resources, as the proportion of the overall UN regular budget devoted to human rights according to the OHCHR remained at just under 3 per cent for 2012-2013. However, the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals Agenda might provide new opportunities for increased focus on HRDs and their work. This requires follow up.

The panel discussion on HRDs in conflict areas was facilitated by John Peder Egenæs, Secretary General for Amnesty International Norway.

J. Aloysius Toe opened the debate by giving a personal account from the frontline of human rights defence in Liberia. He argued for the importance of monitoring and documenting human rights violations and the need for thought-through policy to support human rights work and protect HRDs in countries with conflict. Aloysius emphasised: «In times of conflict basic human rights are at stake. The need to monitor, document and report is therefore important in order to hold perpetrators accountable and in some cases to prevent execution of detainees».

Tanveer Jahan gave an insight into the many security challenges, in particular disappearances, faced by HRDs in Pakistan. The security threats come especially from non-state actors: «These actors control people's lives, and do not allow people to stand up for other people's rights».

Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer talked about the necessity of increased support to women HRDs, drawing in particular on examples from Colombia. She pointed to the high level of general discrimination against women within a patriarchal Colombian society, and the particular effect this has on the situation for women HRDs. In addition to physical and psychological attacks, they also face social, political and cultural exclusion, as the role of women is seen as equal to that of a mother. «Women HRDs receive more threats against their children and are labelled as bad mothers, because the main responsibility of a mother is understood as the protection of her children. On the contrary, men HRDs are not labelled as bad fathers, as threats against their families are only seen as a result of their work».

Anne Rimmer from Front Line Defenders described the various ways in which the organisation provides support to HRDs across the globe, ranging from emergency action appeals, visas and grants, to trainings on security and stress management. In different ways the panel contributions highlighted the extreme pressure and danger that many HRDs face in their everyday work and the importance of both local and outside support.

«With the good work actually taking place at the UN level recently, we need to get the information out to human rights defenders.»

GEIR SJØBERG,
SENIOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISER AT
THE NORWEGIAN MFA

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND NORWEGIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

«In the context of Colombia, women have been part of the conflict at all levels. As such, they also need to be part of the solution and to have an agency in the peace process.»

ELENA REY MAQUIEIRA PALMER,
NHRF CONSULTANT IN COLOMBIA

«Donors should provide direct financial support to human rights work and HRDs in countries with conflict, seek diplomatic support for defenders in the frontline, and encourage diplomatic missions to morally support the work of frontline human rights defenders – as these are often branded as dissidents by their own governments.»

J. ALOYSIUS TOE,
NHRF CONSULTANT IN LIBERIA

«The political and practical support given by the Norwegian Government to the protection of human rights defenders at risk has been very important, but as the global backlash from repressive Governments continues, there is a need to further enhance our efforts. There are increasing demands from human rights defenders for rapid response as well as for capacity building and preventive measures, but there is also a need for a stronger and broader political engagement with repressive Governments.»

ANNE RIMMER, TRAINING COORDINATOR,
FRONT LINE DEFENDERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 (P. 11)
FROM THE OBSERVATORY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

25 Years of Direct Support to Human Rights Defenders

Executive Director Sandra Petersen shares her thoughts about the NHRF in light of 25 years of direct support to human rights defenders (HRDs).

What would you say characterises the NHRF funding scheme?

The mandate of the NHRF is to protect and promote human rights internationally through direct support to local human rights organisations. We keep a relatively low profile and provide small scale funds to projects and human rights work in countries that have not always received large amounts of attention. The NHRF is a unique cooperation between different civil society organisations with support from the Norwegian government. Our niche lies in the ability to be a flexible donor with little bureaucracy. We can take risks by supporting nascent and local initiatives that are targeted and smart. The NHRF also provides support in politically sensitive contexts. We are proud to be a daring contributor in the struggle for the respect for human rights, and the support we provide and have provided in many contexts is invaluable.

Have there been substantial changes in the NHRF's focus and work over the years?

Initially, the NHRF accepted applications from all over the world. As the volume of applications increased and after an evaluation in 2002, the NHRF decided to focus on a selection of priority countries based on certain criteria. The criteria allow us to support HRDs in both low- and middle-income countries in a time where we see a trend of donors withdrawing from middle income countries. In addition, the NHRF continues to support projects working for the protection of HRDs without geographical limitations. In this category we are able to support daring activists at risk, often operating in countries with limited space for civil society and where other actors cannot easily fund human rights work. This shows how the NHRF seeks to be a dynamic supporter for human rights work,

as we evaluate and adjust our funding scheme on a regular basis. We aim to be present in places where there is a need for our kind of small scale support and where there are few other funding schemes available for human rights defenders. Necessary changes have thus been made over the years, but our core activities remain the same.

What will be the NHRF's priorities in the years to come?

We will try to balance our focus between our priority countries and the new countries eligible for support, in addition to maintaining our flexibility and ability to respond to critical situations. Having a secure financial base with different sources of funding is essential for us to operate as an independent, flexible and responsive supporter of human rights work. The current tendency of stigmatisation and criminalisation of HRDs in many countries is a cause for grave concern that we thought appropriate to highlight in relation to our 25th anniversary seminar in October 2013. Issues like restraints on foreign funding can potentially affect the work of the NHRF and our grantees. As we continue to see the need for direct support to human rights defenders who work tirelessly to promote basic human rights in a peaceful manner, we are assured that the kind of support offered through the NHRF is necessary and often crucial in the fight for human rights.



«We are proud to be a daring contributor in the struggle for human rights. The support we provide and have provided in many contexts is invaluable», says Executive Director Sandra Petersen.

Reflections from the owner organisations

a] What is your organisation's motivation to be an owner of the NHRF?

b] How does the NHRF fill a niche in the work of your organisation?



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
General Secretary:
John Peder Egenæs

a] Amnesty International experiences every day how local human rights defenders stand up against injustice and achieve incredible successes – often by putting their lives on the line. In our work to promote and protect human rights around the globe, the people on the ground, those who are directly affected by the human rights abuses we try to stop, are invaluable partners – not least because they are the ones who know best what has to change to make their lives better and more secure.

The vision of a world where all people enjoy all their human rights can only be realised if people are enabled to take charge of their own

lives and their own future. The NHRF makes important contributions to that end, and we are very proud to be part of that.

b] For Amnesty International, cooperation with our stakeholders on the ground is essential to achieving the human rights changes we are working for. What we do not do, however, is give financial support to our local partners; both because we wouldn't have the resources to do so on any reasonable scale and because acting as a donor would inevitably undermine our relationship with our partners. On the other hand, without external funding many grassroots activities that improve people's lives would just not happen. In this respect, the work of the NHRF is a valuable supplement to our own approach.

In addition, learning from the NHRF's experience gives us valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities met by human rights defenders on the ground and the political context in which they are operating.

www.amnesty.no



THE NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Director:
Nils A. Butenschön

a] The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) was one of the four organisations to initiate the founding of the NHRF in 1988. Asbjørn Eide and Bård A. Andreassen from the Centre were some of the key drivers in this process. In 1988 the NCHR had not yet developed its international programme work and we saw a clear need for supporting human rights organisations, or «frontline defenders» as we called them, around the world. The more action oriented activities of the NHRF complemented the academic work and international networking going on at the Centre.

PHOTO: UIO

b] Today, with a staff of more than 60, the NCHR at the University of Oslo is recognised as a leading interdisciplinary research centre in the field of human rights. Our focus is on research and teaching, in addition to the activities conducted as the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution, and the work of the international programmes. We have established country programmes for human rights education and research cooperation with Indonesia, Vietnam and China and have extensive international research cooperation in the field of minority rights, socio-economic rights and freedom of religion or belief. The world has changed a lot over the past 25 five years but we still see a need for actors such as the NHRF empowering those directly affected through support to local organisations and human rights defenders around the world. The NHRF approach complements the work of the NCHR. We benefit a lot from our contact with the NHRF and are happy that our Centre experts can give advice and input, whether on international human rights law or country specific situations. The Fund can support civil society organisations and human rights defenders which are not always natural partners for us as a university institution.

www.jus.uio.no/smr/english/



THE ATLAS ALLIANCE
Director: Morten Eriksen

a] The Atlas Alliance conducts its work from a human rights perspective and our entire aid work is based on fundamental human rights. As such, the NHRF's work is completely in line with our core values. The Atlas Alliance supports human rights defenders in the global South who are fighting within their own societies for the rights of people with disabilities and demanding that the responsible authorities uphold basic human rights. Our motivation for joining the NHRF was to get in touch with other human rights defenders, learn from one another's methods and possibly put our partners in the global South in touch with effective local human rights defenders. Norway ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on June 3rd this year. Ever since Norway signed the Convention in 2007, we have wanted to increase our competence on the formal side of human rights work, for example through monitoring of the UN conventions. In this regard, we see that cooperation with the NHRF and other members engaged in work related to the international conventions can be

of great value to the Atlas Alliance. Likewise, we think that our competence particularly on vulnerable and often marginalised groups can strengthen the NHRF's work, and that we as such can be of mutual benefit to each other.

b] By cooperating with the NHRF, since 2009, the Atlas Alliance sees the possibilities of broadening our work and developing important networks and alliances both at home and abroad in order to strengthen the work for the most marginalised. The NHRF can support groups and organisations that fall outside of the Atlas Alliance's mandate and outside of our priority countries and areas.

www.atlas-alliansen.no/English



CHURCH OF NORWAY COUNCIL ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
General Secretary:
Berit Hagen Agøy

a] Through its ownership in the NHRF the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations is given the possibility to support local human rights work in countries where the human rights

situation is difficult. As a bonus we get access to competence and experiences from professional local human rights work at the country level. We also appreciate the work that the NHRF has carried out in lifting the issue of caste discrimination on the Norwegian political agenda, on the basis of concrete experiences from the local work supported.

b] The Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations works with human rights on a principle level, but we do not have our own human rights programmes. Support to concrete human rights work through organisations such as the NHRF is therefore important. The NHRF gives us the opportunity to support small and vulnerable actors who defend human rights in critical situations and whom it is more difficult to support through larger structures.

www.kirken.no



THE NORWEGIAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (LO)
President: Gerd Kristiansen

a] LO was actively involved in establishing the NHRF in 1988. The NHRF

was to be independent and fill a niche in the international work for human rights. The NHRF was to support organisations, vulnerable groups and human rights activists who do not receive support from other Norwegian organisations.

The struggle for decent work is often connected to the general human rights situation in a given society. For LO the right to organise and to establish free trade unions are the most important factors in the struggle for decent work. The NHRF's support to organisations and workers who work against the use of violence and for legitimate rights, equality and democracy, both complement and supplement LO's international work in several areas.

b] The NHRF's advantage is that it is a non-bureaucratic organisation with little administration and a large, broad and independent network. Regional consultants contribute to providing the necessary competence for screening eligible grantees. LO thinks that this is a great advantage, particularly in countries and areas where the human rights situation is vulnerable and difficult.

We are pleased to note that the Norwegian government has increased its support to the NHRF and that it sees the significance of the important work that the NHRF is conducting.

LO congratulates the NHRF with its 25th anniversary.

www.lo.no/language/English/

NHRF network participation

In addition to information sharing with other relevant human rights actors, the NHRF participates in networks to share experiences from the grantees' perspectives and connect these local experiences to the national and international levels.



PHOTO: ASLE DANIELSEN STALLELAND

Dr. Surinder Jodhka, Professor of Sociology, was one of the key speakers at the seminar. «A common approach is to ask: Why should we talk about cast and business? Caste will only disappear when we are sensitive to cast and are not cast blind.»

- The NHRF is currently active in five networks in Norway:**
- NGO forum for Human Rights
 - Colombia Forum
 - Forum for Central America
 - Forum 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
 - The Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network

In this section we highlight some of the work conducted in 2013 in the context of two of the networks above, the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network and the Colombia Forum.

Seminar: «Better Business Without Cast Discrimination»

On April 5th 2013, the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network and Ethical Trade Initiative Norway hosted the workshop «Better Business Without Caste Discrimination» in Oslo. Approximately 36 people attended the workshop, representing various branches of state, private companies, the academic community and NGOs working to pro-

mote human rights in South Asia. The purpose of this workshop was to facilitate reflection and dialogue on how to deal with discrimination by Norwegian companies and branches of the Norwegian state facilitating economic activity in countries where discrimination based on cast still exists.

The workshop participants discussed what the government and investors/companies could do to address and reduce caste discrimination.

KEY WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS:

- General advice:**
- There is a general need for sensitisation to caste discrimination with all actors working in cast affected countries.
 - Awareness about caste discrimination should be mainstreamed into the planning and monitoring of all activities, as gender discrimination has been.
 - All actors with the capacity to do so are also encouraged to establish formal pro-

cedures suitable for preventing and addressing caste discrimination, for example along the lines suggested by the Ambedkar Principles and the Dalit Discrimination Check.

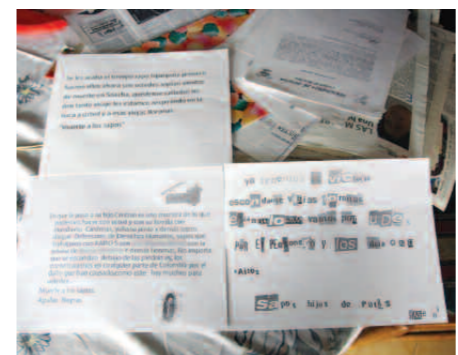
Addressing Norwegian investors and companies:

- Investors and companies are encouraged to explicitly include non-discrimination on the basis of caste, alongside other legal requirements and social risk factors they employ to evaluate engagements with partners in countries where such discrimination is common.
- Investments and contracts should not merely take into account the risk that caste discrimination may occur, but also evaluate proactive measures taken.
- Investors and companies should make use of audits with caste expertise, preferably Dalits.
- An internal discrimination watch should be established when possible.
- An ethical accountability manual, where requirements to avoid caste discrimination are included, should be produced.
- Initiative for Ethical Trade Local Resources Network should be expanded and used.
- Companies are encouraged to secure that a certain amount of the products and services they sell are produced by marginalised castes.

The full workshop report can be found at www.dalit.no.

Colombia Forum

The NHRF continued its involvement in the Colombia Forum in 2013. This forum of various Norwegian civil society actors with activities in Colombia has become increasingly active and relevant with the ongoing Colombian peace talks, facilitated in part by Norway. During 2013, the Colombia Forum hosted human rights defenders from Colombia and organised events to increase awareness about the current situation. It also provided input to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the human rights situation in Colombia through periodic meetings.



Urgent action campaigns for the protection of human rights defenders at risk have been supported through the Colombia forum. Activists involved in projects supported by the NHRF are regularly subjected to death threats by paramilitary groups.



Students have organised a Human Rights Club to monitor the situation and document abuses at a school in Fish Town in River Gee County, Liberia.

Results of NHRF activities in 2013

FOR 25 YEARS THE NHRF has supported local organisations working in the first line of defence for human rights. The NHRF has regularly witnessed the important and good work carried out by grantees through their reports, the assessments by local consultants and during the secretariat's field visits.

THE TARGET GROUP for the NHRF funding scheme is local organisations operating on a grassroots level, often addressing complex human rights issues. Since the evaluation in 2009, the NHRF has encouraged the organisations to report increasingly on the results achieved beyond the activities implemented. Although some might have room for improvement when it comes to reporting, it is our experience that grantee organisations carry out good work and achieve tangible results. The NHRF acknowledges that many of the human rights issues addressed by the organisations are complex and time consuming, and that the NHRF's support is a contribution to wide and long-term struggles. Nevertheless, the NHRF encourages the organisations to set achievable goals and report back within this context.

THE NHRF CAN provide support for one single year to campaigns or targeted projects. In these situations, grantee organisations are only able to

report on immediate and short-term results (outputs). However, in prioritised countries grantees can receive up to a maximum of five grants. This allows them to engage in more long-term work for sustainable results, and for positive outcome on the human rights situation at various levels. The NHRF conducts end-assessments of those grantee organisations which have received multiple grants, in order to improve the documentation of the results achieved.

THE NHRF RECOGNISES the importance of documenting the results of supported projects and the effects this work has on the local and national human rights situation in a given country. On the following pages we present examples of the results achieved and reported by organisations supported by the NHRF in 2013. We have tried to highlight some examples from each priority country. The grants have different time frames and the NHRF has not yet received final reports for all projects supported in 2013. The majority of the examples presented here therefore represent across-section of supported projects, where at least part of the work was carried out during 2013.

The speakers and contributors to the seminar and workshop «Better business without cast discrimination». From left: Iver Ørstavik from the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights in Bergen, Dr. Surinder Jodhka, Professor of Sociology Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Dr. Christodas Gandhi, an activist and retired senior bureaucrat from the Indian Administrative Service, Gunelie Winum from the Ethical Trade Initiative Norway, and Gerard Oonk, Director and Senior Advisor on child labour, India Committee of The Netherlands (ICN), Head of Dalit Solidarity Network Netherlands (DNN).

NHRF support in Colombia

THE NHRF IN COLOMBIA

- Colombia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- In 2011, the NHRF hired local consultant Elena Rey, working on a part time basis in Bogotá
- In 2012, the NHRF adopted a new strategy for activities in Colombia
- In 2013, the NHRF organised the first annual seminar for all grantees in Bogotá, focusing on security for human rights defenders and the current political context
- 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

Several of the NHRF grantees in Colombia are contributing to the momentum for peace through grassroots mobilisation. Following a regional peace congress in Catatumbo in March 2013, the social movement CISCA sent 1 000 delegates to a national Peace Congress hosted by the Congreso de los Pueblos Movement in Bogotá in April.



THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

In 2013, peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels continued in Havana, hoping to bring an end to the 50 year old armed conflict. The talks are progressing, though slowly, and there are concerns about how the 2014 general elections will impact on the negotiations. In lack of a cease fire, the civil population continue to suffer the consequences of the armed conflict. All armed parties, including guerrilla movements, paramilitary groups and the government forces, are responsible for atrocities such as extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, displacement, arbitrary detentions and sexual



The association *Madres y Familiares de los Casos de Falsos Positivos de Soacha y Bogotá* works against impunity for perpetrators of extrajudicial killings. Here, Luz Marina Bernal is interviewed by Colombian television during an exhibition for awareness raising in Soacha, south of Bogotá.

violence. The number of internally displaced people is among the highest in the world, with some estimates up to 5 million persons.

Paramilitary groups, regrouped after the flawed 2003–2006 demobilisation process, continue their threats and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, politicians and indigenous leaders. According to a 2012 International Committee of the Red Cross report, paramilitary groups caused at least as many deaths, threats, incidents of displacement and disappearances as the armed conflict between the government forces and the FARC guerrilla.

The practice of *falsos positivos* – extrajudicial killings carried out by government forces – have declined, but there were still reported cases in 2012 and 2013. Human rights defenders claiming justice for victims of this crime are particularly exposed to threats and harassment as a consequence of their legitimate work. A December 2012 judicial reform transferring cases of *falsos positivos* from civilian to military courts represented a setback in the struggle against impunity for the perpetrators.

The general security situation for human rights defenders in Colombia remains poor, with frequent death threats and attacks against a large number of defenders recorded in 2013. While the government has set up a protection mechanism and condemns attacks, the failure to hold perpetrators of violence to account contributes to a continued climate of fear for defenders and activists.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN COLOMBIA

In 2013, the NHRF supported five organisations in Colombia, three of which had received support previously. Additionally, three organisations that received grants in 2012 carried out most of their activities in 2013. Geographically, the grantee organisations work in the departments of Huila/Caqueta, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Norte de Santander, Boyacá and Cundinamarca. The thematic focus of the NHRF remains strongly linked to the effects of the armed conflict. The main working areas are monitoring and documentation 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 the work of organisations who reported on their projects in 2013.

Monitoring and documentation of human rights violations

The NHRF supports various grassroots organisations' work to systematically monitor and document human rights violations in their areas. This information is vital to inform national and international actors about the situation on the ground in the regions worst affected by the consequences of Colombia's armed conflict. In 2013, the social movement *Comité de Integración Social del Catatumbo* (CISCA) continued their work to document violations in Catatumbo. This region on the border with Venezuela is among the hot spots for the conflict, rich in natural resources and with several active armed groups. Last year, CISCA in cooperation with the organisation *Asociación Minga*, contributed with information about aggressions and human rights violations to the national database of human rights, published periodically by the Bogotá based organisation CINEP. Based on the collected information, the organisations also published an analysis of the government's regional political plan for Catatumbo, detailing the implications for the local population. During 2013, CISCA made substantial efforts to contribute to the peace process by local mobilisation to inform and influence the peace agenda. In March, CISCA hosted a regional Peace Congress, gathering 200 participants. In April, around 1000 delegates from the CISCA movement convened in Bogotá to attend a national Peace Congress hosted under the *Congreso de los Pueblos* Movement. The five day conference concluded with a declaration of support to the peace negotiations, emphasising the need to include all sectors and address the historic root causes of the conflict.

In the departments of Huila and Caqueta, the organisation *Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos y Violencia* (OBSURDH) remains a crucial actor for the monitoring and documentation of rights violations in a region severely affected by the conflict. Last year, OBSURDH carried out 12 fact finding missions responding to critical situations in the region, capacitated four local organisations on how to systematise information and establish databases, and continued to strengthen the departmental human rights network (REDEH)

through coordination meetings and events. OBSURDH also contributed in the momentum for peace by organising two campaigns for peace and human rights in Huila.

Long struggles against impunity

In 2013, the NHRF supported two organisations working with symbolic struggles against impunity for perpetrators of violence under the armed conflict. *Madres y familiares de los casos de falsos positivos de Soacha y Bogotá* is an association of mothers and relatives of victims of extrajudicial killings carried out by government forces. Victims recruited from the city of Soacha and Bogotá were murdered and dressed in guerrilla uniforms in order to boost the body count and provide perks for military personnel, a practice that has become known as the *falsos positivos*. With NHRF support, *Madres* strengthen the victims' ability to pursue their cases in the judicial system, increase awareness about the crimes among the public and preserve the historic memory of the victims. In February 2013, the NHRF participated at a weekly awareness raising event in Soacha, where an exhibition portraying the victims and the crimes drew significant public interest and was covered by Colombian television.

The NHRF also provided support to the group *Familiares de los Desaparecidos del Palacio de Justicia*, consisting of relatives of victims of forced disappearance. In 1985 the guerrilla movement M-19 occupied the Justice Palace in Bogotá, and the responding military attack led to grave human rights violations. 12 persons were arrested and never seen again. For nearly 30 years, relatives of the victims have demanded justice in national and international court instances, subject to heavy pressure and the murder of their lawyer Eduardo Umaña in 1988. With support from the NHRF, *Familiares* travelled to Brasilia for a hearing at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights in November 2013 to give their testimonies. The case receives much attention in Colombian media, and the outcome of the case which is expected during 2014 will impact on the broader struggle against impunity in Colombia. ■

NHRF support in Liberia

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 on women and children's rights; and economic, social and cultural rights
- The target group for the NHRF is primarily organisations based in rural areas with sustained links to the target area
- In 2013, the seventh consecutive Annual Seminar for grantees was organised in Monrovia, focusing on project management
- NHRF activities is supported by an earmarked grant from Norad in the period 2013–2015

FORWORD documented and reported 17 cases of sexual and gender based violence in Kakata district in Margibi County in 2013, leading to the imprisonment of 11 perpetrators. The organisation is also carrying out awareness raising activities, using posters and other tools to sensitise the population about women's rights.



NAPRHR staff and members at a workshop in Zorzor. With five grants from the NHRF in the period 2007–2013, the organisation has achieved important results in their work against sexual and gender based violence in Lofa County.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LIBERIA

In the period 1989 to 2003, civil war claimed the lives of more than 200 000 people, displaced 1 million people and destroyed Liberia's infrastructure and economy. Liberia has since stabilised politically, but the peace remains fragile. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is currently in the process of reducing their military presence substantially. Several root causes of the conflict remain unresolved, including ethnic divisions, systemic corruption, economic grievances and impunity for perpetrators of violence. Corruption is rampant at all levels of society and political life, and remains a source of frustration to ordinary Liberians. Police corruption is widespread, in effect denying citizens' equal protection by the law and violating human rights. Poverty remains deep and widespread, with Liberia ranking 174 out of 187 countries on the 2013 UN Human Development Index.

Much progress has been achieved to restore the respect for civil and political rights since the end of the war. Two successive general elections in 2005 and 2011 have received overall favourable assessments from international observers. In 2010, Liberia adopted the most advanced legislation in West Africa to guarantee media and individuals access to information from the authorities. Still, occasional violations against civil rights occur, and the continued excessive penalties for libel restrict critical journalism.

Violence against women remains a serious human rights challenge in Liberia, especially beyond Monrovia. According to the WHO, 72 % of Liberian women were raped during the war, and incidents of rape are still commonplace. A UN report recently documented an increase in incidents of rape in late 2013, suggesting that current efforts fall short to combat the problem. The persistence of the problem can be partly attributed to continued impunity for perpetrators, as there are a number of shortcomings in the police and justice system.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN LIBERIA

In 2013, eight Liberian human rights organisations received financial support from the NHRF, five of which received first time support. The geographical focus is diverse, with grantees operating in seven different counties. All supported

projects focused on women and children's rights, with the main focus on gender based violence and female genital mutilation. Below are some examples of the results achieved by the supported organisations in 2013.

Progress in the struggle against impunity

Ending impunity for perpetrators of violence is key to combating the high prevalence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Liberia. The NHRF supports various grassroots initiatives working to ensure that perpetrators of violence are held to account and that victims experience justice. In 2013, the organisation Forum for Women Rights Defense (FORWORD) reported on their first project with support from the NHRF against SGBV in the Kakata district in Margibi County in central Liberia. During the project, FORWORD staff documented 17 cases of SGBV. Of these cases, 11 perpetrators were arrested and served prison sentences, and redress to victims was provided to 14 women. FORWORD also reached 2500 people with awareness raising activities, and established an improved working relationship with local authorities for their work against SGBV in the area. FORWORD was granted renewed support for the continuation of this work in late 2013.

In the town of Palala in Kpaai District in Bong County, the NHRF provides support to the organisation Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS). Based on massive collective action, local women have organised RWRS to demand an end to impunity for perpetrators of SGBV and the respect for women's rights. Through hard work and mobilisation of around 500 local women, RWRS reported on encouraging results from their last project. During last year, RWRS made progress in the work against impunity by documenting 25 cases of abuse against women, several of which are currently in process in the local courts. One of the cases concluded with a six year prison sentence for rape committed in Palala in April 2013. RWRS has also achieved increased speed and efficiency by Palala police in handling cases of abuse and violence against women, equipped 189 women with knowledge and tools to claim their rights through workshop training, and increased awareness about women's rights through 12 outreach campaigns reaching a total of 361 persons. The NHRF recently gran-

ted support to a two year project, allowing RWRS to plan their long term intervention with increased predictability and security.

End assessment after five grants

In 2013, the NHRF carried out end assessments to document the results achieved by two organisations which had received the maximum amount of five grants. The organisation National Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Human Rights (NAPRHR) working for women's and children's rights in the northern Lofa County, reported that their work has led to a reduction in the level of SGBV in their target area (Salayea and Zorzor districts). The basis for this conclusion is the reduction of documented cases in the last phase of the project, the limited number of cases reported in a 2013 Ministry of Gender report, and the information gathered by NAPRHR staff in target communities. The work of NAPRHR has also led to the establishment of women structures that continue the monitoring of SGBV, increased willingness among police and local courts to address cases of SGBV, and increased awareness about women's rights among the public.

The organisation Self Help Development and Relief Agency (SHDRA) reported on their final project with NHRF support for children's rights in Sinoe County in 2013. The group has targeted 30 schools in Sinoe County, establishing human rights clubs and advocated for children's rights on district and county levels. SHDRA highlighted the following results from the period with NHRF support: the abolishment of physical punishment in targeted schools as a result of SHDRA advocacy campaigns; reduction in the level of domestic violence in the target areas following awareness raising and advocacy efforts; human rights education chapter included in the national school curriculum following concerted civil society efforts in which SHDRA took an active part in Sinoe; around 500 students trained in monitoring and reporting of human rights education and schools, and over 350 women trained in the investigation and documentation of SGBV. ■

NHRF support in Pakistan

ABOUT THE NHRF IN PAKISTAN:

- Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF supports organisations working to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, minorities and workers
- The NHRF supports organisations in three provinces; Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) 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 seminar in 2013 focused on experience sharing and the security situation for HRDs (see page 22)

Participant and human rights defender share her experiences in the consultation held in Sindh. In total, three regional consultations were held in Pakistan in 2013.



THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

In May 2013, for the first time in Pakistan's history, there was a transition from one civil elected government to another. Still, Pakistan's democracy is fragile. Various conflicts in different parts of the country, as well as sectarian tension and violence, caused human rights actors to express serious concern about the state's ability to protect and promote human rights.

Over the last years, Pakistan has ratified important legislation such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. They have also passed important national legislation on women's rights. However, human rights abuses such as enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, torture, and weak protection of vulnerable groups such as minorities, women, children, and workers, are regularly reported by both national and international human rights organisations.



Rally in Multan on 1st of May 2013 (international labour day), where more than 800 workers participated. The slogans in the picture include demands of minimum wage, social protection for workers, and the end to exploitation of workers.

In November 2013, The Economic Coordination Committee of the cabinet approved a policy framework for the regulation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) receiving foreign contributions. It is said that this regulation will ensure transparent utilisation of funds and streamline the organisations' activities. However, human rights activists are unsure how the framework will be implemented and concerned that it could stifle the work of rights-based groups. The policy will remain in force until the bill «Regulation of Foreign Contributions Act 2013» becomes law.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002 and the secretariat has conducted regular visits to the country. In accordance with the NHRF MASP, support has been given to organisations working for vulnerable groups' rights including women, children, workers and minority groups. In 2013, a total of six organisations received support. The organisations focused on issues such as workers' rights, child marriages, disabled people's rights and minority rights. Below are two examples of results achieved by organisations that implemented projects in 2013.

Work against bondage and slavery in Multan

In 2013, the Multan based organisation Encourage the Human Development (EHD) reported on its first project undertaken with NHRF support. The organisation focuses on workers' rights and has several lawyers, activists and trade unionists working within the organisation and in connection to it.

In Pakistan, in the Punjab province, thousands of workers become bonded or enslaved after taking debt from brick kiln owners in order to cover expenses related to marriages, funerals, maternity issues, or medical treatment of family members. Families agree to work off the debt but their bosses add on high interest and living expenses. This makes it impossible to repay the debt, as the workers' salaries are minimal. Bondage is often passed on from generation to generation, in stark contrast to the basic human rights principle that «all men are born free and equal». Most bonded women workers have been bonded because of debt taken up by their husbands and where the whole family is engaged to pay this off. Typically, women or children are not registered in their work place and have never held a salary in their hands. Bonded women are often vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

In 2010, the government in Punjab gave brick kiln workers the status of formal workers after declaring brick kiln an industry. Many workers are unaware of this law and the potential consequences it has for them in terms of the possibilities for unionisation and claiming minimum wages, regulations of working hours and health and safety requirements in the workplace.

During 2012 and 2013, EHD has worked with a focused group of 22 workers that have unionised. The main objective of the union is to strengthen the voice of the workers and their entitlements as formal workers. Many brick kiln owners are not ready to comply with the regulations to register their workers according to the Factory Act, nor to register their workers with the Labour Department and pay the small amounts for their social security fee as required by law. The work has led to negative responses and harassment from factory owners, illegal detention and increased debt. EHD continues to put pressure on these cases and support the affected workers.

During the first project, EHD has undertaken rights education for 510 brick kiln workers in total. It has carried out 14 legal cases which have resulted in 151 workers being freed from bondage. Mainstreaming these workers with the worker movement at large is, according to the organisation, a highly important step. EHD reports that 64 workers have been registered with social security cards. Within the first year, this will in turn give them access to social security schemes such as sickness benefits, injury benefits, maternity benefits, death grants etc.

EHD reports that brick kiln bondage is not a real priority for the government or line agencies. Subsequently, there is a continued need to highlight the issue in different fora both at the district and provincial level. At the end of 2013, EHD received renewed funding from the NHRF to carry out work in 2014. EHD aims to contribute to bring about changes in policies and be involved in actions in order to promote and protect the rights of bonded labourers of the District of Multan.

Pilot-project on human rights defenders security

In April 2013, the NHRF entered into strategic partnership with the Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD), which is a human rights education, research and advocacy organisation. This was done in order to cooperate on a pilot project on the working conditions and protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Pakistan. The major objective of the 18 months long project is to enable HRD organisations to plan for and handle the increasing security challenges involved in human rights work. The project combines obtaining information on the

current situation for HRDs in a more structural manner and creating a platform for exchange and capacity building when it comes to better working conditions for HRDs in Pakistan. From April to December 2013 the first stage of the project unfolded with three regional consultations held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Punjab and Sindh. Both grassroots and national human rights organisations gave their input to the project, the baseline survey and the implementation process.

At the end of the year a survey was sent out to 1003 organisations. The survey will provide a baseline for analysis that will give more information about the kinds of threats, responses and risks which human rights organisations in Pakistan face today. During 2014, 100 activists from 50 different organisations will be selected from Sindh, KPK, Punjab and Baluchistan provinces for a practical capacity building workshop with focus on the most exposed organisations. After the capacity building, each organisation will make its own security plan.

It is furthered planned that a practical protection manual in local languages will be produced to give tools and strategies for dealing with the security situation of organisations in the Pakistani context.

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide a starting point for a HRDs network where participating organisations can exchange information and experiences and develop common strategies and activities dealing with threats, intimidation and harassment of HRDs. ■

STATUS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROJECT END OF 2013:

- Three regional consultations held with 98 key stakeholders in KPK, Sindh and Punjab
- Baseline survey developed with input from national and international human rights actors
- Database developed for analysing the baseline
- Survey sent out to 1003 organisations
- Preparation work for capacity building phase in 2014

NHRF support in India

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 civil, social and economic rights, such as anti-discrimination, land rights and labour rights and
- The NHRF focuses on the rights of vulnerable groups, such as Dalits and indigenous peoples

Nagamuthu (21) was beaten and discriminated against by upper cast members for being a Dalit Hindu priest, and committed suicide. Evidence has sent several complaints with compilations of evidence to various police officials, who finally registered a case of abetment to suicide. The case is currently under trial before the Madurai bench of MADRAS high court. In the photo, Nagamuthu's father shows a picture of his deceased son.



THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA

At the end of the year, human rights actors continue to point to the massive gap between laws, regulations and policy statements made at the highest government level and the weak implementation on the ground in the world's largest democracy.

In 2013, positive steps were taken by the government towards the protection of women and children, with the adoption of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 (March) and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013 (April). However, the impacts of the new acts will to a large extent depend on effective implementation by



Photo from TENT Society's agitation held in front of Collector's Office in Madurai on 27th of August 2013, demanding community certificates for nomadic children. The agitation was headed by TENT Society Secretary Mrs R. Maheswari.

central government authorities. At the end of her visit to India in April-May 2013, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences underlined the recurrent complaints about the discrepancy between the provisions of various laws in India and their effective implementation.

Indian and international human rights groups pointed to increased restrictions on Internet freedom, with the rolling out of a Central Monitoring System which started in April. Indian media has reported that privacy and Internet freedom advocates are concerned that the system may be abused in the name of security, as it does not have enough safeguards to protect ordinary citizens. The government also continued its use of the Foreign Contribution Act (FCRA), in some cases restricting funding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). According to Human Rights Watch, groups protesting against nuclear plants and large infrastructure projects were particularly targeted. This includes the Indian Action Forum, a network of more than 700 non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In the run-up to the 2014 national elections corruption has emerged as an election issue. Both Indian and international media report on the development of a national anti-graft campaign, which might split votes for both governing and opposition parties. Elections will be held in May.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN INDIA

The NHRF grantees in India work mainly with civil, economic or social rights, which are among the NHRF's thematic areas of priority. Specific topics include the rights of unorganised labourers, land rights, and the right to health. Most of the organisations use the method of advocacy alongside awareness raising in their work, and many of the organisations are advocating for policy change at the state level. In 2013, six organisations received support from the NHRF. Below are two examples of results achieved by organisations which implemented projects during the year.

The Nomads empowerment project

The Empowerment Centre for Nomads and Tribes (TENT Society) was created in 2003, by a small group of people from different nomadic communities. The

organisation received its first NHRF grant in 2009, which was their first support from a formal donor. During the course of their work the organisation has included new tribes and managed to establish a Nomad Federation in Tamil Nadu in 2009. TENT continuously tries to reach out to the different nomadic tribes and is currently organising about ten of them, all of which are travelling most of the year. The nomadic groups subsist on skills such as snake-taming, self-whipping, circus acrobatics and fortune telling. Many of them face discrimination, lack of access to schools and lack of recognition of their livelihood and heritage. The NHRF-supported project presently covers 12 districts in Tamil Nadu, with twelve leaders representing different groups of Nomads.

In 2013 TENT Society conducted two mass agitations with the aim of obtaining community certificates for the nomadic children to access education. TENT Society reports that as a result, the government of Tamil Nadu issued a standing order to enrol children of nomadic communities even without the required certificates. Furthermore, TENT Society organised a mass rally covering all 32 districts in Tamil Nadu, and submitted petitions regarding the urgent needs of the nomadic people. All the petitions were received by the District Collectors in person and recommended to the Government Head Quarters. In the aftermath of this, more than 500 nomadic people were able to get free house-plots registered, family ration cards, electoral ID card, milch animals, welfare scheme approvals, pensions, and other basic support from the government.

TENT Society also conducted its third state level conference in September. The event took place in front of the office of the District Collector in Sivagangai, with a mass gathering of more than 2000 nomadic people in their traditional attires and masks. In their annual report 2013, TENT Society reports that the government now have begun constructing roads and laneways, cleaning sewages and drains, and providing drinking water and other basic amenities to the nomadic people of the whole district of Sivagangai.

Monitoring Dalit rights and promoting social justice

Evidence was established in 2005, focusing on the rights of Dalits and Tribes in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry area. Their mission and activities involve multi-

ple strategies, including human rights monitoring, legal and media interventions, advocacy and lobbying, advocacy oriented research, strategic trainings and solidarity platform building. The organisation received its second NHRF grant in May 2013 for their project Monitoring Dalit Rights and Promoting Social Justice.

After their first year of support the organisation reported that 65 incidents of caste discrimination and atrocities in general and 40 incidents of violations against Dalit women had been documented, and that a total of 105 cases had been monitored in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Furthermore, nearly 80 atrocities incidents against Dalits were compiled and necessary documents established to enable the affected families and/or survivors to access justice through the use of law and other relevant mechanisms.

Evidence conducts fact-finding missions and research studies to effectively shed light on the situation for Dalits and Tribes, and the ineffectiveness of the state machinery in protecting and promoting these communities' rights. Evidence monitors and conducts follow-up interventions in order to initiate legal actions for rendering justice and providing protection and rehabilitation to the affected communities. The organisation also conducts research and advocacy through round table consultations, a Dalit civil rights forum and media interventions, in order to encourage civil society organisations and other stakeholders to work towards policy interventions.

As part of the funding received in 2013 the organisation is conducting a campaign against untouchability in five districts in Tamil Nadu. To this end the organisation has been mobilising local organisations, victims, people's movements and human rights NGOs in a unified platform. The campaign is activated not only through seminars, public meetings and *hartals* (mass protests), but also by bringing situations of discrimination to the attention of government functionaries and obtaining the appropriate remedial measures for the affected communities. Around 1200 volunteers have been trained by Evidence and are already actively involved in the campaign. Evidence is a member of many networks and alliances, including the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR). ■

NHRF support in other countries

The NHRF support is divided between a selection of prioritised countries and countries eligible for support. As of 2013 the Board has decided that Mexico, Sri-Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia are countries eligible for support.

In addition, the NHRF supports projects for the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) and proposals forwarded by owner organisations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These funds can be allocated regardless of the NHRF's geographical priorities.

MEXICO

Following the decision of the Board to open for applications from Mexico, the first two projects in the country were granted support in 2012. Last year, the organisation Indignación. Promoción y defensa de los derechos humanos

A.C. reported on encouraging results in their work for indigenous peoples' rights on the Yucatán peninsula in southeast Mexico. With NHRF support, Indignación successfully advocated for the right to land for indigenous communities in Cucá and Santa María de Yaxché. The inhabitants risked immediate displacement, but following Indignación's intervention their right to land was formally recognised by the local authorities. Through their advocacy work in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Indignación achieved legal recognition for the rights of the indigenous Ebulá community, and the obligation of the state of Campeche to provide basic service delivery to the inhabitants. Moreover, the organisation progressed in their work to equip local indigenous communities with the knowledge and tools to take the lead role in the work for the defence of their individual and collective rights, with an emphasis on increasing women's participation in decision making and organisational work.

The NHRF continued to receive numerous relevant and high quality applications from Mexico, and granted support to four new human rights projects in 2013. These projects focus on the issues of security for women human rights defenders (HRDs), indigenous people's rights and migrant's rights, and are being implemented in the states of Chiapas, Yucatán, Morelos and Tlaxcala. In late 2014, the NHRF Board will, based on the experiences so far, decide whether to give Mexico status as a priority country.

NEW COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT

In line with the NHRF Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (2011–2015), the NHRF will rotate its prioritised countries in order to ensure continued relevance and impact. In September 2013, the NHRF Board decided to include Sri-Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia in the category of countries considered eligible for NHRF support. The decision was made based upon recommendations from the secretariat after a mapping process of several countries in Asia from May to August 2013, where a range of different actors in Norway and Asia were consulted. The three countries were assessed as eligible for support in accordance with the NHRF established country criteria. In particular, the assessed need for the type of funding that the NHRF provides, country competence in the NHRF secretariat and possible synergies with NHRF owner organisations were some of the decisive factors in the selection of countries. The secretariat travelled to Indonesia and Thailand during the period 22nd of November to 5th



IN 2013 THE NHRF supported the work of **Asociación Ecológica Santo Tomás A.C.** to oversee and strengthen the implementation of a new law against domestic violence in the state of Tabasco. Based on their research, the organisation published a report detailing the implementation gap on the ground laying the basis for future advocacy work.



From left Executive Director Alma Biblash and International relations consultant Ronit Zimmer.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FUND IN ISRAEL (HRDF) was one of the grantees which received support to the protection of HRDs in 2013. The contribution from the NHRF helped establish the **Legal Aid Fund for Women and Children**. In November, Board member Terje Kalheim from the Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) visited the organisation in their office in Tel-Aviv to learn more about their work.

of December 2013, and met with a range of resource persons and organisations, including possible grantees.

Support to the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs)

During 2013, the NHRF has increasingly been contacted by human rights actors in need of financial support for their work on protection of human rights defenders (HRDs). Their work varies from training, empowerment, legal aid and assistance, networking, advocacy to direct and practical support to defenders at risk.

The aim of the NHRF's support in this field is to contribute to better protection of HRDs at risk, better working conditions of HRDs and/or to give support to HRDs where the situation is critical. The NHRF does not support individual HRDs directly, but channels its support to human rights organisations.

The NHRF gives priority to projects which can avert immediate risk or give immediate relief. Priority is also given to projects focusing on HRDs in need of special attention, such as women HRDs and HRDs from vulnerable and marginalised groups. Organisations working to create meaningful links between human rights work at the local, national and international level are also positively assessed by the NHRF.

In 2013, 21% of NHRF funds have been allocated to projects in this category. The funds have supported organisations in Asia and the Middle East which work to highlight abuses against HRDs, give legal aid and assistance to HRDs at risk, conduct capacity building for defenders, and strengthen networks of vulnerable HRDs.

During the course of the year, the NHRF has also strengthened its own networks and links to actors and organisations working on the security of HRDs.

«Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.»

ARTICLE 1,
UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (1999)



Group discussion on human rights mechanisms in India during the NHRF annual seminar in Bangalore 2013.

Capacity building

In the current strategy period (NHRF Multi-Annual Strategy Plan (MASP) 2011–2015), the Board has decided that NHRF will increase its capacity building efforts and create space for mutual learning and experience sharing between grantee organisations. The annual seminars in prioritised countries are especially important in this work, in addition to inputs and visits by local consultants to the grantee organisations. The NHRF also benefits from the assistance of national and community resource persons and networks in its capacity building work and in the annual seminars.

ANNUAL SEMINARS:

India

The NHRF has held annual seminars in India since 2003. In 2013 the annual seminar took place in

Bangalore between September 19th and 21st, with more than 20 participants from both current and former grantee organisations. The main focus of the seminar was human rights mechanisms. The aim was to raise awareness and encourage discussion on how to contextualise the organisations' local struggle within the wider framework of available human rights institutions at the state, national and international level. The NHRF former grantee organisation South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring (SICHREM) and Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director of People's Watch and representative of the Working Group on Human Rights and the UN (WGHR), helped facilitate the training together with the local consultant.

The seminar also included a session on security risks for human rights defenders in the field, convened by the NHRF. The aim was to get examples of and inputs on the risks which grantee organisations face as a consequence of their human rights work. The inputs and discussions will feed into the NHRF's ongoing work in developing a toolbox, which will serve as a guide for increasing the security measures for all NHRF grantees.

Pakistan

For the fourth consecutive year, the NHRF arranged a two day seminar for the current grantees. In 2013, the seminar was held in Lahore between March 6th and 7th, and the supported organisations participated with two representatives each. The main the-

matic focus of the seminar was security for human rights defenders. The local consultant had prepared the first day as an interactive session. All of the organisations were given the opportunity to share their experiences from the human rights field in Pakistan, with a special focus on security and the risks they face in their human rights work. The organisations focused on obstacles and challenges, as well as the tools applied to reduce the risks involved in their work.

On the second day, the NHRF had invited Peter Jacob from the National Commission for Justice and Peace to give an introduction focusing on human right defenders; threats, risks and strategies to handle risks. The last hours of the seminar were used as a consultation on the planned project on the security of human rights defender organisations, which will jointly be undertaken by the NHRF and the Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) (see page 17), as well as to NHRF work on the tool box on security for grantee organisations.

In addition to the annual seminars, the NHRF has undertaken capacity building on the financial and managerial skills of grantee organisations in Pakistan since 2011. This has been followed up by an internal auditor and visits by the NHRF. The NHRF will continue its monitoring and capacity building work on financial management in 2014.

Liberia

For the seventh consecutive year, the NHRF hosted an annual seminar for all current grantees in Monrovia. The seminar took place on July 1st and 2nd 2013. Grantee organisation Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) was responsible for hosting the seminar in cooperation with the NHRF secretariat and consultant.

The focus for the seminar was two-fold, with the first day dedicated to the issue of project planning and reporting and the second to the issue of monitoring and documentation of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). The sessions were facilitat-

ed by Mr Abdullah Konneh, from previous NHRF grantee organisation Media Centre, and NHRF consultant Aloysius Toe. All participants were provided with a booklet guide on investigating and documenting cases of SGBV. The booklet was produced by Amnesty International and prepared by Mr Oscar Bloh (facilitator at NHRF Annual Seminars 2010 and 2011) and Aloysius Toe. Attendance at the seminar was high with more than 25 participants.

The NHRF also continued the monitoring and follow-up of grantees' systems for financial management. Based on a routine assessment, the NHRF provides recommendations on how to improve routines and procedures, and monitors implementation during field visits. The NHRF also provides ad-hoc workshops for individual organisations responding to the needs for capacity building.

Colombia

As part of the implementation of the NHRF's Colombia strategy, adopted in 2012, the first annual seminar for NHRF grantees was organised in Bogotá on February 5th and 6th 2013. Two participants from each of the five NHRF grantee organisations were present, and NHRF local consultant Elena Rey organised the programme and logistics in coordination with the secretariat.

The purpose of the seminar was both to create a platform for experience sharing and networking among grantees and to build capacity in selected areas. As this was the first seminar, ample time was given for the grantees to present their work and to provide feedback on the areas in which capacity building is needed in future seminars. The overall topic for the seminar was security for human rights defenders, with sessions given by two external facilitators. Frederico Andreu from the Comisión Colombiana de Juristas facilitated a session on the human rights situation in the context of peace talks, while Mildrey Corrales, technical secretary at the Coordinación Colombia Europa Estados Unidos, focused on impunity as the root cause for continued violence and insecurity in Colombia. ■



In 2013, the NHRF supported 8 Liberian human rights organisations working in seven different counties. Here, participants from the grantee organisations are gathered in Monrovia for the NHRF annual seminar.

GOALS FOR THE NHRF 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 prioritised countries for mutual learning and experience sharing
- On-site interaction with organisations through visits, local consultants and/or resource persons
- In selected countries: internal audits with feedback to the organisations
- Continuous follow-up of grantees in application process and reporting

NHRF 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 are capacity building of grantee organisations, monitoring of projects and advising the secretariat on strategies and project applications. The NHRF also uses international networks

and references from likeminded donors and national and international human rights organisations in the selection of projects. All 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: Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer was employed as a consultant in 2011. Elena is originally from Spain, but has lived in Colombia for more than ten years working with human rights.

INDIA: E.V. Paul lives in Bangalore and worked as a consultant for the NHRF from 2002 to 2013. Philips Mathews was employed as the NHRF's new consultant in India in 2013. Mathews lives and works in Bangalore.

LIBERIA: Aloysius Toe has been a consultant for the NHRF since 2004. Since 2012, Aloysius has been undertaking his master's degree in the USA in combination with his work for the NHRF.

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

PHOTO: SYDOLMEN



NHRF consultants J. Aloysius Toe (Liberia), E.V. Paul (India), Tanveer Jahan (Pakistan), Elena Rey Maquieira Palmer (Colombia) and Mathews Philip (India)

Administration and organisation

THE SECRETARIAT

With a new framework agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the NHRF expanded its secretariat with an additional position. The NHRF now has three full time positions in addition to a part time accountant.

Work on Asia has been shared between Executive Director Sandra Petersen and Project Coordinator Liv Hernæs Kvanvig. Kvanvig took over the responsibility for the India portfolio from May, and is also in charge of the newly included countries Thailand and Indonesia. Petersen is responsible for Pakistan and the grants on human rights defenders at risk, while Project Coordinator Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth is responsible for projects in Latin America and Africa.

Björg Haugstulen is the NHRF's accountant.

The secretariat would like to express its gratitude for the useful assistance of Viktoria Olaug Myrholm from Høyskolen i Østfold and Francisco Parra, who had an internship from the Master Programme in Human Rights Law in Theory and Practice at the Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo. We also extend a warm thank you to Cathrine Cheung who volunteered over the summer.

Amnesty International Norway has hosted the secretariat since 2007. The sharing of offices with Amnesty continues to provide the secretariat with an inspiring work environment, both professionally and socially.

Travels and follow-up: during 2013, the secretariat conducted project visits to India, Pakistan, Liberia and Colombia. The NHRF undertook an end assessment visit to Peru, after the Board's decision to phase out Peru as a priority country. The NHRF's visa to Sri-Lanka is still pending and the planned trip in November 2013 was postponed. The owner organisation the Church of Norway Ecumenical Council, represented by Human Rights Officer Guro Almås, accompanied the NHRF during parts of the trip to India. Board member Terje Kalheim from the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) got the opportunity to visit an NHRF grantee in Israel in November in conjunction with a trip to the region.

Two assessment trips were conducted to Thailand and Indonesia (see page 20).

In addition, the secretariat participated in KIOS' annual seminar in Helsinki in September, «Promoting Human Rights: Human Rights Defenders as Actors of Social Change». The seminar also provided time for experience sharing with the KIOS secretariat, as well as participation in sessions regarding security of human rights defenders. This gave positive inputs to the secretariat's ongoing work with the toolbox.

With financial assistance from the NGO Forum for Human Rights, Skjeseth travelled to Geneva to be present at the Universal Periodic Review of Mexico. He also participated in side events and engaged with activist from the country. Petersen represented the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network in the International Dalit Solidarity Networks (IDSNs) council meeting in Geneva in February, and was elected to sit in the Executive Group (EG) for the Council. She participated in one EG meeting in Brussels in September 2013.

THE BOARD OF THE NHRF

In 2013, the Board has held four meetings. The main tasks of the NHRF Board are to make strategic decisions and to supervise the NHRF's economy and administration. However, in each board meeting time has been dedicated to discuss the human rights situation in the prioritised countries, the supported projects and ongoing processes. In March 2013, the Annual Report 2012 was launched and plans for 2013 discussed. In June, the board planned for the NHRF 25th anniversary, and board member Guro Almås spoke about her impressions of the visit to India. In September, time was allocated to discuss the ongoing consultation process and the human rights situation in the countries under review. The last board meeting in December focused on the budgets and plans for 2014, as well as impressions from the visits to Thailand and Indonesia. ■



Board member Guro Almås from the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations (left), Sandra Petersen, Liv H. Kvanvig and local consultant E.V. Paul at the annual seminar in Bangalore, India, June 2013.



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

Members of the Board of the NHRF 2013 have been as follows (one representative for each of the five owner organisations):
Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations: Guro Almås, Deputy board member Einar Tjelle
Amnesty International Norway: Gerald Folkvord, Deputy board member Björg Ytre-Eide
Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions: Ellen-Kathrine Fauske, Deputy board member Terje Kalheim
The Atlas Alliance: Trine Riis-Hansen, Deputy board member Berthe Stenberg
Norwegian Centre for Human Rights: Cecilie Figenschou Bakke (Chair of the Board), Deputy Board Member Malcolm Langford

NORAD has participated in the Board as observers: Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD): Representative Margot Skarpeteig. Gørild Mathisen participated in two meetings in her absence.

Accounts

THE TOTAL INCOME IN 2013 was NOK 6 646 447,- (US\$, 1 082 738,-).

The main part of the budget was covered by a general grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a specific grant 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, two grants from Fritt Ord Foundation in Norway and small funding from individual donors.

A total of NOK 4 335 453,- (US\$ 706 492,-) was granted different human rights projects during the year under review.

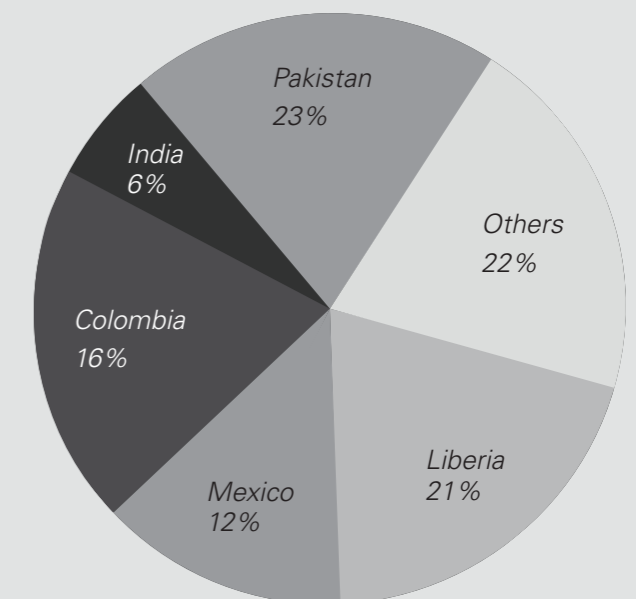
NOK 1 670 686,- (US\$ 272 264,-), was spent on salaries of staff in Norway and administrative expenses such as office costs in Norway, audits, accountant etc. A total of 3,85 % of the total income was used for direct administrative costs.

NOK 526 232,- (US\$ 85 756,-) 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, field trips abroad executed by the secretariat in Oslo and costs related to the 25 year anniversary event.

NOK 69 890,- (US\$ 11 390,-) was spent on communication and reporting.

NOK 39 667,- (US\$ 6 465,-) was spent on The Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Networks activities in Norway covered by Fritt Ord Foundation funding.

ACCOUNTS IN 2013	USD	NOK
Total income	1 082 738	6 646 447
From owners	96 096	590 000
From Government	972 342	5 970 000
Other incomes	12 594	77 325
Total expenses	1 082 046	6 641 929
For grants	706 492	4 335 453
For administration and salaries Norway	272 264	1 670 686
For communication / reporting	11 390	69 890
For follow-up and capacity building	85 756	526 232



NHRF-funded projects with activities carried out in 2013

The NHRF provides continuous updates on our webpage (www.nhrf.no) about new grants and sizes of grants categorised by year. This current list provides an overview of the organisations that carried out activities and were active in the NHRF portfolio during 2013. The list includes projects that were approved for support in previous years and organisations that carried out part of their projects in 2013, as well as those that were provided with further or first time support during the year.

	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	Asociación Colombiana para la Exigibilidad del Derecho a la Salud (SALUD al DERECHO)	Colombia	Capacitating for the application of development of collective rights – second year
2.	Comité de Integración Social del Catatumbo (CISCA)	Colombia: Catatumbo	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
3.	Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CPDH)	Colombia: Huila, Boyacá	Local formation schools of multipliers for the defense and protection of human rights
4.	Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS)	Colombia: Magdalena Medio	Strategy for training and attention for the demand of human rights with a gender and difference focus
5.	Familiares de los Desaparecidos del Palacio de Justicia (FDPJ)	Colombia	Struggle for demanding justice and preservation of the memory of the disappeared from the Justice Palace
6.	Fundación Guagua (GUAGUA)	Colombia: Cali, Valle del Cauca	Galería de la Memoria Tiberio Fernández Mafla 2014
7.	Madres y familiares de los casos de falsos positivos de Soacha and Bogotá	Colombia: Soacha and 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
8.	Observatorio Regional Surcolombiano para la Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (OBSURDH)	Colombia: Huila	Operational strengthening of the information system unit of political and social violence of the Observatorio surcolombiano de derechos humanos y violencia
9.	EVIDENCE	India: Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Monitoring Dalit rights promoting social justice
10.	Jagruti/JANA AROGYA ANDOLANA KARNATAKA (JAAK) (JAAK)	India: Karnataka	Towards right to health as a fundamental right: Consolidating community advocacy for right to primary health care in Karnataka
11.	Marpu Society	India: Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh	Struggle of Dalits to achieve the denied human rights
12.	National Centre for Labour (4 Southern states)	India: Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka	Building unorganised workers organisations in South India
13.	People's Movement for Development in Tamil Nadu	India: Tamil Nadu	Sustaining the struggle of the palmyra workers of Tamil Nadu for establishing their rights
14.	Prarambha	India: Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwad, Mysore, and Gulbarga, Karnataka	Using human rights to right a wrong – using a right-based approach to empower manual scavengers
15.	Team for Reformation of Education and Environmental Services (TREES)	India: Kolar District, Karnataka	Right to land : a struggle of the landless agricultural labourers
16.	The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT)	India: Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Empowerment of Nomads in 12 districts through Nomads Federation that are advocating for the respect for civil, social and economic rights
17.	Virudhunagar District Udeyam Construction and unorganized sector women labour rights sangam (Trade Union), Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu	India: Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu	Empowerment of unorganised sector women workers in Virudhunagar District
18.	National Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Human Rights (NAPRHR)	Liberia: Lofa County	Combating sexual gender based violence against women and children and promoting their protection
19.	Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS)	Liberia: Bong County	Kpahi District Women Rights Advocacy & Empowerment Project
20.	Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development - Liberia (SHIFSD)	Liberia: River Gee County	Fighting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities & Schools (Year 2)
21.	The Forum for Women Rights Defense (FORWORD)	Liberia: Margibi County	Advocacy for Punitive Actions Against Abusers of women and girls – II (An Extension)
22.	West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO)	Liberia: Monteserrado	Fighting SGBV and Domestic Violence in West Point through Advocacy and Awareness
23.	Women & Children Rights Organization (WOCRIFO)	Liberia: Nimba County	Ingenious Efforts to Protect Girls Against Corruption and Sexual Abuse in Schools

	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
24.	Women Actions Network (WAN)	Liberia: River Cess County	Making Inheritance and Rape Laws A Concrete Reality in Rivercess
25.	Women Rights Defense Inc (WORD)	Liberia: Monteserrado	Campaign Against Women Human Rights Abuses & Exploitation
26.	Women Rights Watch (WORIIWA)	Liberia: Grand Bassa County	Women Rights Advocacy and Empowerment Campaign in In Bassa County – II
27.	Women Solidarity Inc. (WOSI)	Liberia: Lofa County	Promoting Girls' Rights to Education and Say No to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
28.	Youth-Care (Youth-Care)	Liberia: Bomi County	Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women & Girls in Suehn-Mecca District
29.	Asociación Ecológica Santo Tomás A.C. (AEST) In Tabasco	Mexico: Tabasco	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
30.	Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa AC (Digna Ochoa)	Mexico: Chiapas	Promotion and organised defense of human rights in the Istmo region of Chiapas
31.	Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos A.C (CIDHM)	Mexico	Model of attention to violence against female human rights defenders in the Republic of Mexico
32.	Indignación. Promoción y defensa de los derechos humanos A.C.	Mexico: Yucatán	Demand of the rights of the Maya population in the Yucatán Peninsula
33.	Un Mundo Una Nación A.C (UMUN)	Mexico: Tlaxcala	Access to justice for migrants victims of violations and abuse of human rights
34.	Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM)	Pakistan: Faisalabad	Advocacy for comprehensive disability legislation and implementation mechanism of CRPD
35.	Encourage the Human Development (EHD)	Pakistan: Multan	Ensuring entitled rights of bonded labour in Multan
36.	SAHARA Development Foundation (SDF)	Pakistan: in Haripur, KPK	Promotion and protection of labour rights
37.	Sindh Community Foundation (SCF)	Pakistan: Sindh	Organising and building capacities of cotton picking women for economic justice in Matiari District of Sindh, Pakistan
38.	Sindh Rural Partners Organization (SRPO)	Pakistan: Hyderabad, Sindh	Baseline study for assessing the status of force marriage and conversion of Hindu communities in 12 Union council of District Mirpurkhas
39.	Sujag Sansar Organization (SSO)	Pakistan: Dadu, Sindh	Preventing child marriages with the joint efforts of stakeholders
40.	Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchipaq (ADEHR)	Peru: Lima/Ayacucho	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
41.	Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CEDEH)	Peru: Puno	Strengthening the process to establish regional policies with human rights focus
Support to other countries:			
42.	Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF)	Israel	Defending human rights defenders
43.	Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (BHPC)	China	Civil society empowerment in China: Guaranteeing and developing cultural rights of ethnic minorities

In addition, the NHRF has several active projects in its 2013 portfolio where information is not published due to the sensitive nature of the work undertaken and the security issues involved. These projects are either located in the Middle East focusing on work against torture and impunity, or in Asia focusing on the protection of human rights defenders at risk.

WHAT IS THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND (NHRF)?

■ Since its inception in 1988, the mandate of the NHRF is to promote human rights internationally. The NHRF provides direct support to frontline human rights organisations and projects which work 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 2013:

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



PHOTO: SIV/DOLMEN

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

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