



Direct support to human rights defenders

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Front page picture: A women activist taking part in the "Dalit women self-respect march" organised in 2014 by the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (NCDHR) in India. Photo by Thenmozhi Soundararajan.

Right page picture: Colombian human rights organisation CREDHOS accompanying a local community in the Magdalena Medio region.

Back page pictures: Female social mobiliser Hakim Zadi during a capacity building workshop under the NHRF supported project against child marriages in the province of Sindh, Pakistan; NHRF consultant in Colombia, Elena Rey, during an interview by Colombian news media; and group photo of NHRF grantees during the annual seminar in India in 2014.

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. In 2014, the following were the owner organisations: Amnesty International Norway, the Atlas Alliance, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Church of Norway on Ecumenical and International Relations and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.



Introduction by the Chair of the Board

BY CECILIE FIGENSCHOU BAKKE,
NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IT IS THE PRIVILEGE of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) to be able to work with dedicated human rights defenders and activists across the world. With direct financial support, the NHRF supported local human rights organisations in eleven countries on three continents in 2014. In this annual report we highlight some of the impressive results achieved by the grantee organisations during the year that has passed.

THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) is giving increasing attention to human rights defenders who play a key role to promote and protect human rights worldwide. Therefore, in 2014, the Human Rights Council decided to continue its important mandate on human rights defenders for a new period of three years. Support from the UN and other international

organisations is of vital importance as we see states adopting policies restricting the ability of progressive civil society organisations to promote implementation of human rights for vulnerable and marginalised groups. The level of insecurity with threats and attacks against human rights defenders is high in many parts of the world, including in NHRF focus countries such as Colombia, Mexico, Pakistan and Nigeria. To meet these new challenges, the NHRF in 2014 finalised a new set of guidelines on security for grantee organisations. The guidelines aim to mitigate risks for exposed human rights defenders linked to projects supported by the NHRF.

WE ARE EXPERIENCING a global trend of civil society organisations and activists increasingly adopting human rights as a tool in their

struggle for justice and dignity. The international human rights regime helps strengthen social movements' demands to hold authorities accountable and reinforces the human rights discourse on a global scale. The large number of high quality applications received during 2014 clearly shows the continued relevance of the NHRF and the need for direct and small scale financial support to enable local human rights defenders to carry out their important work.

IT IS CRUCIAL for the NHRF to continuously assess its relevance and adapt to changing circumstances and conditions. With 2015 being the last year in the current strategic plan, the Board has initiated an external evaluation of the NHRF's work. The evaluation will focus on results achieved and lessons learned, and ensure the

continued relevance of the NHRF activities and funding scheme in the coming years.



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

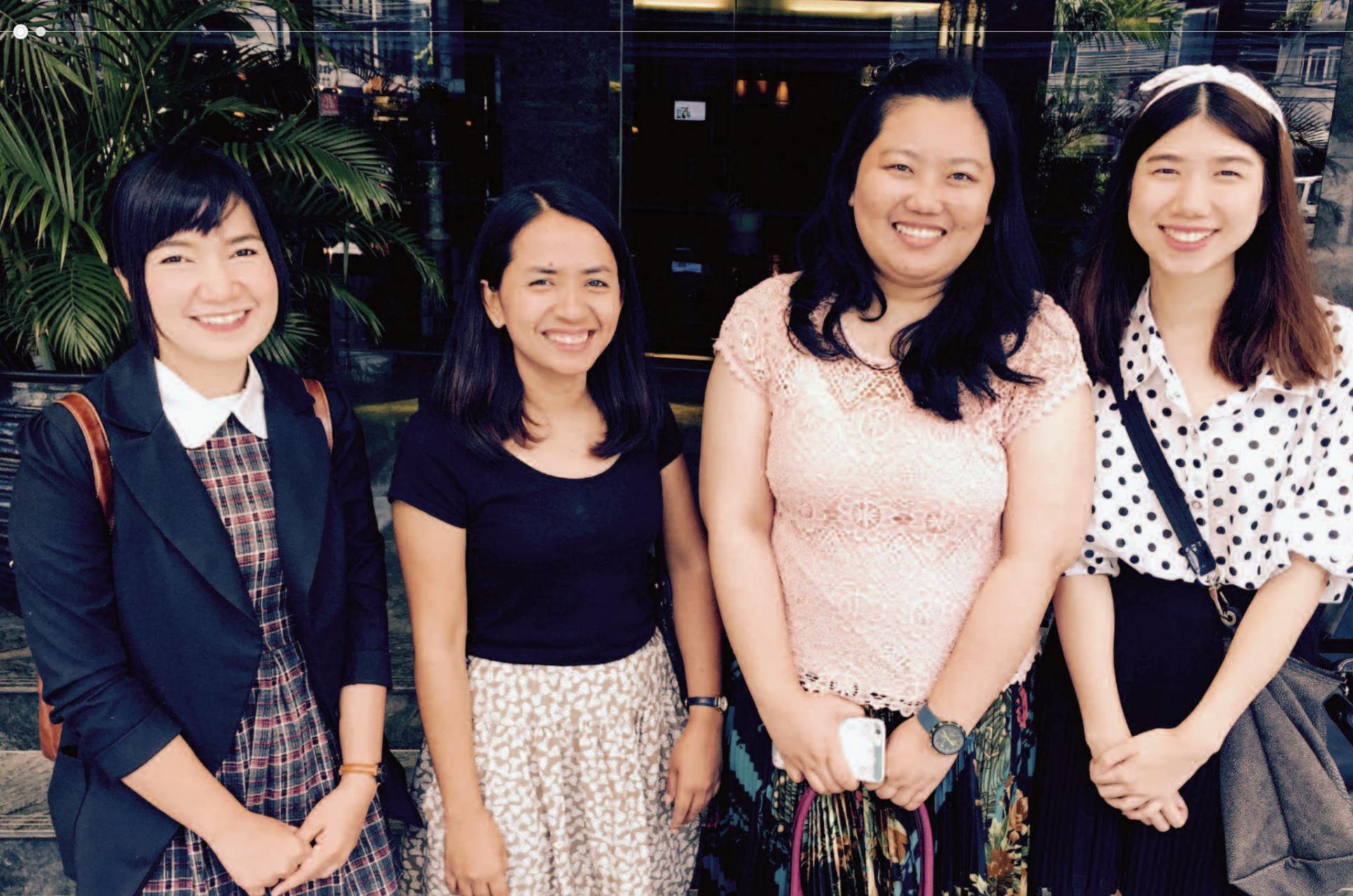


ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2014

- 35 organisations in 11 countries received support
- Annual seminars organised in Colombia, Pakistan, India and Liberia
- Country visits undertaken to NHRF priority countries Colombia, Pakistan, India and Liberia, and to NHRF eligible country Mexico
- Assessment visit undertaken to Nigeria with a decision from the Board to open for support to organisations in the country from 2015
- Networks in Norway: the NHRF continued to be involved in the Colombia forum; Forum 1325 on women, peace and security; the NGO forum for Human Rights; and the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network
- International networks: Cooperation with the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and joint participation in Geneva, and close networking with organisations working on security and protection of human rights defenders at risk
- Hosted visits in Norway by key representatives from two grantee organisations, and by Dalit women from India and Nepal through the IDSN network
- Participated in Nordic donor meeting in Stockholm in December
- Finalised the document «Guidelines on security for grantees in field»

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



The Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA) in Thailand received its first grant in 2014. HRLA is a member-based network with both senior and junior southeast of Thailand, and engages in strategic litigation on behalf of local communities. HRLA works with issues such as land and community rights in violence and access to justice in the deep south. Here, from left to right Waraporn Utairangsee (litigation coordinator), Paranda Pankeaw (capacity building coordinator) and Punyanuch Thoungchaipiti (volunteer) in Bangkok, March 2015.

lawyers. HRLA works in the north, south and relation to natural resource management, and and networking), Waraporn Intanon (legal research

Executive summary

In 2014, the NHRF secretariat handled a total of 159 project proposals, out of which 35 organisations were granted support. A few organisations received second instalments on grants already issued in 2013. As in previous years, the secretariat communicated and corresponded with many more organisations in regard to their request for funding to human rights projects and in connection with issues linked to security and protection.

According to the multi-annual strategy, the NHRF is to provide closer follow-up of grantees with regard to capacity building in its priority countries Liberia, Colombia, Pakistan and India. Throughout

the course of 2014, annual seminars for NHRF grantees were organised in all four of these. In cooperation with other stakeholders, the NHRF also facilitated visits to Norway during autumn for two grantee organisations that work under particularly difficult circumstances.

66% of the grants in 2014 were allocated to 24 organisations in priority countries. Furthermore, the NHRF has over the last few years received an increasing number of applications from Mexico. Thus, in 2014 13% of the grants were allocated to Mexican organisations. In total, 13% of the NHRF's funding were given to organisations in eligible

countries in Asia: Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and China. As part of implementing the NHRF's strategy and the framework agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NHRF also opened for support to one new country in Africa. After a consultation process and a country visit by the secretariat in October, the Board decided to include Nigeria in the group of eligible countries.

Support to protection of human rights defenders

8% of the NHRF's funds were allocated to projects in line with the NHRF's thematic focus on protection and security of human rights defenders at risk

in three projects in the Middle East and South-east Asia. In addition, the NHRF also supported projects in Sri Lanka, Mexico, India and Pakistan with specific attention to the protection of human rights defenders at risk. In the two latter countries, the NHRF supported national level efforts to strengthen the capacity of local organisations to enhance their own protection.

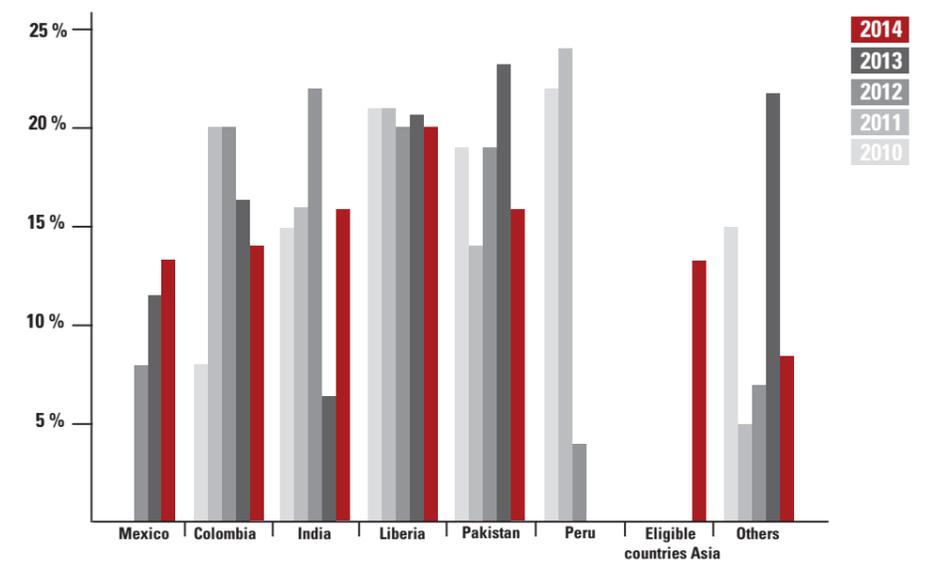
Guidelines on security

In December 2014, the NHRF finalised its «Guidelines on security for grantees in the field». The guidelines have first and foremost been developed for NHRF grantees and their networks, and constitute



In 2014 the NHRF increased its focus on security for the human rights defenders also in priority countries. Here from a capacity building workshop in Pakistan for local organisations to enhance their own protection.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS IN 2010–2014



an important part of the NHRF's concrete efforts to address issues of security faced by organisations supported by the NHRF. The development of the guidelines has also been an internal process, through which the NHRF has expanded its network and contact with persons and organisations working specifically on the protection of human rights defenders.

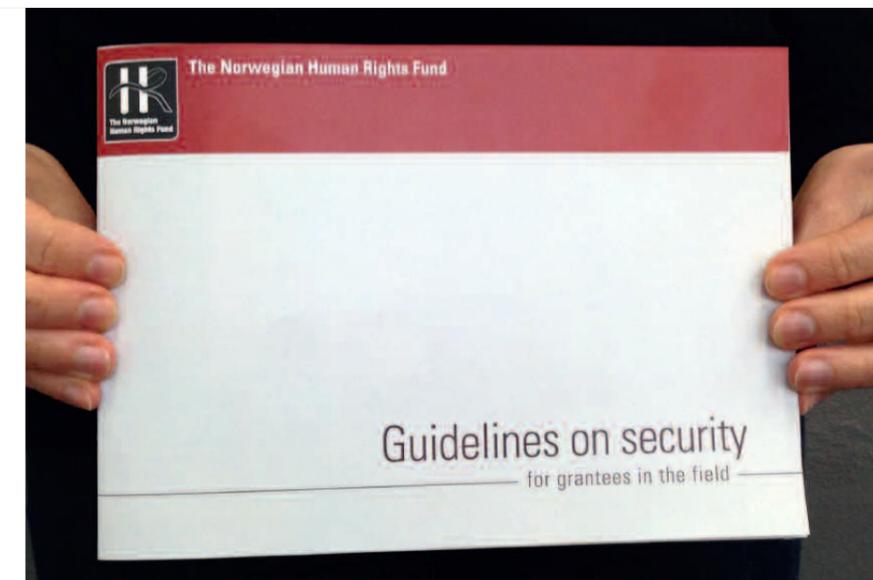
Positive growth

At the end of 2014 several owner organisations signalled an increase in their contribution to the NHRF as of 2015. With these positive steps, and with an inbuilt increase in the framework

agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the support from NORAD, it will be possible for the NHRF to continue the development of its funding scheme and remain an important contributor to grassroots human rights defenders and organisations in the frontline of defence for human rights in 2015. ■



The organisation Kalyanamitra is a women's rights organisation in Indonesia working on the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for communities. They received their first NHRF grant in 2014 and provided input during the NHRF's work with the guidelines. Here they are holding a copy in their Jakarta office. From left to right: Nia, Nani, Lasmi, Lilis, Rena, Ika and Hegel.



The NHRF's guidelines on security are available both in hard and soft copies. The electronic version can be downloaded from the NHRF's website: www.nhrf.no.

Launching NHRF's Guidelines on security

We are proud to launch the NHRF's «Guidelines on security for grantees in the field», which is an important part of our increased focus on security for the organisations we support and their networks, says Executive Director Sandra Petersen.

THE MAIN TASK and stated ambition of the NHRF is to enable local organisations to carry out human rights work through financial support. For more than 25 years, the NHRF has provided direct support to organisations working in the frontline of defence for the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups. At the same time, an external evaluation of the NHRF in 2009 pointed to the need for an increased focus on security of persons involved in NHRF funded projects. In addition, the evaluation suggested that the NHRF should expand its focus to becoming better equipped to act when its grantee organisations are at risk.

«**AS PART OF** our strategic plan for 2011 to 2015, we have therefore increasingly focused on the security of human rights defenders in the projects

we support, in both our priority countries and in countries eligible for support. We have also increased our open funding available for the protection of human rights defenders globally», says the NHRF's Executive Director Sandra Petersen. She explains that the document has first and foremost been developed for the NHRF's grantees and their networks and constitutes an important part of the NHRF's concrete efforts to address issues of security concerning its grantees. «Through increasingly more structured discussions with our grantees, we discovered that their capacity to respond to security risks and their ability to make use of both national and international human rights mechanisms vary. While some have already developed necessary security plans, others take great risks in order to document human rights violations committed against

their local communities. And while some are able to connect their local work to both the national and international levels, many are in need of capacity building in this field. In particular, the UN is seen as distant by several of local the actors we support», Petersen explains. She continues: «With these guidelines we aim to increase our grantees' awareness about security and how to mitigate risks, increase their knowledge of the normative framework and available support mechanisms for defenders at risk, and describe the roles and responsibilities of both our grantees and the NHRF with regards to addressing and communicating issues of security».

THE GUIDELINES ARE the result of a long process of consultations and discussions with the NHRF's grantees and local consultants, as well as with international actors with wide experience from work in this field. As such, the development of the guidelines has also been an internal process, through which the NHRF has expanded its own network and contact with persons and organisations working specifically on the protection of human rights defenders. «We consider all of these efforts, including the guidelines, as part of a strategy to increase local human rights defenders' capacity to

undertake human rights work without fear, threats and danger, help them build stronger networks, and strengthen their ability to make use of the mechanisms available to them», Petersen says.

THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK for the NHRF's guidelines is the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998. The Declaration is the first UN instrument which recognises the importance and legitimacy of human rights defenders, as well as their need for better protection. Although not legally binding, it draws together provisions from those legally binding instruments that are most relevant to human rights defenders, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Declaration provides specific protection to human rights defenders and outlines specific duties of states with regard to defending human rights. As the Declaration was adopted by consensus, it constitutes a clear commitment on the part of all UN Member States to respect the rights of human rights defenders at the national and international levels.

«**DURING THE FIFTEEN** years since its adoption, and with systematic efforts at the international level to acknowledge, protect and support the work conducted by independent civil society actors, there has

been an increased focus by multiple stakeholders on human rights defenders and their role in human rights work. Several countries have also followed up the international work with national action plans, and some have established special response mechanisms. With input and support from civil society actors, some national governments and regional institutions have adopted guidelines for their own efforts to protect and support human rights defenders around the world», Petersen explains. However, she underlines that the grim reality which many human rights defenders and organisations around the world face today, as they are targeted, criminalised and hindered in their work by both state and non-state actors, clearly shows the implementation gap which still exists between words and actions in this field. «Human rights defenders working peacefully for human rights are therefore in great need of concrete support and targeted response», she says. «Continuous efforts are necessary to ensure that words and high level diplomacy are transformed into concrete actions which yield real results on the ground. We hope that our guidelines can be of both inspirational and practical use for our grantees and their networks, by helping them to strengthen the link between different levels of engagement and make use of the various mechanisms which are there to support them».

THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE a full chapter on personal and organisational security. This chapter refers to existing work by the organisation Front Line Defenders and covers issues such as risk assessment and threat analysis, psychological aspects of security (such as how to handle stress), and finally digital security. «The assistance from Front Line Defenders was both important and necessary for the guidelines as a whole, and we are very grateful for their help», says Project Coordinator Liv H. Kvanvig who coordinated the writing of the document. She also explains that building stronger networks has been a part of the process and work with the guidelines, and that the responses received from various organisations working on protection have been very positive. References to other organisations and relevant sources and tools

are provided throughout the document, in order to encourage the NHRF grantees to increase their knowledge of these issues.

THE GUIDELINES' FINAL chapter covers various support mechanisms available to human rights defenders, such as relevant UN Special Rapporteurs; existing guidelines on support to human rights defenders developed by the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Switzerland and Norway; and finally specialised organisation which are sources to highly relevant information or can provide emergency assistance. Kvanvig explains that an important part of the process has been to clarify what the NHRF's secretariat in Oslo and local consultants can and should do in response to threats which their grantees face. Furthermore, the NHRF has also wanted to highlight what is expected of their grantees and how they should communicate possible threats to the NHRF. «It is important that an urgent appeal to us includes clear indications of what kind of actions the organisations want us to take, or not to take. If they want us to contact the Norwegian Embassy in their country, we can do so. However, if this might in some way contribute negatively to the situation, this is important for us to know. We can also put them in touch with organisations which provide emergency grants, legal aid, temporary relocation or medical assistance, if needed. But again, the need for this has to be communicated to us by the organisation, and we will always check with them before setting the wheels in motion», Kvanvig underlines.

PETERSEN ADDS THAT although the guidelines are now in place, they are part of a larger process. They will be used together with other capacity building efforts and with increased attention from the NHRF's local consultants in priority countries. «This is a living document in the sense that we want our grantees to use it. It will be a central part of our upcoming annual seminars for grantees in priority countries, combined with capacity building in relevant areas. In many ways, the real work starts now», she concludes. ■



Human rights defender Asha Kowtal and filmmaker Thenmozhi Soundararajan visited DSN-Norway in May 2014 as a part of their work against violence against Dalit women in India, in order to engage Norwegian actors on the issue. Here in discussions with Therese Jebsen (Rafto Foundation), Abid Raja (Liberal Party) and Ed Brown (Stefanus Alliance) during the seminar at Norad.

NHRF network participation

In addition to information sharing with other relevant human rights actors, the NHRF participates in networks to share experiences from NHRF grantees' perspectives and connect these local experiences to the national and international levels. In this section we highlight some of the work conducted in 2014 in the context of two of these networks: the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network and the Colombia Forum.

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 addition, the NHRF has regular meetings with owner organisations and resource persons in Norway with special competence relevant to the NHRF.

Focus on Dalit women

The NHRF's Executive Director coordinated the Norwegian Dalit Solidarity Network (DSN-Norway) from 2012 till the end of 2014. DSN-Norway currently has eight Norwegian member organisations and aims to influence Norwegian actors invol-

ved in activities in caste-affected countries. DSN-Norway can provide knowledge on caste-based discrimination and how Norwegian business actors and others can contribute positively to the elimination of such discrimination. The network has worked in close cooperation with the Initiative for Ethical Trade (IET) on business and human rights for the past few years.

During 2014, the network focused on the situation for Dalit women in particular and contributed to activities both in Norway and the UN highlighting this issue. In May, Asha Kowtal, leader of the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (NCDHR) in India, and filmmaker Thenmozhi Soundararajan (from the USA) visited Norway as a part of their European tour focusing on the issue of violence against Dalit women. The tour was an extension of a full-month march in India called «the Dalit women self-respect yatra». With this yatra Dalit women in India demanded justice to fight the vicious cycle of caste

and gender discrimination that severely restricts the lives of Dalit women and subjects them to violence, rape and violations of their basic human rights in almost every sphere. The march aimed to empower other Dalit women to stand up for themselves and join in the struggle for justice.

During Kowtal's and Thenmozhi's visit to Norway, DSN-Norway and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) jointly arranged a seminar on the work against intersecting forms of discrimination and caste-based discrimination. Contributors included Margot Skarpeteig from NORAD, Gro Lindstad from the Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS), and MP Abid Raja from the Liberal Party. Kowtal and Thenmozhi showed film clips during the seminar from the women's yatra, which had visited sites of atrocities such as gang-rape, violence and murder of Dalit women in the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra.

NHRF's contribution to Norway's white paper on human rights

On December 12th, 2014, Norway presented its white paper «Opportunities for All: Human Rights in Norway's Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation», which is the first Norwegian policy document on this subject for 15 years.

As part of the process a range of Norwegian civil society actors were invited to participate. The NHRF provided a written contribution highlighting how human rights today are under attack in both democracies and non-democracies, as well as in low, middle and high income countries. The NHRF also underlined how human rights defenders in Asia, Africa and Latin America are faced with similar challenges regardless of whether their focus is civil and political or economic, social and cultural rights, as defenders are subjected to threats and attacks from both state and non-state actors motivated by self-interest.

In light of this the NHRF has encouraged the Norwegian government to:

- Ensure systematic follow-up of the UPR mechanism vis-à-vis all countries (including all recommendations given by Norway)
- Use recommendations from UN Committees in bilateral talks with relevant countries
- Facilitate the participation of delegations from civil society and representatives from marginalised and vulnerable groups in advocacy work related to the UPR and UN processes
- Strengthen the Special Rapporteurs' man-

dates by actively supporting and making use of their reports and recommendations in international fora and in bilateral talks.

Furthermore, in order to strengthen the role of human rights in Norway's foreign policy and development cooperation, the NHRF has called for the government to:

- Strengthen its support to human rights defenders on the ground in their home countries, cross-cutting conventions and income levels and with a focus on marginalised and vulnerable groups where the situation is critical
- Ensure support for human rights in countries where Norway has large business interests
- Ensure that Norway's guide on support to human rights defenders is actively used by the Norwegian foreign service
- Ensure experience sharing between Norwegian foreign missions regarding support to human rights defenders, as well as between the missions and Norwegian civil society
- In a systematic manner follow the developments of NGO laws that restrict foreign funding to legitimate human rights work by NGOs, and address this issue in the UN and in bilateral discussions with the countries concerned.

The NHRF also contributed to the white paper through DSN-Norway, as a separate written contribution was sent by the network. ■



DSN-Norway with Durga Sob from the organisation FEDO in Nepal in Oslo, September 2014.

In September 2014, Durga Sob from the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) in Nepal visited DSN-Norway and had a roundtable meeting with NGOs working with Nepal. The situation for Dalit women in Nepal was discussed. The meeting was followed-up with meetings in Nepal in November by several of DSN-Norway's members.

The peace process

The NHRF continued its involvement in the Colombia Forum in 2014. 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 2014, the Colombia Forum regularly met to discuss the political situation and provided input to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the human rights situation in Colombia through periodic meetings. ■

Results of NHRF activities in 2014

THE PURPOSE OF the NHRF funding scheme is to support and enable local organisations to continue their work in the frontline of defence for human rights. The NHRF regularly witnesses the important results achieved by the grantee organisations through their reports, assessments by local consultants and during the secretariat's field visits.

THE TARGET GROUP for the NHRF is local organisations operating on a grassroots level, often addressing complex human rights issues. The NHRF acknowledges the complex and time consuming nature of the human rights work of local organisations, and that overall improvements of the human rights situation often depend on political change. Organisations' ability to work and achieve positive results in terms of «rights change» for marginalised individuals and groups also depends on the space for civil society to carry out their work. Many of the NHRF grantee organisations operate in demanding environments with limited space and freedoms. While NHRF support can bring a boost to organisations' work and immediate relief, the NHRF support must be seen as a contribution to wide and long-term struggles.

THE NHRF CAN provide support for a single year to campaigns and targeted projects. In these situations, grantee organisations are only able to report on immediate and short-term results (out-puts). However, in countries eligible for support and in priority countries, grantees can receive up to a maximum of three and five grants respectively. This allows them to engage in more long-term work for sustainable results, and for positive outcomes with regard to the human rights situation on various levels. The NHRF conducts, to the extent possible, end-assessment of those grantee organisations which have received multiple grants, in order to improve the documentation of the results achieved.

IN THE FOLLOWING pages, we present examples of the results achieved and reported by organisations in 2014. We have tried to highlight selected results from each priority country. The grants have different time frames and the NHRF has not yet received final reports for all projects supported in 2014. The majority of the examples presented, therefore, represent a cross-section of supported projects, where at least part of the work was carried out in 2014.



NHRF support in Colombia



THE NHRF IN COLOMBIA

- Colombia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF has had a local consultant in Colombia since 2011
- Since 2013, the NHRF has organised annual seminars for grantees
- In 2014, a new strategy for activities in Colombia for the period 2015–2017 was adopted by the Board
- 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

President of CREDHOS, Ivan Madero Vergel, being interviewed by local media about the human rights situation in Barrancabermeja.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

In 2014, peace negotiations between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels continued in Havana with the hope of ending the armed conflict. The negotiations are progressing slowly, with agreements reached on three out of five main topics. The re-election of President Juan Manuel Santos in June 2014 affirmed public support for the peace process, although it has yet to translate into tangible improvements for civilians affected by the conflict.

All armed parties are responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, displacement, arbitrary detentions and sexual violence. Indigenous communities, Afro-Colombians, peasants, women and girls, human rights defenders, unionists and community leaders continue to be particularly exposed to the consequences of the conflict. Paramilitary groups, regrouped after the flawed 2003-2006 demobilisation process, continue their threats and attacks against defenders, journalists and community leaders. Infighting between paramilitary groups in Buenaventura has led to a surge of incidents of murders, kidnappings and dismembering of persons and widespread displacement. In 2014, investigations into links between paramilitaries and politicians, so-called parapolítica, continued, with 55 legislators arrested since 2006.

The practice of falsos positivos – extrajudicial killings of civilians carried out by government forces – has declined, but according to Human Rights Watch, there were credible reports of new cases in 2014. Human rights defenders demanding justice for victims of this crime are particularly exposed to threats and attacks as a consequence of their legitimate work. In 2014, the authorities continued to push for the transfer of cases of human rights abuses, including falsos positivos, committed by military personnel from civilian prosecutors to the military justice system, which is less transparent and has long failed to hold perpetrators accountable.

The security situation for human rights defenders remains critical, and despite the existence of a national protection mechanism, shows few signs of improving. Front Line Defenders recorded 47 killings of defenders in 2014, making Colombia one of the most dangerous countries in the world in which to defend human rights. In late 2014, there was a surge of death threats issued by paramilitary groups, and threats and killings continued into early 2015. In January 2015, the profiled activist Carlos Pedraza was murdered north of Bogotá, and Jaminton Ávila, father of five and member of former NHRF grantee Zona de Reserva Campesina del Valle del Río Cimitarra, was murdered in the Antioquia Department.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN COLOMBIA

In 2014, the NHRF supported five organisations in Colombia, three of which had received support previously. In addition, four organisations that received grants in 2013 carried out most of their activities in 2014. Geographically, the grantee organisations worked primarily in the departments of Huila/Caquetá, Valle del Cauca, Santander, Norte de Santander, Boyacá and Cundinamarca. The thematic focus is linked to the effects of the armed conflict. The main working areas of the grantee organisations are monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, struggle against impunity and for the preservation of the truth and the memory of victims of the conflict. Below are some examples of the results achieved by NHRF grantees in 2014.

Protecting the rights of marginalised groups

The NHRF supports the work of Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS) to defend the rights of marginalised groups in the Magdalena Medio area, which is particularly affected by the armed conflict. During last year, CREDHOS provided free legal aid to 447 persons through their office in Barrancabermeja, including in cases of serious human rights violations such as displacement and disappearances. In one incident, CREDHOS assumed the case of a disappearance of a young girl at the request of her parents. Following their protocol for disappearances, CREDHOS activated a mechanism of urgent search under the local authorities and conducted investigations together with the relatives accompanied by the police. After 48 hours, CREDHOS staff identified the girl in a marginalised community, where youths are regularly recruited to prostitution, criminal organisations and drug trafficking. Following the intervention of CREDHOS, the girl was reunited with her family.

In 2014, CREDHOS also continued their work to equip community leaders and activists with the tools to defend their basic human rights. With support



Luz Marina Bernal speaks during a press conference on August 16th, 2014, in Havana, in the framework of peace-talks between FARC members and Colombian government delegation. A dozen witnesses – the first of a group of 60 – testified during the meeting, including people who have lost loved ones in some of the worst massacres that have rocked Colombia in recent years.

from the NHRF, CREDHOS has set up an academic course in Human Rights, International Law and Culture of Peace in cooperation with the university Instituto Universitario de la Paz. Last year, 22 community leaders, peasants and labour unionists successfully graduated from the program. CREDHOS also strengthened the ability of several local communities to defend their rights through legal and physical accompaniment, including to the Esperanza settlement consisting of displaced and marginalised people defending their right to land against eviction and further displacement, and to the La Posada de Torres community in their advocacy work to ensure the right to adequate standards of living including the right to housing.

Progress against impunity

In 2014, the NHRF continued to support organisations working with struggles against impunity for perpetrators of violence under the armed conflict. The group Familiares de los Desaparecidos del Palacio de Justicia (Familiares) consists of relatives of victims of forced disappearance during a military operation against rebels occupying the Justice Palace in Bogotá in 1985. With support from the NHRF, Familiares travelled to Brasilia in 2013 to give their testimonies at a hearing at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In a landmark ruling in November 2014, the Court convicted the Colombian state of human rights violations, including the disappearances of eleven persons, during the military operation. Based on the testimonies from the Familiares and other evidence, the Court concluded that the disappeared persons had been separated from other hostages, taken to military compounds and in some cases tortured and/or disappeared. In the ruling, the Colombian state was sentenced to pay compensation to the victims, offer a formal and public apology, and produce documentation about the actual events during the military retake of the palace. Significantly for Familiares, the Colombian state was also ordered to, without delay, carry out a thorough search in which it makes every effort to determine the whereabouts of the eleven victims that are still missing.

The NHRF provided renewed support to Madres y Familiares de los Casos de Falsos Positivos de Soacha y Bogotá (Madres) in 2014. Madres is an association of mothers and relatives of victims of extrajudicial killings carried out by government forces. With NHRF support, Madres have carried out a large number of activities to demand justice in their cases, including monthly public exhibitions and a sit-in in front of the office of the Attorney General in Bogotá, which attracted extensive coverage in national and international media. Through their tireless efforts, Madres has contributed to putting falsos positivos and victims on the agenda, with Madres' coordinator Luz Marina Bernal invited to participate in an official victims' delegation to the peace talks in Havana (picture). Madres also contributed to raising international awareness about falsos positivos, with Bernal the subject of a widely shared mini documentary of their struggle in the largest Spanish newspaper, El País. An important part of the work of Madres is to ensure the ability of the traumatised members to continue their work. To this end, they have organised psychosocial rehabilitation sessions and elaborated a memory book (Cartas de Memoria) dedicated to their lost ones. ■

PHOTO: YAMIL LAGE / AFP / NTB SCANPIX

NHRF support in Liberia



THE NHRF IN LIBERIA

- Liberia has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- The NHRF has supported organisations in Liberia since 1996
- The support is directed towards economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on women's and children's rights
- The target group for the NHRF is primarily organisations based in rural areas with sustained links to the target area
- Since 2008, the NHRF has arranged annual seminar for grantees. In 2014 it was organised in Monrovia, focusing on project management
- NHRF activities are supported by an earmarked grant from Norad in the period 2013–2015

Members of West Point Women for Health and Development at their office in Monrovia. The NHRF supports the organisation's work against sexual and gender based violence in the marginalised community of West Point.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN LIBERIA

In 2014, the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa heavily affected Liberia, with almost 4000 documented casualties. The outbreak led to a near collapse of the healthcare system and damaged the social fabric of Liberian society. In August, the authorities imposed a state of emergency suspending some civil liberties, closed schools and imposed curfews and quarantines. According to investigations carried out by local human rights groups, including a former NHRF grantee, the Liberian authorities committed serious human rights violations in the West Point community in Monrovia during the state of emergency period. The violations included torture and illegal detention, excessive use of force leading to the death of two persons aged 16 and 22, and threats and extortion.

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. 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 175 out of 187 countries on the 2014 UN Human Development Index.

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 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 2014, seven Liberian human rights organisations received financial support from the NHRF. The geographical focus is diverse, with grantees operating in seven different counties. All supported projects focused on women's and children's rights, with the main focus on gender based violence and female genital mutilation. The work of several grantee organisations was affected by the Ebola crisis during 2014, and one grantee was allowed to carry out Ebola response activities with NHRF funds. Below are some examples of the results achieved by the supported organisations in 2014.

Reinforcing women's rights in Kpaai district

In March, the organisation Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS), based in Palala in Kpaai district, Bong County, received its first grant in a two-year project. This allows RWRS to plan their long term intervention with increased predictability and security. The NHRF has previously supported RWRS with two other grants, with encouraging results. The aim of their current project is to reduce the physical and psychological violence against women and girls in RWRS' target area.

At the end of 2014, RWRS reported that despite the challenges faced due to the Ebola outbreak, they had conducted their activities, but with the necessary adjustments so as not to expose their target community or themselves to unnecessary risks. As a result of their advocacy strategy, RWRS reported that the number of cases of violence against women (VAW) in their target area had decreased from 6–7 to 2–3 cases per day by the end of 2014. The organisation has assisted victims and their families in 33 cases of violence, which have resulted in jail sentences for the perpetrators, reconciliation or economic compensation to the victims. Some of the cases are still pending trial due to the Ebola situation.

RWRS is also gathering data for a database on the situation for women in Kpaai with regard to physical and psychological violence. The database will be completed by the end of the year and is welcomed by all duty bearers and stakeholders. RWRS has also set up a resource centre for capacity building and



Members of Rural Women Rights Structure and the NHRF met in Palala, Bong County, in January 2014. The organisation has mobilised a large number of women in the area to defend their rights and reduce incidents of violence against women.

interaction for male and female students, teachers, activists and local government representatives. Furthermore, RWRS conducted 28 advocacy outreach sessions in 21 communities, and five training of trainers for 220 relevant stakeholders. These included town chiefs, paramount chiefs, commissioners, law enforcement officers, leaders of women's groups, youths and elders. The organisation is currently implementing the activities of the project's second year.

The struggle against sexual and gender-based violence in West Point

The organisation West Point Women for Health and Development (WPWHDO) is based in Monrovia and works for the rights of women and children in their target area. WPWHDO received their first NHRF grant in 2013 for their work against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the West Point community through a combination of advocacy, legal work and awareness raising on domestic violence. As the Ebola crisis escalated, WPWHDO also became actively involved in raising awareness about the deadly disease, and was allowed to shift their focus to Ebola response with NHRF support during the last two months of 2014. This included providing day to day counselling to Ebola survivors; refresher training for social workers at the women's centre; education on Ebola stigma; and support to Ebola survivors. In this period, West Point Women was able to assist 15 Ebola survivors (orphans and caretakers) with immediate support and relief.

During the project, WPWHDO carried out weekly visits to the West Point Magisterial Court and monitored all cases transferred for redress at the Criminal Court «E» at the Temple of Justice, which is dedicated to cases of sexual violence. The court records obtained by the organisation provided WPWHDO with an overview of the number of reported cases sent to court during the period February-August (until the Escalation of Ebola). Through the constant monitoring and requests for information, the organisation applied pressure to ensure the continued fast-tracking of cases of sexual violence in the courts. As a result of their advocacy work, the organisation also reported that at least twelve rape cases were sent to court and the alleged perpetrators were taken into custody awaiting trial. Furthermore, at least 20 SGBV cases were sent to court and are awaiting trial, and around 13 000 women, men and boys in West Point were reached directly through WPWHDO's awareness-raising and advocacy efforts. ■

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 position 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
- The NHRF focuses on the rights of vulnerable groups, such as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (including Dalits)

Members of the organisation Marpu in Andhra Pradesh performing a role play on their struggle for land rights during the NHRF's visit in May 2014.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA

India elected a new government in May 2014. After ten years in opposition, the Hindu right Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won a decisive mandate with a significant majority in Parliament and former Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi as the new Prime Minister.

India's Constitution (1949) ensures equality before the law, explicitly prohibits discrimination based on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and stresses equal opportunity in matters of public employment. «Untouchability» is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. Furthermore, the Protection of Civil Rights Act (No. 22 of 1955) prescribes punishment for the preaching and practice of «untouchability», and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Prevention of Atrocities Act (1989) was enacted by the Indian Parliament to prevent atrocities against SCs and STs.

Despite the above-mentioned legal framework, caste-based discrimination and neglect of tribal communities is a continuing problem in India, as they face discrimination and violence and severe difficulties in obtaining justice. Sexual abuse and other violence against women and children remain a serious challenge, despite legal reforms introduced in the aftermath of the New Delhi gang rape and murder in 2012. In June 2014, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child identified several areas in which the Indian government had failed to ensure protection of children from discrimination, harmful practices, sexual abuse, and child labour. With the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Kailash Satyarthi, the fact that millions of children in India are still engaged in the worst forms of labour received international attention. It remains to be seen whether the implementation of India's legal framework for the protection of marginalised and vulnerable groups will be strengthened in 2015.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN INDIA

The NHRF's country strategy on India focuses in particular on the protection and promotion of the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups such as SC and ST communities. In particular, the NHRF funded groups and organisations work on issues such as land rights, documentation of atrocities and legal follow-up of selected cases, Safaikarmacharis («manual scavengers»), and labour rights. Most of the organisations use advocacy alongside awareness-raising in their work, and many are advocating for policy change at the state level. In 2014, six organisations and one national human rights defenders network received support from the NHRF. Below are a few examples of results achieved by organisations which implemented projects during the year.

In pursuit of land rights and social security in Chittoor district

The organisation Marpu received its second grant from the NHRF in August 2014. The project has a strong emphasis on mobilising those who need access to land and social rights to which they by law are entitled. Marpu's target community is 2000 Dalit families in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh.

During their first year of support Marpu reported on the establishment of a union and a structure of committees at the panchayat and mandal level, consisting of both men and women. They have conducted a door-to-door survey in their project area, collecting statistical data on the Dalit population, land distribution and employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme (NREGS). The survey resulted in comprehensive data of the target community, and the identification of 50 acres of Dalit agricultural land which was under illegal enjoyment of landlords. After Marpu's prolonged struggle and meetings, 50 dalit families were subsequently given possession of the land. Furthermore, 412 persons have been provided with secure job cards under NREGS, taking the total to 1546 persons across more than ten different villages in Ramasamudram Mandal, Chittoor district.

Support to human rights defenders network in India

In 2014, the NHRF started its support to a network of human rights defenders in India. The project includes regional training of trainers (ToT), followed by state level trainings of human rights defenders. The trainings focus on national and UN human rights mechanisms, legal resources, strategic advocacy actions, and remedies. A manual on human rights defenders is also being developed in both Hindi and English. Partici-

pants are carefully selected so that gender and geography are taken into account, and marginalised and vulnerable groups are represented. Participants become associated with the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR). They also become members of two important national networks: the Indian Human Rights Defenders Alert (HRDA), which is a national platform created to extend solidarity and

assistance to human rights defenders in trouble/at risk, and the All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with National Human Rights Institutions (AiNNI). Through these national networks the participants are in turn linked with two large regional networks: the Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders' Forum (ARHRDF) and the Asian Network of NGOs working with NHRIs (ANNI).

Marpu also follows up atrocity cases in their target area, including one case of sexual abuse of a 17 year old Dalit girl and the rape and murder of a 13 year old Dalit girl. Marpu reported that due to their intervention, criminal cases have been filed and both cases are currently pending trial. Marpu has also intervened in two cases of «untouchability» affecting local Dalit communities, where acceptable solutions have been found in cooperation with the local police.

The organisation is engaged in lobbying and advocacy work against caste discrimination at the district and state levels. Marpu reported that as a result of this, the state level Human Rights Commission in Andhra Pradesh has directed the local police in Ramasamudram Mandal to enquire into issues of caste discrimination and take needful remedial measures, and perpetrators have in turn been warned by the police of serious action against them if the practice is continued. With its second year of NHRF support, Marpu is continuing the struggle for both land rights and social security for their target community in Chittoor.

The struggle for Nomads' rights in Tamil Nadu

The Empowerment Centre for Nomads and Tribes (TENT Society) received its fifth and final NHRF grant in May 2014. Founded in 2003 by a focused group of representatives from different Nomad communities, TENT Society managed to establish a Nomad Federation in Tamil Nadu with its first grant in 2009, and has steadily grown to cover 15 districts with 15 leaders representing different groups of Nomads. These communities often face discrimination, lack of access to education, and lack of recognition of their livelihoods and heritage.

In their final year of support TENT Society has so far conducted three marches to draw the attention of the government and local administration in Madurai on demands such as education for Nomad children, community certificates, and sanctions on house plots. According to TENT Society, this has resulted in more than 400 Nomads getting access to community certificates from the government and more than 150 students receiving education aid and other facilities for schooling.

On December 19th and 20th, 2014, TENT Society conducted a two day national conference entitled «Nomadic Tribes: Challenges and Prospects» at Lady Doak College in Madurai. The aim was to share, discuss and debate the situation for Nomads, as well as to push for the establishment of a Department for Nomads in every Indian state. Academics, politicians, commissioners, students, the media and the general public were invited to participate. In total, there were about 630 participants during the two days' event.

In 2015, TENT Society will publish a book entitled «Voices of Nomads in India», which contains chapters and articles by anthropologists, government officials, scholars, students, Indian and foreign journalists, and religious leaders. The book is meant to be a reference manual for the state and central government and future generations, and addresses issues such as the origins of Nomads, the effects of communities and castes on Nomads, as well as challenges and advantages of constitutional provisions and India's legal framework.

After five years of NHRF support, Tent Society's leader R. Maheswari says that their greatest achievement is access to education for Nomad children; the allocation of community certificates, ration cards, milch animals and free house plots allocated to Nomads by the government after intense lobby work; as well as the increased capacity of their leaders, women and youth to engage in the struggle for their rights as citizens of India. Their future ambitions include finding employment opportunities for their youth and accessing their rights under the human rights provisions in the Indian Constitution without fear of the police or upper caste communities. ■

NHRF support in Pakistan



Mashooque Biraqmani, Chief Executive Officer of the Dadu based organisation Sunjag Sansar Organization (SSO) in Sindh, being interviewed by the BBC.

THE NHRF IN PAKISTAN

- Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002
- In 2014, a new strategy for activities in Pakistan for the period 2014–2016 was adopted by the Board
- The NHRF supports organisations and projects working to enhance the human rights situation for vulnerable groups
- The NHRF gives priorities to projects applying the methods of advocacy or/and targeted awareness raising (legal empowerment) and activism in marginalised communities
- The NHRF supports organisations in three provinces: Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Sindh
- The NHRF has had a local consultant in Pakistan since 2004
- The NHRF has arranged annual seminars for grantees in Pakistan since 2010
- In 2014, all NHRF grantees were included in capacity-building on protection and security

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

In spite of the Pakistani state's massive ratification of the main international human rights conventions over the last years, and improved legislations on women's rights, human rights abuses such as enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, torture, violence against women and children, and attacks on human rights defenders are regularly reported by both national and international human rights organisations.

During 2014, targeted killings of members of the Shia minority in particular, and attacks on human rights defenders, continued unabated. The assassination of Rashid Rehman in Multan epitomized both the complexity and the impunity related to human rights issues in the country. Pakistan is widely criticised for its blasphemy laws and the weak statutory protection for the country's millions of citizens belonging to religious minorities, as well as for the government's inability to deal with these issues due to pressure from religious groups. Furthermore, the gruesome murder of Shama and Shehzad, a Christian couple from Kot Radha Kishan who were beaten and burnt alive in the brick kiln where they worked, stirred a lot of debate and media attention towards the vulnerable situation of minorities in Pakistan.

In December 2014, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai received international attention for her struggle for the right to education for every child and for girls in particular. According to findings in the latest UNESCO report on education, Pakistan is among the 21 countries facing an extensive learning crisis. According to this ranking, Pakistan has the second highest number of children not attending school (5.5 million).

After the brutal attack on the Army Public School and Degree College in Peshawar on December 16th, human rights groups voiced serious concerns against the government's response of lifting the moratorium on the death penalty and deciding to set up special courts headed by military officials to try terrorism cases.

SELECTED RESULTS OF THE NHRF'S WORK IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan has been a priority country for the NHRF since 2002 and the secretariat conducts regular visits to the country. In accordance with the NHRF strategy, support is given to organisations working for the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, workers and minorities. In 2014, a total of five projects received support. In addition, several organisations that were granted support in 2013 carried out their projects during 2014. The organisations focused on issues such as protection of human rights defenders, bonded labour, child marriage, disabled people's rights, and religious' and sexual minorities' rights. Below are two examples of results achieved by organisations that implemented projects in 2014.

Early and forced marriages in Pakistan

Child marriage is a rampant problem in Pakistan. For the past four years, the Dadu based organisation Sunjag Sansar Organization (SSO) has been mobilising key stakeholders with innovative techniques and targeted advocacy work to reduce the incidences of child marriages in the province of Sindh. In total, the organisation has reported that 30 marriages have been averted and that key stakeholders are now taking preventative measures and mobilising against the practice.

During the four years of NHRF support, the local community, performers of marriage rituals (Nikahkhawans), media persons, line departments, and civil society organisations have been engaged in SSO's activities to end the practice of child marriage. SSO has also held regular meetings with parliamentarians. According to the organisation's 2014 report, SSO created a momentum while working with ten local community-based organisations (CBOs). Through this effort SSO managed to reach more communities in five districts of Sindh and a total of 50 workshops was organised with the local communities. The organisation hopes that these efforts will make the work more sustainable and bring more engagement to the cause.

SSO has actively been advocating for a new law in Sindh together with other like-minded organisations, and by the end of the year they reported that the Provincial Assembly of Sindh had finally passed the «Child Marriage Restraint Acts 2013». In October, the organisation and the NHRF's local consultant were invited by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to speak to parliamentarians from Punjab about SSO's advocacy work and awareness-raising on this crucial issue, as well as the results achieved in terms of the passing of new legislation and reducing the child marriage ratio. The organi-



Photo from the launch of the report «Human Rights Defenders Organizations in Pakistan: Risks and Capacity Assessments» on December 12th, 2014. This marked the end of the 21 month long pilot-project undertaken by the Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) in strategic partnership with the NHRF.

sation has also been sharing its work with the global network «Girls not Brides» and participated in the «Girls Summit in London in 2014». In 2015, SSO will receive a fifth and last grant from the NHRF that will focus on the implementation of the new law through awareness and advocacy in Sindh. At the end of 2014 the NHRF also gave a first grant to the organisation Awakening, working on the issues of customary practices such as SWARA (where a girl is being married as a compensation to resolve a blood feud between clans), and early and forced marriages in Swat.

Protection of human rights defenders

At the end of the year the report «Human Rights Defenders Organizations in Pakistan: Risks and Capacity Assessments» was launched. This marked the end of the 21 month long pilot-project that was undertaken by the Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) in strategic partnership with the NHRF.

The project's objective was to provide empirical data regarding the security of human rights defenders operating in Pakistan; to assess and highlight the risk faced by defenders and their capacity to deal with risk; to ensure that defenders operating in Pakistan are protected; and to lay the foundation for a national human rights defenders network. During the launch of the report in December, key representatives from the government and civil society were present. The project's findings were covered in the national media and highlighted that 62% of the human rights defenders organisations from a sample of 408 faced serious risks, such as threat to life.

During the first phase of the project, consultations were held in three provinces with a total of 94 human rights defenders participating. 408 organisations responded to a questionnaire that was later used as the baseline for the report. In addition, the high-risk organisations in all the four provinces were selected for a five days' capacity building training. Two parallel trainings were held in Lahore and Karachi with a total of 77 participants from 39 organisations.

By the end of the year, the 39 organisations had developed security protocols. Follow-up visits, before and after the training, showed significant operational changes in the organisations, including measures such as ensuring that mobile phones are charged; maintaining a minimum call balance in the mobile; attendance register for visits; and establishing better routines in the office when it comes to receiving visitors. During a debriefing held in Lahore in December, some organisations explained they had made changes in how they use the social media and felt that this made them less vulnerable. One woman human rights defender said that the home security session during the training had been useful, and that she had spoken with her family and children about how to discuss her work on minority issues with strangers. She felt that this made her and her family less vulnerable. Among the key recommendations from the organisations consulted was the need for a consolidated human rights defenders protection network in Pakistan. ■

NHRF support in other countries



Network meeting in the Regional Network of Human Rights Defenders in Pijijiapan, Chiapas, organised by Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa A. C. The Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SweFOR) provides physical and political accompaniment to human rights organisations at risk in southern Mexico, including Digna Ochoa.

The NHRF support is divided between the four priority countries described earlier in this report, and various countries eligible for support. In 2014, Mexico, China, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia were eligible for support, with the Board recently including Nigeria to the list.

Additionally, the NHRF supports projects for the protection of human rights defenders and proposals forwarded by owner organisations and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regardless of geographical focus.

THE NHRF IN MEXICO

The NHRF opened for support to Mexican human rights organisations after a 2012 assessment visit concluded that there is a need for increased efforts in the context of the difficult human rights situation in the country. In 2014, the NHRF visited Mexico to evaluate the experiences and collect first-hand information about the human rights situation in the country. Based on the findings, the Board decided in March 2015 to give Mexico status as priority country for the NHRF funding scheme.

Mexico's current human rights situation received increased international attention with the murder of six and disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa Teachers' College in Guerrero State in September 2014. The incident and its aftermath highlighted various structural problems at the root of Mexico's human rights crisis, including the direct complicity of authorities and security forces at various levels in killings and disappearances, impunity for perpetrators of violence and the criminalisation of social protest. The military offensive against the drug cartels launched under the Calderon government in 2006 has led to massive human rights violations, including a 600 percent rise in cases of torture according to a 2014 Amnesty International report. The security forces act largely with impunity, as demonstrated by the lack of proper investigations into a massacre of 22 persons in Tlatlaya in June 2014 at the hands of Mexican soldiers. More than 25 000 persons are thought to have disappeared in Mexico since 2006.

Human rights defenders and journalists continue to be particularly exposed in this climate of fear and violence, with a 2013 report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights documenting 89 attacks against human rights defenders during the previous two years. Several human rights defenders involved in projects supported by the NHRF continue to receive serious threats and are subject to harassment as a consequence of their legitimate work. There is consensus in the human rights community that the protection mechanism set up in 2012 by the government for human rights defenders and journalists so far has had a marginal impact on the security situation.

SELECTED RESULTS OF NHRF'S WORK IN MEXICO

Since 2012, the NHRF has supported eleven human rights projects in Mexico. In 2014, the NHRF supported five organisations, two of which had received support previously. The projects focus on the rights of migrants, indigenous people, women and the security of human rights defenders.

Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos A.C

In late 2014, the organisation Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos A.C (CIDHM) finalised their first project supported by the NHRF to increase security for women human rights defenders. Under the project, CIDHM collected and systematised information about harassment and attacks against women human rights defenders in close cooperation with key human rights organisations in 15 Mexican states. Based on the results and a comprehensive review of policy documents and reports, CIDHM has established a national database with aggressions against women human rights defenders and published a report analysing the findings and providing recommendations to the government on how to improve security.

The report, *Defensoras Somos Todas*, was published through press conferences in the states of Morelos, Oaxaca and Mexico City, and received extensive coverage in the Mexican media. According to the findings, aggressions against women human rights defenders have increased in recent years, with the highest incidents of aggressions registered in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero and Chihuahua. Illustrating the level of insecurity, the report found that 49 % of the 86 women human rights defenders interviewed had been subjected to



Comisión independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos A.C. publishing their report «Defensoras Somos Todas» about security for women human rights defenders at a press conference in Mexico City.

some form of violence. CIDHM will use the findings and recommendations in the report in their advocacy work to strengthen the Mexican Protection Mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists. In early 2015, the NHRF provided renewed support for CIDHM's work.

Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa A.C.

The organisation Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa A. C. completed their first project supported by the NHRF in 2014. Digna Ochoa is the only human rights organisation in the coastal zone in the southern state of Chiapas, where marginalised groups are subjected to a wide range of human rights violations. With support from the NHRF, Digna Ochoa has established a regional human rights defenders network consisting of representatives from 30 local communities that regularly meet to discuss strategies, security concerns and experiences in their local struggles for human rights and justice. Through twelve workshops, the participating representatives have acquired knowledge and tools to assume the leading role in this work. As a result of the capacity building and regional co-ordination meetings, the various communities have strengthened their position in negotiations with authorities and their demands for basic service delivery including water and electricity, as well as the right to work.

Through their free legal aid service, Digna Ochoa contributes to improving access to justice for marginalised individuals and groups in the region. During last year, Digna Ochoa offered legal orientation and counselling to 150 persons, including legal aid in 99 cases. Out of these, a total of 17 cases of human rights violations were documented and accompanied by Digna Ochoa, including cases of arbitrary detention, torture, violations of the right to work and of service delivery including health, education and the provision of water and electricity. Favourable rulings restoring the respect for human rights were reached in eleven of these cases, while three are still in process. Digna Ochoa also carried out 27 advocacy campaigns in the form of letters and petitions to the authorities, press conferences, bulletins and statements. As a result of one of these interventions, 30 persons in the Huehuetan community were allowed to resume their work as transportation workers after a conflict with the local authorities, thereby restoring their right to work as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.



Peter Nemi's death sentence was commuted in 2000, and in 2007 he was pardoned and released after 23 years in prison. The costs for his trial were covered by the NHRF.

NIGERIA: New country eligible for support

Following a consultation process to identify new eligible countries in West Africa, the NHRF conducted an assessment visit to Nigeria in October 2014. The overall purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities for the NHRF to contribute to improvements in the human rights situation in Nigeria. The NHRF visited Lagos and Abuja and met with representatives from the human rights community, the international community, academic experts and the Norwegian Embassy in Abuja. Given the significant and complex human rights challenges in Nigeria and the existence of a large number of capable human rights organisations in need of financial support, the NHRF Board decided in late 2014 to make Nigeria eligible for support. Priority will be given to projects focusing on social and economic rights, including the right to housing, and civil rights, including work against extrajudicial killings and torture.

The NHRF has extensive experience from support to Nigerian human rights organisations in the period 1990–2004, and met with several previous grantee organisations during the visit. The NHRF also met with Peter Nemi, who contacted the NHRF in the summer of 2014. In 1982, Nemi was arrested for robbery, and later convicted to death penalty by hanging. Imprisoned at the Maximum Security Prison at Kirikiri outside of Lagos, Nemi witnessed a large number of persons executed by hanging outside of his cell. After 14 years on death row, the profiled Nigerian pro bono lawyer Olisa Agbakoba intervened in his case, demanding that his sentence be commuted to life imprisonment on

humanitarian grounds. The initial request was denied, but following an appeal by Agbakoba, Nemi had his death penalty commuted in 2000. Under an amnesty policy programme under President Olusegun Obasanjo, Nemi was released from prison in 2005, 23 years after his arrest. After finding out that the NHRF supported the work of Agbakoba that made this intervention possible, Nemi contacted the NHRF to recount his story and express his appreciation. ■

E-mail from Peter Nemi to the NHRF on September 11th, 2014 :

«Ma, I wish to use this medium to thank you and the entire members of The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF) for your assistance in funding the trial of my case. I am very grateful. In fact I don't know how to express my gratitude. God bless you all. I am Peter Nemi who was on deathrow cell at the Maximum Security Prison, Kirikiri, Apapa Lagos, Nigeria. It was through my Lawyer Mr. Olisa Agbakoba that I know that you paid for the cost of the trial of my case. It was you God used to stop the hangman from touching me. My death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment on January 2000. And I was finally released from prison on the 7/10/2005. I spent 23yrs in behind bars. My thanks goes to all donors to the organisation. God bless you all.»



Human rights defender Mohammed Khatib was re-arrested by the Israeli authorities on February 13th, 2015, at a weekly demonstration in the West Bank village of Bi'in. Although charges have never been filed, Khatib is the target of the systematic use of arrest proceedings against leaders of the protest movement.

NHRF support to protection of human rights defenders

IN RESPONSE TO increasing requests from organisations working under difficult circumstances, the NHRF has opened for thematic support to the protection of human rights defenders in addition to the NHRF's usual geographical priorities. The funds allocated to projects within this category help to maintain the NHRF's flexible nature and ability to provide support to particularly targeted projects.

In 2013, the NHRF established a strategy for support to the protection of defenders at risk for the period 2013-2015. Priority is given to projects that can avert immediate risk or give immediate relief, and to human rights organisations and defenders working under particularly challenging circumstances. This includes organisations that represent or work with vulnerable and marginalised groups, which receive little or no attention in a given context due to their gender, caste, ethnicity, and/or religious or professional background. Support is given to organisations and not directly to individual defenders.

In 2014, 8% of the NHRF's grants were allocated to three projects focusing on the protection of human rights defenders in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In addition, several of the projects supported in 2013 continued in 2014. The activities ranged from legal and practical assistance and support to imprisoned or vulnerable human rights defenders, to advocacy projects, strengthening networks, capacity building and empowerment of human rights defenders at risk.

One organisation which received first time support in 2014, Minority Rights Organization (MIRO) in Cam-

bodia, focuses on minorities and Khmer Krom human rights defenders in particular. The Khmer Krom is a marginalised community receiving little international attention. MIRO provides legal assistance to defenders from this community and engages in advocacy work at the national and international levels.

The Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF) in Israel received a second grant in 2014, with the aim to protect human rights defenders promoting democracy, liberty and equality in Israel and Palestine through the provision of legal and other forms of aid. In HRDF's 2014 report, the organisation reported that at total of 96 human rights defenders had received legal aid during the year. The NHRF has financed legal aid to ten of these, including three women activists. Eight of the cases were arrest proceedings and two were partial funding for criminal trials.

One example is the case of Maayan Dak, the co-coordinator of the Coalition of Women for Peace. Following peaceful demonstrations in Tel Aviv against Operation Protective Edge in Gaza in July 2014, activists, including Maayan Dak, were summoned and interrogated by the Tel Aviv police regarding the identities of the anti-war protest leaders and their upcoming activities. Represented by lawyer Gaby Lasky, Maayan Dak was released without conditions.

Mohammed Khatib, a well-known human rights defender in the West Bank and a resident of the village Bi'in, was also provided with support. Khatib was arrested on February 13th, 2015, at a weekly demonstration. The demonstration was violently

dispersed and a dozen activists, including a journalist, were injured by pepper spray. Mohammed Khatib was arrested along with a British solidarity activist who was released a few hours later. However, an arrest warrant for 96 hours was requested for Khatib. At the hearing, attorney Nery Ramati from Gabi Lasky's office filed an urgent application for his release and presented video footage to the judge which refuted the claims of the police officer and revealed police brutality. Khatib was then released on bail and no charges were filed.

Throughout the year, the NHRF has had close contact with other donors, such as the Urgent Action Fund for Women and other specialised organisations working on individual human rights defenders at risk, with regard to support and relocation.

Finally, the NHRF also has a strong focus on protection of human rights defenders in both priority and eligible countries. In 2014, three projects focusing on the protection of human rights defenders were supported in Pakistan, India and Mexico (see pages 15, 17 and 19). ■

«With much gratitude for being there as solid support (...) your support has been immense making me believe in human support and solidarity.»

WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FROM INDIA AFTER SHE WAS GRANTED RE-LOCATION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE NHRF.



Group photo from the annual seminar in Bogotá 2014.

Capacity building

As part of the NHRF's multi-annual strategic plan (2011–2015), the NHRF aims to increase its capacity building for grantee organisations and create spaces for mutual learning and experience sharing. In addition to feedback and visits by the NHRF's secretariat and local consultants, the annual seminars organised in priority countries are particularly important in this work. The NHRF also benefits from the assistance of national and community resource persons and networks in its capacity building efforts and annual seminars.

ANNUAL SEMINARS:

India

The NHRF has organised annual seminars in India since 2003. In 2014 the event took place on May 27th and 28th in Bangalore. This time only current grantees participated, including those who had already concluded their last NHRF funded project but had not yet completed their reporting process. The purpose of the seminar was to address issues that are of particular concern to the NHRF's grantees.

The topics addressed were the current political context and the challenges to human rights work

in India; issues of security and the importance of networking; advocacy and links between the grassroots community and the national and international levels; and the required renewal of all grantees' Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) status by the end of 2015. External resource persons were Rev. Dr. Ambrose Pinto S.J. from St. Aloysius College Bangalore; Henri Tiphagne, Executive Director of People's Watch and convenor of the Working Group on Human Rights and the UN (WGHR) and the India Human Rights Defenders Alert (HRDA); Paul Divakar, General Secretary of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR); and Simon Rodrigues, chartered accountant and finance consultant. The seminar was organised by NHRF's local consultant in cooperation with the secretariat and the grantee organisation Marpu.

Liberia

For the eighth consecutive year, the NHRF hosted an annual seminar for all current grantees in Monrovia. The seminar took place at the in central Monrovia on January 13th and 14th. Grantee organisation Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS) was responsible for hosting the seminar in cooperation with the NHRF secretariat and consultant.

The focus for the 2014 seminar was project management. Because of the large turnover in the NHRF portfolio, the seminar was dedicated to building capacity in the basic rules and procedures of managing externally supported projects, including planning, execution and reporting stages. The main sessions were facilitated by Alaric Tokpa, Professor in Political Science at the University of Liberia. On January 14th, the Norwegian diplomat and representative to Liberia, Fred Rasmussen, visited the seminar and interacted with the participants. Attendance at the seminar was high with more than 20 participants.

Colombia

On April 1st and 2nd, the second annual seminar for NHRF grantees in Colombia was organised at the Park Way Hotel in Bogotá. Two participants from each of the seven current grantee organisations participated, in addition to facilitators and the NHRF secretariat. Representatives from the Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá participated for parts of the programme. NHRF local consultant Elena Rey organised the programme and logistics in coordination with the secretariat.

The seminar aimed to study and discuss in-depth

concrete challenges for human rights work in the current Colombian political context with ongoing peace negotiations in Havana. On the first day, director of Corporación Humanas, Adriana Benjumea, introduced and facilitated a session about the transitional justice framework. On the second day, coordinator at the Coordinación Colombia Europa Estados Unidos, Alberto Yepes, introduced and facilitated a session about concrete challenges to human rights work in the region. The introductions were followed by discussions focusing on the opportunities and challenges for a peace agreement and the eventual transitional justice period.

Pakistan

In 2014, all the NHRF grantee organisations were included in the joint NHRF and Democratic Commission for Human Development (DCHD) baseline and capacity building project on security for human rights defenders (see page 17). Under the project, the grantees were invited to provincial consultations and received a five-day training session together with selected high risk organisations, in order to be able to elaborate protection plans and strategies. The NHRF therefore invited all current grantees to the launch of the report «Human Rights Defenders Organizations in Pakistan: Risk and Capacity Assessment» in Lahore on December 12th, and to a de-briefing session on the capacity training in the evening. This enabled the NHRF grantees to take part in the important launch together with a vast number of human rights organisations. On December 13th, the NHRF held an internal workshop in Lahore for the grantees with a focus on presenting their work and working methods. The NHRF also held a session on the new document «Guidelines on security for grantees in the field» with an open dialogue on how to make use of the mechanisms available. The NHRF has continued to follow-up the financial and administrative systems of the NHRF grantees during 2014 with individual feedback. ■

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 like-minded 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 fifteen years working with human rights.



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.

GOALS FOR THE NHRF'S CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS:

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

ACTIVITIES IN CAPACITY BUILDING:

- Annual seminars in priority 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



INDIA: Philips Mathews was employed as the NHRF's new consultant in India in 2013. Mathews lives and works in Bangalore.



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

Administration and organisation

THE SECRETARIAT

The NHRF 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 is in charge of India, Thailand and Indonesia and took over the responsibility for the Liberia portfolio from the end of the year. Petersen is responsible for Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the grants on human rights defenders at risk, while Project Coordinator Torstein Taksdal Skjeseth is responsible for projects in Latin America and, as from 2015, Nigeria.

Ms Bjørg Haugstulen is the NHRF's accountant.

The NHRF has an agreement on internships with the Master Programme in Human Rights Law in Theory and Practice at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo, and the secretariat would like to express its gratitude for the useful assistance of Aase Camilla Løkling during the spring term.

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 2014, the secretariat conducted project visits to India, Pakistan, Liberia, Colombia and Mexico. In October, the NHRF undertook an assessment visit to Nigeria together with the owner organisation the Church of Norway Ecumenical Council, represented by Human Rights Officer Gina Lende (see page 20).

In addition, the secretariat participated in KIOS' annual seminar in Helsinki in September, «Human Rights in the era of post-2015 Agenda: The future roles of civil society in promoting justice and accountability.» The seminar also provided time for experience sharing with the KIOS secretariat, as well as networking possibilities with human rights defenders from some of the NHRF's priority countries. In December, Petersen and the Chair of the Board participated in the Nordic donor network me-

eting in Stockholm with Civil Rights Defenders, KIOS and the Swedish Amnesty Fund.

Petersen continued her participation in the International Dalit Solidarity Network's (IDSN) Executive Group (EG). She participated in EG meetings in Geneva in March and June as well as in Copenhagen in September 2014.

THE BOARD OF THE NHRF

The Board has held four meetings in 2014. The main tasks of the NHRF Board are to make strategic decisions and supervise the NHRF's economy and administration. However, in each board meeting time has been dedicated to discuss the human rights situation in priority countries, the supported projects and ongoing processes. In March 2014, the annual report 2013 was launched and plans for 2014 discussed. In June and 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 2015, and included a presentation on the situation in Sri Lanka by human rights defender Ruki Fernando. ■

Members of the Board of the NHRF in 2014 have been as follows (one representative for each of the five owner organisations):
Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations: Gina Lende, Deputy board member Einar Tjelle
Amnesty International Norway: Gerald Folkvord, Deputy board member Sidsel Stanmore Andersen
Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions: Ellen-Kathrine Fauske, Deputy board member Terje Kalheim
The Atlas Alliance: Trine Riis-Hansen
Norwegian Centre for Human Rights: Cecilie Figenschou Bakke (Chair of the Board), Deputy board member Nils A. Butenschøn



Representatives of the NHRF Board, picture from internal board seminar in January 2015. Back row from left to right: Nils A. Butenschøn (Norwegian Centre for Human Rights), Trine Riis-Hansen (The Atlas Alliance), Gerald Folkvord (Amnesty International Norway), Kathrine Fauske (Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions), Einar Tjelle (Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations). Front row from left to right: Gina Lende (Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations), Cecilie Figenschou Bakke (Norwegian Centre for Human Rights) and Sidsel Stanmore Andersen (Amnesty International Norway).



The NHRF Board also accompanies the secretariat on country visit when this is possible. In 2014, Gina Lende joined the secretariat on a visit to Nigeria.



Strategic and focused discussions are part of the board meetings. Here, human rights defender Rukie Fernando engaged in discussions with the Board in December 2014.

Accounts

THE TOTAL INCOME IN 2014 was NOK 7 644 467,- (US\$ 1 005 850,-).

The majority 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) earmarked the Liberia program.

The remaining part of the budget was covered by the owner organisations of the NHRF and other donations.

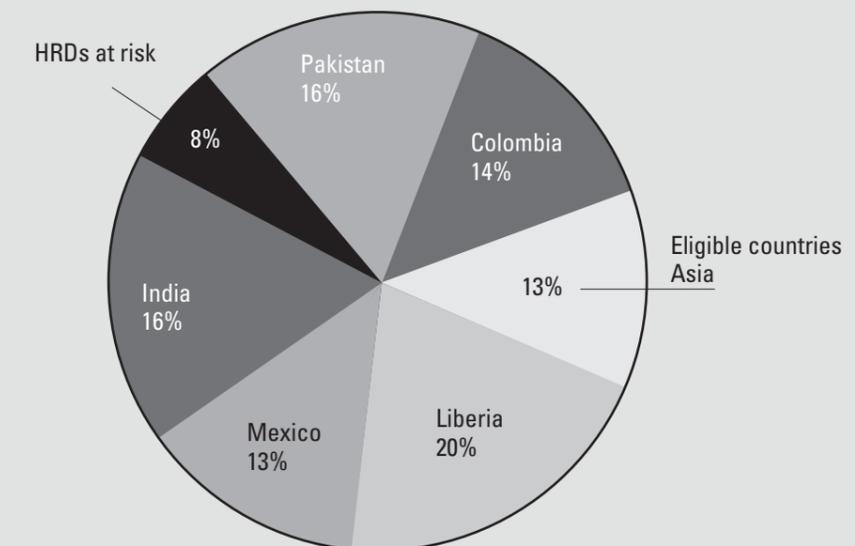
A total of NOK 5 210 709,- (US\$ 685 619,-) was granted to human rights projects during the year.

NOK 1 932 448,- (US\$ 254 269,-) was spent on salaries to staff in Norway. A total of 3 % of the total income was used for direct administrative costs such as office costs in Norway, audits, accountant, equipment, etc.

NOK 473 578,- (US\$ 62 312,-) was spent on follow-up and capacity building of grantee organisations through the NHRF's local consultants, training seminars in countries of priority, and field trips by the secretariat in Oslo.

NOK 38 953,- (US\$ 5 125,-) was spent on communication and reporting.

ACCOUNTS IN 2014	USD	NOK
Total income	1 005 850	7 644 467
From owners	77 631	590 000
From Government	917 105	6 970 000
Other incomes	8 482	64 467
Total expenses	1 007 327	7 655 688
For grants	685 619	5 210 709
For administration and salaries Norway	254 269	1 932 448
For communication / reporting	5 125	38 953
For follow-up and capacity building	62 312	473 578



Overview of funded projects active in 2014

The NHRF continuously updates its webpage (www.nhrf.no) about new grants and sizes of grants categorised by year. This current list provides an overview of the projects which carried out activities or were active in the NHRF portfolio during 2014. This includes projects which were approved for support in previous years and carried out part of their projects in 2014; organisations which reported on their projects in 2014; and organisations which were provided with first time or further support during the year.

	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	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
2.	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
3.	Familiares de los Desaparecidos del Palacio de Justicia (FDPJ)	Colombia: national	Struggle for demanding justice and preservation of the memory of the disappeared from the Justice Palace
4.	Fundación Guagua (GUAGUA)	Colombia: Cali, Valle del Cauca	Galería de la Memoria Tiberio Fernández Mafla 2014
5.	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
6.	Asociación nacional de zonas de reserva campesina (ANZORC)	Colombia: national	Human Rights plan for Asociación Nacional de Zonas de Reserva Campesina
7.	Comité de Integración Social del Catatumbo (CISCA)	Colombia: Catatumbo	Construction of Proposals and Empowerment of Communities Organised in the Comité de Integración Social del Catatumbo (CISCA), within the Framework of the Plan de Vida y el Buen Vivir
8.	Madres y familiares de los casos de falsos positivos de Soacha y Bogotá	Colombia: Soacha and Bogotá	Political Advocacy, Preservation of the Historic Memory and Psychosocial Accompaniment in Cases of Extrajudicial killings to Mothers of Soacha and other Emblematic cases human rights focus
9.	Confluencia de Mujeres para la Acción Pública	Colombia: national	Strengthening of Capacities to Systematise, Denounce, Visibilise and Advocate of the Organisational Processes articulated through the Confluencia de Mujeres para la Acción Pública; Directed to Eradicate the Various forms of Violence Against Women in the Regions
10.	Sanchaya Nele	India: 5 districts in North Karnataka	Defending the Rights of Dalit Women and Girls through Effective Implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act in Karnataka
11.	Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns	India: national	Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms where they are most at risk and Empowering Human Rights Defenders
12.	K.G.F. Women's Association	India: Bangalore, Mangalore and Belgaum, Karnataka	Domestic Workers - Labour Rights and Dignity Project
13.	Evidence	India: Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Monitoring Dalit Rights - Promoting Social Justice
14.	Jagruiti/ Jana Arogya Andolana Karnataka (JAAK)	India: Karnataka	Towards Right to Health as a Fundamental Right: Consolidating Community Advocacy for Right to Primary Health Care in Karnataka
15.	Marpu Society	India: Andra Pradesh	Struggle of Dalits to Achieve the Denied Human Rights
16.	National Centre for Labour	India: Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka	Building unorganised workers organisations in South India.
17.	People's Movement for Development	India: Salem, Tamil Nadu	Sustaining the Struggle of the Palmyra Workers of Tamil Nadu for establishing their rights
18.	Prarambha	India: Bangalore, Karnataka	Using Human Rights to Right a Wrong - Using a Right-based Approach to Empower Manual Scavengers
19.	Team for Reformation of Education and Environmental Services (TREES)	India: Kolar, Karnataka	Right To Land : A Struggle of The Landless Agriculture Labourers
20.	The Empowerment Centre of Nomads and Tribes (TENT)	India: Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Empowerment of Nomads in 15 Districts through Nomads Federation that are Advocating for the Respect for Civil, Social, Economic, Cultural and Fundamental Rights
21.	Virudhunagar District Udeyam Construction and Unorganized Sector Women Labour Rights Sangam	India: Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu	Empowerment of unorganised sector women workers in Virudhunagar District
22.	Yayasan Asian Justice and Rights	Indonesia: Central Sulawesi	Empowering Victims to Advocate and Access Local Government Services in the City of Palu

23.	Yayasan Kalyanamitra	Indonesia: Jakarta and Bandung	Raising Awareness of Women's Rights based on CEDAW for Communities
24.	Rural Women Rights Structure (RWRS)	Liberia: Bong County	Reinforcing Women Rights Advocacy & Empowerment in Kpahi District (2014/2015)
25.	Self Help Initiative for Sustainable Development - Liberia (SHIFSD)	Liberia: River Gee County	Fighting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Rural Communities & Schools: Year 3
26.	The Forum for Women Rights Defense (FORWORD)	Liberia: Margibi County	Advocacy for Punitive Actions Against Abusers of women and girls - II (An Extension)
27.	West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO)	Liberia: Monrovia	Fighting SGBV and Domestic Violence in West Point through Advocacy and Awareness
28.	Women & Children Rights Organization (WOCRIFO)	Liberia: Nimba County	Ingenious Efforts to Protect Girls Against Corruption and Sexual Abuse in Schools
29.	Women Actions Network (WAN)	Liberia: River Cess County	Stakeholders' Empowerment to Combat Against Domestic Violence & Traditional practices in River Cess County
30.	Women Rights Defense Inc (WORD)	Liberia: Montserrado County	Campaign Against Women Human Rights Abuses & Exploitation
31.	Women Rights Watch (WORWA)	Liberia: Grand Bassa County	Campaign Against Domestic Violence & Gender-based Impunity in Rural Grand Bassa County
32.	Women Solidarity Inc. (WOSI)	Liberia: Lofa County	Promoting Girls' Rights to Education in Traditional Communities
33.	Youth-Care (Youth-Care)	Liberia: Bomi County	Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Women & Girls in Suehn-Mecca District
34.	Women's Rights and Democracy Centre	Liberia: Margibi County	Enabling Adolescent Girls and Women Participation in Human Rights Work Rural Liberia
35.	Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa AC (Digna Ochoa)	Mexico: Chiapas	Strengthening the participation of the Network of Human Rights Promoters on the Coast of Chiapas 2015
36.	Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos A.C (CIDHM)	Mexico: Morelos	Model of Attention to Violence against Female Human Rights Defenders in the Republic of Mexico
37.	Indignación. Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos humanos A.C.	Mexico: Yucatán	Defense of Land and Territory of the Maya Indigenous Population on the Yucatán Peninsula
38.	Un Mundo Una Nación A.C (UMUN)	Mexico: Tlaxcala	Access to Justice for Migrants Victims of Violations and Abuse of Human Rights
39.	Centro de Derechos Humanos de los Pueblos del Sur de Veracruz	Mexico: Veracruz	Defense of territory in indigenous communities in the Santa Marta Mountains, Veracruz
40.	Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad	Mexico: national	Torture, Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment of Migrants in Mexico's Migrant Detention Centers
41.	Conservación Investigación y Aprovechamiento de los Recursos Naturales (CIARENA)	Mexico: Oaxaca	Indigenous Women Constructing a Life Free of Violence
42.	Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM)	Pakistan: Faisalabad, Punjab	Advocacy for Comprehensive Disability Legislation and Implementation Mechanism of CRPD
43.	Encourage the Human Development (EHD)	Pakistan: Multan	Ensuring Entitled Rights of Bonded Labour in Multan
44.	SAHARA Development Foundation (SDF)	Pakistan: Haripur, KPK	Promotion and Protection of Labour Rights
45.	Sindh Rural Partners Organization (SRPO) in Hyderabad Sindh	Pakistan: Mirpurkhas, Sindh	Stopping Forced Conversion and Marriages of Hindu Girls in District Mirpurkhas
46.	Sujag Sansar Organization (SSO)	Pakistan: Dadu, Sindh	Preventing Child Marriages with the Joint Efforts of Stakeholders
47.	The Awakening	Pakistan, SWAT	Stop Early and Forced Marriages
48.	Good Thinkers organization	Pakistan: Kasur, Punjab	Streamlining Access for 750 transgender to Justice and Basic Human Rights in Kasur
49.	Asociación Para el Desarrollo Humano Runamasinchipaq (ADEHR)	Peru: Lima	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
49.	Human Rights Lawyers Association	Thailand: national	Strengthening and Enhancing Human Rights Lawyers Members Network and Their Communities in Upholding Human Rights
Support to other countries:			
50.	Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF)	Israel	Defending Human Rights Defenders
51.	Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (BHPC)	China	Civil Society Empowerment in China; Guaranteeing and Developing Cultural Rights of Ethnic Minorities
52.	Minority Rights Organization (MIRO)	Cambodia	Protection and Empowerment of Khmer Krom Human Rights Defenders in Cambodia

In addition, the NHRF had four active projects in its portfolio in 2014 where information is not published due to the sensitive nature of the work undertaken and security issues involved. One of these projects is in the Middle East focusing on work against torture and impunity, and the remaining are projects in Asia focusing on the protection of and better working conditions for human rights defenders at risk.



ABOUT THE NORWEGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FUND (NHRF)

■ Established in 1988, the NHRF works to protect and promote human rights internationally through direct support to organisations working in the frontline of defence for marginalised and vulnerable groups where the situation is critical.

■ 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 2014:

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

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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c/o Amnesty International Norway, Grensen 3, Oslo, Norway.

Homepage:

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