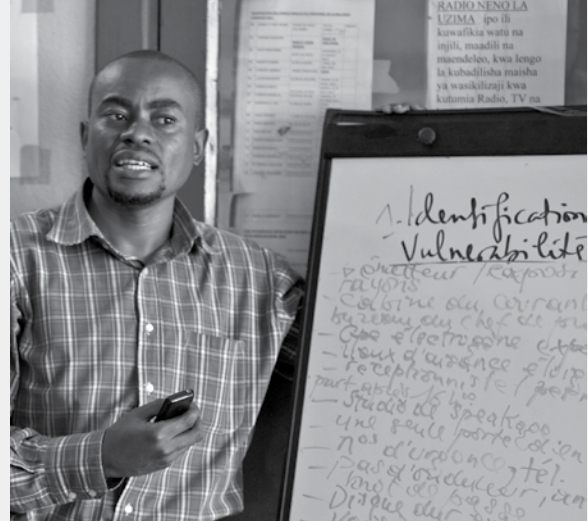


PROTECTION INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT



2011
2012



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NOTE FROM THE TEAM



In 2011 and 2012, Protection International made considerable progress in the core areas of its global protection programme. From helping human right defenders where they're most at risk in more than twenty countries to developing innovative security management tools, we consistently investigate new ways to enhance protection of human rights defenders, all the while involving the right stakeholders in the process.

We have substantially expanded our actions in our focus countries. We opened a new Protection Desk in Honduras, in partnership with the local NGO ACI-Participa and with the support of our long-term Guatemalan partner Udefegua. It aims to respond to the acute security needs of defenders or to the rights of rural and indigenous workers affected by infrastructure projects and agro-industry (p.22).

Our eight Protection Desks and the PI Policy, Research and Training Unit delivered capacity building initiatives on security and protection to no less than 3,000 defenders. Protection International focuses its attention on the most vulnerable defenders. It advised people as diverse as those defending rights of religious minorities in Indonesia, LGBT rights defenders in Uganda, and indigenous and peasant leaders developing auto-protection mechanisms with their communities in remote areas of Colombia.

Starting from the best practices and lessons we learn from our work with defenders in twenty countries, PI investigated and provided new tools for all stakeholders interested in protection. In Mexico, PI shared its expertise in crafting public protection policies and mechanisms. This improved the quality of discussions between civil

society and government institutions substantially and resulted in the development of a national protection mechanism (p.23).

PI organized two roundtables - in Brussels and Geneva - to make sure that public protection policy practice from Mexico and other contexts is shared as widely as possible (p.26-27). Good and bad practice, as well as solutions were exchanged and debated among defenders and stakeholders influencing public protection practice in countries on four continents: Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

In Belgium, Protection International was successful in advocating for the national Parliament's adoption of a resolution on the protection of human rights defenders. It asked the Government, among others, to give priority- in its external relations- to the protection of defenders, to support the implementation of the guidelines of the EU on the protection of defenders and to encourage other governments to accept the visits and recommendations from the UN Special rapporteur on human rights defenders.

In Indonesia, PI began working with the Ahmadiyah Muslim community. These followers of a disputed branch of Islam are increasingly targeted by fundamentalists and face serious legal and physical threats. Therefore, we launched a new project to build their capacities in security management. Notably, PI trained and accompanied several Ahmadiyah communities on a long-term basis, focusing on six focal points for security measures. (p. 16)

In the East and Horn of Africa, where PI has been active since 2008, we started to build the capacity of Somali defenders who have to cope with an increasingly insecure



Protection International and all its partners are very grateful for everything you have helped to achieve so far and for your enthusiasm and effort to help us do even more.



BURUNDI

Justice for Ernest Manirumva

On April 9th 2009, Ernest Manirumva, number two at OLUCOME - Burundi's primary association in the fight against corruption - was stabbed to death at his home. Two years on, Burundian civil society continues to lament the justice system's struggle to shed light on the assassination, while *"there are still gaps in the investigation"*.¹

The need for additional investigations and the reopening of the trial are the core demands raised by civil society, which was deeply shocked by Ernest Manirumva's assassination. The international community, for its part, feared that the crime would be the first of a long list of violent acts, making it practically impossible for Burundian defenders to pursue their activities. *"The assassination was clearly organised"*, said Jozef Smets, the Belgian Ambassador in Bujumbura, who has been following the

legal twists and turns of the Manirumva case for two years. Shortly after the crime, FORSC, the Forum for the Strengthening of Civil Society, rallied its 146 member associations to launch the "Justice for Ernest Manirumva" campaign. Several defenders subsequently received death threats.

In March 2010, Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, president of the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Detained Persons (APRODH), and Gabriel Rufyiri, president of OLUCOME, were informed that state agents were planning to kill one of them and cover-up the crime as a car accident.

In November 2009, Pacifique Nininahazwe, a member of FORSC, was warned of a plot being developed to kill him. The Ministry of Internal Affairs later gave a ruling banning FORSC². Following

¹ Declaration of the Civil Society organizations, 22 months after the assassination of Ernest Manirumva.

² Amnesty International, [Activists express their solidarity with the campaign "Justice for Ernest Manirumva"](#)



INTERVIEW WITH MEMBERS OF DEFENDERS' PLATFORM FORSC, WHO LEAD THE CAMPAIGN 'JUSTICE FOR ERNEST MANIRUMVA'

international pressure, the Minister “suspended” the ruling, and it was not until 28th January 2011 that FORSC finally was released from its legal vacuum.

To support the demand for justice for Ernest Manirumva and for the protection of Burundian human rights defenders, Protection International launched a video documentary.

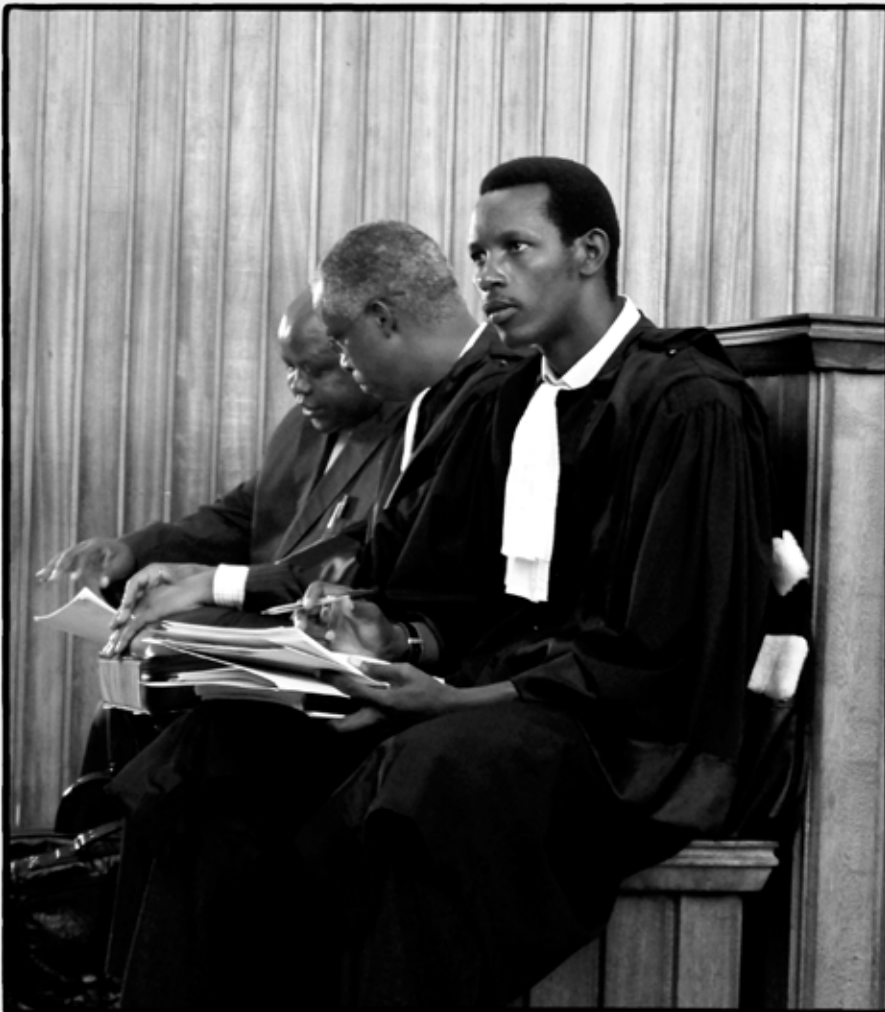
This documentary is an additional tool for Burundian Human Rights Defenders, who have continuously kept the Manirumva case on the national and international political agenda. In cooperation with Protection

International and the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), defenders are developing their own security and protection mechanisms in order to confront the threats and pressures they are subjected to as a result of this campaign.

Since 2010, a number of Belgian MPs have been supporting Burundian defenders in danger through a “twinning” programme. The Senate and House of Representatives are regularly informed of the problems encountered by Burundian defenders for their human rights work, and they are closely following the developments in the Manirumva case. The Belgian Development Cooperation is also funding the reform of the justice sector.

Throughout the dissemination of the documentary, PI, FORSC and the EHAHRDP have recalled their commitments to several bodies of the international community. PI asked the delegation of the European Commission and the EU Member States to make public their local strategy for the protection of Burundian Defenders. We’ve also recalled upon the Human Rights Department of the United Nations Office in Burundi to contribute to the development of a legal framework for the protection of defenders by the Burundian Parliament.

Protection International, FORSC and EHAHRDP consider it essential that the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthens its protection programme for human rights defenders in Burundi, with a particular reminder to the Burundian State of its responsibility to protect defenders in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by consensus on December 9th 1998.



LAWYERS DURING ERNEST MANIRUMVA'S ASSASSINATION TRIAL. PI OBSERVED THE TRIAL IN DECEMBER 2012.

DR CONGO

Integrating mental well-being into a protection strategy

Protection International (PI) integrates different approaches to protection including physical security, digital security and the mental well-being of defenders. While all of these dimensions count, mental well-being all too often tends to play a subordinate role in protection programmes.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, overcoming trauma remains a considerable challenge for HRDs, but also for the people HRDs help on a daily basis (victims and witnesses of human rights abuses, demobilized child soldiers, male and female victims of rape, and many more).

The level of exposure to violence is dangerously high for Congolese defenders in the conflict zones of South and North Kivu. Worse still, they are frequently victims of violence, be this mental (threats and intimidation, criminalization) or physical (abductions, kidnapping, attacks).

Therefore, PI and Amnesty International asked Capacitar to launch a project on stress management and the prevention of secondary trauma and compassion fatigue. Capacitar describes itself as « *an international network of empowerment and solidarity* », which began in Nicaragua in 1988 to respond to war trauma. Capacitar teaches « *simple wellness practices, team building and self-development* » using trainers and coordinating groups, which have been active in 35 countries.

In February 2012, Geneviève van Waesberghe, from Capacitar, trained more than thirty defenders from thirteen organizations on stress management and also provided simple tools to improve their wellbeing as the wellbeing of colleagues, beneficiaries and families. Capacitar and PI's long term objective, is that defenders

share their acquired skills with the affected populations of North and South Kivu.

"Participants to the training have been surprised that someone can use such simple, easy to learn methods to take care of trauma," said Marcellin Chirha, Protection Officer at Protection Desk Bukavu.

"The defenders consider Capacitar training as a clear added value in the set of activities they provide to their beneficiaries. Many of the beneficiaries need effective trauma care. Even if Capacitar capacity-building is not, strictly speaking, 'medical' or 'psychological', it assists victims without requiring massive financial means and efforts. Moreover, it can also become a sort of 'way of life'"

Transmission of these efficient and cost-effective practices to new organizations and populations began in 2012. Dada Saganyi, a HRD working for a women's rights organization SARCAF remembers how she trained women from remote villages.

"I went to the field to help women who had been raped, who had been victims of gender-based violence. I helped them mitigate their trauma thanks to exercises using hand gestures and movements, for example. The members of these communities testified that this method was useful for them and that they have kept on practicing these methods. I strongly recommend that this kind of approach to trauma continues within the protection response for defenders but also for all the victims of conflict".

DR CONGO

Portfolio

In July 2012, Czech photographer Jana Asenbrennerova visited Protection Desk Congo and made a lively portrait of the daily work of PI staff in Bukavu.



KENYA

Helping journalists do their job safely

That journalists face many security challenges in the course of their work is common knowledge, however, it is important to note that something can be done to improve their security, to enable them to carry out their work more safely.

This is security management, which is to make informed decisions based on the continuous analysis of the working environment and to take preventive, as well as responsive measures, that seek to mitigate risks emanating from the work.

While individual journalists can apply security management in their daily work, this needs to be supported by their media houses to be effective. Collaboration with other stakeholders, mostly for freelance and correspondent work, is vital to promote cooperation with minimal duplication.

PD-K in conjunction with Article 19, Africa Media Initiative, Kenya media Programme, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Twaweza Communications and Kenya Media Council formed a media working group based on the idea that media owners will benefit from incorporating security management into the operations of their media houses/institutions.

The following benefits are expected: :

1. Enhanced safety of staff leading to improved output (by increasing staff's motivation and identification with the vision of the media house).
2. Improved quality and sustainability for investigative journalists
3. Enhanced protection of equipment reducing the costs incurred for replacements
4. Mainstreamed security management (this enhances operations of the media houses as a professional, effective

business entity, as it takes into account risks from a preventive and responsive angle)

5. Media owners will be able to tap into a network of international and regional organizations interested in supporting their staff
6. Improved risk assessment and security measures in the heightened political context of the elections and ICC process.

To achieve this the following actions are required:

1. Participation in risk assessment and security management trainings by journalists, editorial staff and management
2. Change of individual and institutional attitudes towards security
3. Drafting and implementation of security plans by media houses with full support from the management and the proprietor
4. Stakeholders cooperation on security and protection for journalists

Various meetings were organised in 2012, where the experiences of media owners were shared, these experiences indicated the need for a broader approach to the safety of journalists in Kenya. Under the chairmanship of PI, the media working group commissioned a baseline survey on the situation of journalists in Kenya.

This survey was launched on Media Freedom Day and provided a specific situation analysis on safety, as well as recommendations to help to contribute to a safer working environment for journalists. PI continues to be at the forefront of the roadmap to security for journalists as HRDs. This approach holistically engages with journalists, media owners, corre-





OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE REPORT OF THE MEDIA WORKING GROUP

spondents, state actors and organizations working on freedom of expression. Before PI engaged with the relevant stakeholders, ad hoc strategies were predominantly aimed at short term intervention, not necessarily at learning from existing measures. An initial success story is that media houses are now investing in security management not simply insuring equipment. This will in turn contribute to a safer work environment.

PD-K has been engaging with state actors in relation to the survey. In further engagement with the state actors, National Police Service Commission-NPSC, for example made a keynote speech at the launch of the survey The Media Working Group also proposed the following to the NPSC :

1. The training of police on the role of media;
2. The need for the reform of the police training curriculum in order to expand

content on freedom of expression;

3. The creation of a high level contact in the police hierarchy to be in charge of ensuring the safety of journalists;
4. The identification and punishment of those who threaten, intimidate or harm journalists;
5. Undertaking activities to change individual and institutional attitudes towards journalists security within the police force and in communities;
6. The creation of partnerships with relevant stakeholders on the safety and protection of journalists

KENYA

The Protection Desk at a glance

Advocacy for the LIS

Engaging directly with key stakeholders in HRD protection meant that PD-K continued its efforts with the EU Delegation and EU member states to develop LIS that cement their commitment to support HRDs in the highly sensitive political context of the ICC cases and the 2013 general elections. In December 2011 the documentary “Justice pour Ernest Manirumwa” was screened in Nairobi showcasing a positive example of how LIS can contribute to the better protection of HRDs.

Registration as a trust

Having been hosted by the Kenya Human Rights Commission, Protection International (PI) finalized its registration as a Trust in the course of 2011 entitling it to operate as an independent legal entity hosting the Protection Desk Kenya (PD-K), a joint project with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project.

Attending ACHPR NGO Forum

One Protection Desk officer attended the May session of the NGO Forum of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), contributing to discussions about challenges faced by HRDs and strategies to increase their protection. The screening of PI's documentary “Justice pour Ernest Manirumwa” served not only to remind the audience of the courageous work of Ernest Manirumwa, but also to document security and protection strategies devised by Burundian HRDs in their campaign to bring his murderers to justice.

Accompanying defenders

PD-K was launched in 2010 in response to HRD and stakeholders' requests and since then has continued to work with different groups of HRDs. PD-K has worked to protect groups such as HRDs working on sexual minority and gender identity issues and the rights of indigenous populations and as well as HRDs involved in documenting human rights violations that occurred in the post election period and those involved in the ICC process. PD-K has also worked to protect journalists.

SOMALIA

Protection in a highly volatile context

PI, in partnership with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, and in conjunction with the Human Rights unit of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) carried out a joint initiative for capacity building training with Somali HRDs working in Mogadishu.

This partnership was seen as symbolic as it was the first human rights training for HRDs in Mogadishu since the conflict started. Based on the political context marked by a long period of conflict, the training was a response to an increasingly insecure and hostile working environment for HRDs in Somalia. The five-day security management and protection training course for HRDs in Somalia took place in Mogadishu in March and May 2012. The training was aimed at enabling Somali defenders to professionally assess their security risks and to adequately respond to such risks, given the violent working environment.

POLITICAL CONTEXT

The situation in Somalia is characterized by a government that is not fully in control over the territory of the country although external peace-keeping forces are present, Islamic and clan militias are engaged in a complex conflict that has left HRDs exposed to high risks in promoting respect for human rights and in holding the perpetrators of violations accountable.

HRDs working in Somalia face numerous challenges in the course of their work, which have a direct impact on their personal and organisational security. Many actions carried out against HRDs (including intimidation, harassment and direct attacks) aim to hamper or even to put an end to their work.

CONDUCT OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Various capacity building trainings for Somali HRDs took place outside Mogadishu, due in part to the conflict and in part to logistical challenges that hinder mobility.

The offsite distance training approach is of pivotal importance to the strategic protection of HRDs and their data but the change of approach - to train HRDs in Mogadishu - albeit shaped by the political context, aimed to put security measures in context.

Through consultations with focal points and a pre-training assessment process, participants were selected. The participants represented different thematic areas and had the capacity to acquire tools and to further disseminate what they had learned to other members of their organizations and to communities that had not attended the training.

Security protocols for the duration of the training were handled by UNPOS and the trainers from PDU/K were in charge of implementing the safety measures that were agreed upon for the safety of all participants and for the organizers of the training.

FOLLOW UP

In May 2012, PD-U returned to Somalia to undertake follow up visits to organizations who had participated in the training to assess the progress made in transferring skills within the organizations and in developing security policies.

Training on digital security management with selected staff members from these organizations was also organised.

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The objectives of the follow-up mission were as follows:

1. To analyse the extent to which participants had shared tools and knowledge with other members of their organizations
2. To understand the extent to which the organizations had embarked on a process of change that involved the mainstreaming of security management in their operations and which included regular risk assessments and the development of preventive measures and response protocols;
3. To identify challenges experienced by organizations in the process of drafting and implementing a security strategy;
4. To support HRDs in identifying working relationships and support from key stakeholders to contribute to safer working environments.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

HRDs that attended the training, showed diverse needs with regard to personal and organizational security management.

The political context in Somalia is highly volatile and changes swiftly, which has a major impact on HRDs and their work. This context requires regular risk assessments and flexibility in security management practices. After the training, HRDs adapted tools they saw as relevant to their respective working environment.

To create a safer working environment, other measures need to be considered, including increased networking among HRDs/HROs on security and protection, strategies targeting state actors to improve recognition and respect of HRDs' rights and their work and targeted engagement with international and regional protection mechanisms.



THE PROTECTION OFFICER OF PD KENYA DELIVERED TWO TRAININGS SESSION IN MOGADISHU, IN MARCH AND MAY 2012. DUE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOMALIA, DEFENDERS MEET ACUTE NEEDS OF SELF-PROTECTION MEASURES TO CARRY OUT THEIR JOB SAFELY.

UGANDA

The Protection Desk at a glance

Accompanying defenders

Having identified priority groups of HRDs at risk in the Ugandan context, PDU worked with a cross-section of human rights defenders - both urban and rural - working as journalists, anti corruption activists and LGBTI defenders.

Promoting the LIS

As part of its efforts to improve key stakeholder's commitments to HRD protection, PDU, together with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), made significant contributions to the EU delegation's drafting of the Local Implementation Strategies (LIS) of the EU Guidelines on HRDs, building upon previous experience in other countries of the East and Horn of Africa region. The LIS were finally launched in March 2011 in the presence of EU member state representatives and human rights defenders from across Uganda.

Implementing security in media organizations

Having worked extensively with journalists throughout Uganda, PDU recognized the absence of support from the management of their institutions as a key factor in the failure of media houses to improve the security of their media workers. To raise this issue with influential stakeholders, PDU organized a meeting with the Ugandan Media Development Fund's management team to discuss how proprietors could be brought on board to understand and support the implementation of security protocols for staff, especially those who are doing investigative journalism and face substantial risks as a result. The same issue was raised with the Human Rights Network for Journalists and several media associations to increase their awareness and to promote lobbying towards media owners.

Advice and risk assessments

Working closely with the Protection Programme of EHAHRDP, security briefings, an advisory service and risk assessments for defenders in danger constituted a significant part of the work of PDU. By advising HRDs exiled in Uganda on the prevailing security situation and on necessary precautions to take when continuing their human rights work and by undertaking risk assessments with activists in imminent danger to avoid an attack causing substantial harm, the Desk complemented the emergency support provided by EHAHRDP by developing prevention and response strategies together with HRDs.

INDONESIA

The question of religious freedom

The situation of HRDs in Indonesia remains delicate. In 2012, PI, through its Protection Desk - Indonesia gave substantial support to those HRDs defending the right to freedom of conscience, religion or belief. The country continues to experience an ongoing trend of marginalization and repression of religious minorities, such as Ahmadis and Christians. In some cases, in minority Muslim areas, mainstream Muslims have also been denied their rights. However, Christians and followers of the Ahmadiyah faith (a branch of Islam that believes in another prophet after Muhammad) have been the most vulnerable, especially on the island of Java. Others, including Buddhists and atheists have also been targeted.

According to the Setara Institute for Democracy and Peace, in 2012 a total of 371 violations were committed against religious minorities, including the burning and destruction of Ahmadi Mosques, the unlawful sealing off of Churches, physical attacks on members of Christian congregations, criminalization and various legal forms of discrimination, through the implementation of local by-laws for instance. Perpetrators were both state and non-state actors. In 2011 and 2010 this number was 299 and 286 respectively.

Concerns about a deterioration of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion were mentioned several times in total during Indonesia's Universal Periodic Review which took place in May 2012. PI and its Protection Desk Indonesia, together with 12 local and one international human rights NGO, published a shadow report on the situation of HRDs. The coalition included NGOs working on the environment and natural resource exploitation, religious freedom, past human

rights violations, freedom of expression and opinion and rights of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) people. The joint shadow report made recommendations for the establishment of specific protection mechanisms for HRDs, including legislation for the protection of HRDs, and called upon the government to bring perpetrators of violations against HRDs to justice and to promptly and effectively investigate violations against HRDs and hold perpetrators accountable. The need for better protection of HRDs was mentioned by five countries and recommendations as to improved protection were accepted by the Government of Indonesia.

Capacity building work in 2012 mostly focused on Defenders supporting and defending religious minority groups or other victims of repression of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. PI was requested to give support to improve their protection and security management through workshops and consultations. A string of activities was carried out with a variety of religious minority groups helping them to strengthen their advocacy efforts, build early warning systems and develop security plans.

Participants were mostly young defenders from the ages of 18-24, who are active not just in defending the right to religion or belief of their own communities, but also in building bridges to other groups that have been subject to discrimination and intimidation. Many of these trained defenders have taken on the roles of becoming security focal persons in their respective communities, the effectiveness of which has already proven itself in a few instances of attacks, which were anticipated in advance and communicated swiftly to other networks, including advocacy channels.

INDONESIA

The Shadow Report on the Situation of defenders

In 2011, PD Indonesia teamed up with 13 human rights NGOs – including 12 local and one international NGOs – to carry out field research and draft the UPR shadow report on the evolution of the situation of HRDs in Indonesia, the follow-up to the first UPR on the country held in 2008. It was submitted to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and later made public in Jakarta in November 2011 and disseminated to EU Member States, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental human rights institutions.

The UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs, Hina Jilani, acknowledged progress in the democratic development of Indonesia in her 2007 report; the country's enabling of a vibrant civil society was equally praised in its first UPR session of 2008. However, the Special Rapporteur also highlighted the lack of progress in adopting concrete measures aimed at preventing threats and harassment against defenders. So far, these challenges have yet to be met by Indonesian authorities.

First, there is no public policy for ensuring the legal recognition and protection of defenders four years after the first UPR session. Second, despite positive steps taken to comply with international standards for law enforcement, police abuse continues to be frequently reported along with a lack of prompt, thorough and effective investigations into violations.

This includes cases where the police fail to act against the violent and arbitrary behaviour of extremist religious organisations and other non-State actors against sexual and religious minorities (i.e. Ahmadiyyah, Shiite, Christians, Buddhists) and HRDs defending their rights. Third, legal harassment and criminalisation

aimed at silencing defenders working on anti-corruption and labour rights remain largely unaddressed, with the abusive use of the Indonesian Penal code and the 2008 Law on Information and Electronic Transactions. Abuse of the Law on Minerals and Coal Mining of 2009 and of the Housing and Settlement Law of 2011 particularly threaten HRDs working for environmental and land rights.

Finally, the situation of human rights in Papua continues to give cause for concern. In early May, PI was entrusted by its local partner organisations to advocate the report findings and recommendations before diplomatic missions in Geneva, Switzerland, in the run-up to the 13th UPR Session in early May. PI's advocacy officer strongly advocated for the need to raise questions concerning ongoing violence against HRDs and the measures to be implemented by Indonesian authorities for their protection.

The main outcome of the trip is reflected in the positive remarks and interest with which the diplomats received the report. Moreover, HRD-related issues were mentioned several times by States during the review on Indonesia on 23 May. In sum, PI achieved several goals by getting involved in the submission of this report.

First, we were able to rally a diverse group of local and international NGOs working on different issues, to elaborate a powerful tool to lobby for the protection of HRDs. Second, we influenced key stakeholders on the need to hold the Indonesian government accountable for the protection of HRDs. Finally, we provided Indonesian authorities with concrete recommendations on how to adequately support and protect the work of HRDs as a key element in strengthening the country's democracy.

THAILAND

Protecting community rights



A THAI DEFENDER PRESENTS A SCHEME FOR A PROTECTION NETWORK FOR COMMUNITIES.

In 2012, Protection Desk Thailand collaborated with Thai Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) protecting community rights against large scale development projects and natural resource exploitation. In theory, Thai law guarantees these rights, but in reality they are violated on various occasions. PI was alerted by a volatile security situation and murders of women HRDs as a result of disputes over land use and ownership, mining concessions, waste

management and power plants. PI found that many of these communities are vulnerable and have been largely excluded from both national and international advocacy channels, with little access to environmental or human rights organizations' networks.

Because of the significant stake in many projects opposed by this constituency of HRDs, they often face powerful institutions and corporations, some of which have close

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links with government actors. Violations committed against HRDs range from intimidation, threats and physical harassment to criminalization, bribing, destruction of property, arson, and even murder. PD-Thailand identified a number of communities who would benefit from a more focused and structured approach to security and protection, and subsequently organized a workshop in the Eastern region, aimed at assisting HRDs to analyse their situations

and challenges and work on comprehensive security and advocacy strategies to decrease the risks they face. HRDs were provided with tools to identify security incidents, assess threats and analyse risks.

Additionally, PI helped participants to develop more effective and advanced advocacy strategies by identifying new opportunities in local, national and international advocacy. The workshop further helped facilitate the forming and strengthening of networks and an exchange on best practices in advocacy and security management. Networks empower communities and are key in guaranteeing sustainability and consistency in a community's approach to security.

Also in 2012, a number of field trips, which further identified vulnerable communities were carried out. In December, PI visited members of the Klong Sai Pattana community in the capital of Surat Thani province in the South of Thailand. The community is part of the Southern Peasants Federation of Thailand and has been entangled in a land dispute with a Thai palm oil company since 2008, when the community was allocated the land by the governmental Agricultural Land Reform Agency, who the latter claims is its rightful owner. A string of intimidations by the company culminated in the brutal murder of two WHRDs and members of the community, who were shot on their way to a local market on 19 November 2012.

In December, PI, together with other human rights organisations, issued an Urgent Appeal to the Thai Prime Minister on this case and has actively assisted the community to strengthen their security management and advocacy efforts to prevent further bloodshed ever since.

COLOMBIA

Verification mission on the situation of defenders

Between November 28 and December 2, 2011, Protection International and Protection Desk Colombia participated in the “International Verification Mission on the Situation of Human Rights Protection in Colombia”. This mission which was organized by the National and International Campaign for the Right to Defend Human Rights in Colombia, was comprised of 40 people from 15 countries, among them parliamentarians, jurists and human rights defenders.

With the objective of following up on the report concerning the situation of human rights defenders by the UN Special Rapporteur Margaret Sekaggya - who visited Colombia in September 2009 - the Mission visited eight different regions: Antioquia, the Center, Chocó, the Caribbean Coast, the Northeast, the East, the South Central and the Southwest. During these visits, the Mission liaised and consulted with dozens of organizations and hundreds of human rights defenders, in addition to local, regional and national authorities.

The work of the Mission primarily focused on five thematic areas identified as key issues for human rights work in Colombia: ending impunity in cases of violations against human rights defenders, the systematic stigmatization of human rights defenders, the improper use of state intelligence, unwarranted and unfounded judicial actions, and solving structural problems with the protection program for at-risk individuals. The dire situation faced by human rights defenders in Colombia is the main reason for carrying out this mission. According to the Information System on Attacks on Human Rights Defenders’ (Somos Defensores Program) report, there were 255 acts of aggression against

human rights defenders in Colombia from July 2010 to May 2011. The Mission verified a series of acts of aggression against human rights defenders over the past two years, including assassinations, assaults, enforced disappearances, and death threats. Furthermore, defenders continue to suffer systematic stigmatization, spying and wiretapping, and baseless criminal proceedings. The generalized impunity surrounding attacks and aggressions against human rights defenders creates an environment conducive to the perpetration of new violations. Moreover, despite the existence of guidelines and memoranda published by several state agencies mandating public officials to respect and support the work of human rights defenders, the Mission witnessed a lack of implementation of many of these directives.

In its final report, the Mission put forth recommendations to the Colombian government and the international community. The recommendations included the following: ending impunity, reversing systematic stigmatization, eliminating the improper use of state intelligence, abolishing unfounded criminal proceedings and implementing structural improvements to protection programs for at-risk individuals.

Protection measures are all but worthless if the attacks, harassment, and stigmatization of human rights defenders remain in impunity. We believe that what Colombia requires is a true policy of respect and protection for activities in the defense of human rights, including public acknowledgement of human rights defenders’ work, protection measures that respond to the different levels of risk and distinct needs, and the prompt investigation and punishment of those responsible for crimes against defenders.

GUATEMALA

Supporting peaceful resistance against a mining project

Aj Noj PD-GUA has been supporting the Resistance Movement of La Puya since February 2012. The Resistance, called only “La Puya”, includes the communities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc (40km away from Guatemala city), who defend their territory against the gold mining project “El Tambor”. The first contact with these communities was made for the workshop on Non Violent Resistance that Aj Noj PD-GUA organized jointly with UDEFEGUA in February 2012.

Yolanda Oqueli, a women human rights defender and one of the leaders of the movement, stated in an interview for Prens Libre.com, *“I participated in a workshop organized by UDEFEGUA (local counterpart of Aj Noj PD-GUA) where they told us about nonviolent resistance and its positive results. I think that our Resistance Movement is the result of that workshop. They showed the movie about Gandhi (...) and it was very inspiring!”*

After this meeting, Aj Noj was asked to extend this type of workshop to other communities of the movement in order to strengthen their commitment through

nonviolence. On March 2, 2012 peasants of La Puya decided to peacefully block the entrance of the mine with a permanent sit-in that has lasted until today. One year of constant nonviolent practices led to constants threats, defamation campaigns and serious attacks against the leaders of the movement. On 13 June 2012, Yolanda Oqueli was shot when she was going to a peaceful protest, a bullet remains in her body to this day.

Afterward, she personally asked for Aj Noj’s collaboration to enforce security measures and minimize both her and the movement’s vulnerability. This was the key moment of Aj Noj PD-GUA’s support. Since then, it has advised on Yolanda’s personal protection in cooperation with other local human rights organizations. At the same time, Aj Noj PD-GUA started to facilitate the process of the Protection Network, as result of several workshops on risk analysis and security plans with leaders of the movement. To date, the Protection Network is comprised of 6 communities and 3 supporting HR organizations that meet every two months to analyse risks and improve their early warning system.



RISK ANALYSIS WORKSHOP IN LA PUYA (GUATEMALA) - SEPTEMBER 2012

HONDURAS

Opening of a new Protection Desk

In June 2011, Protection International, the Unit of Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala (UDEFEQUA) and the Association for Participatory Citizenship (ACI-Participa) launched a new Protection Desk in Tegucigalpa, Honduras to support the many Honduran human rights defenders at risk. Since the coup of June 28th, 2009 that overthrew the constitutional order in Honduras, human rights violations dramatically increased, particularly against people and organizations defending human rights and democracy.

This represented a serious setback for human rights and the rule of law in Honduras. Despite the severity of these violations and the increase in attacks against human rights defenders, impunity remains widespread allowing human rights abuses to continue unpunished. In this violent context and given the high risk to which human rights defenders are exposed,

Protection Desk Honduras was opened as a local branch of the regional project Aj Noj Protection Desk Guatemala. Its task is to respond to the needs of defenders and to provide them with protection tools.

It also carries out capacity building activities with organizations for indigenous and rural workers who are defending their community's rights affected by agro-industry, infrastructure projects (dams) and mining projects. Furthermore, PD-H also supports journalists working on human rights issues, organizations defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and social workers involved in the violent suburbs of Tegucigalpa. Furthermore, Protection International and ACI-Participa are involved in the civil society movement advocating for national laws protecting human rights defenders and journalists, as well as advising State institutions on the establishment of a national protection mechanism.



HONDURAN DEFENDERS DEVELOP THE FIRST APPROACH (CHALLENGES IN THEIR WORK) OF THEIR SECURITY PLAN

MEXICO

The law for the protection of defenders and journalists



SESSION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON THE SETTING UP OF A NATIONAL PROTECTION MECHANISM

Since 2008, PI has specialised in research, systematization, and dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices in the area of national public policies and legislation for the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs). In the case of Mexico, PI contributed decisively to enhance the discussions between civil society and government institutions by providing hands-on knowledge of other public policies and mechanisms for the protection of HRDs throughout the world. Moreover, PI helped to build the capacities of national authorities and local civil society organisations for risk assessment and the protection of HRDs. PI's involvement in the process, leading to the adoption and subsequent implementation of the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists of June 2012, can be summarised as follows.

BACKGROUND

PI's involvement in the discussions between civil society organisations and the Mexican Senate - regarding the need to adopt a law for the protection of HRDs and journalists

- started in late 2011, through the technical assistance of its Protection Desk-Mexico, and in close coordination with the UN Office in Mexico of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-Mexico). Throughout the process, PI provided Mexican senators (and their staff) with information on the minimal requirements that such a legal framework should contain, as well as examples of best practices in other countries.

CONSULTANCY

In parallel, PI's President, Luis Enrique Eguren, was hired by OHCHR-Mexico to provide technical assistance in the training of authorities in charge of risk assessments. Civil society also benefited from these activities. Mr. Eguren gave several workshops, while also participating in different meetings and working sessions between HRDs and federal authorities. Before the law was adopted, PI provided advice in the elaboration of a set of "Guidelines to Lay the Groundwork for a National Protection Mechanism (NPM)".

This work was predominantly carried out by the Human Rights Unit of the Interior Ministry, in coordination with a group of civil society organisations and the support of OHCHR-Mexico.

PI also provided technical assistance and capacity-building for risk assessment to the Mexico City state protection mechanism for HRDs. An exploratory visit to Oaxaca state was also carried out in November 2012. These visits were used to undertake a review of the regulatory legal framework and operational working tools (i.e. secondary legislation, risk-assessment methodology and operative protocol of the NPM).

ADVOCACY ON MEXICO'S LAW

- December 2011: the first international round table on national legislation and protection mechanisms for HRDs was conducted in the Belgian Federal Parliament. PI organised this event, bringing together representatives of the UN, EU member states, international human rights NGOs and HRDs from
- Latin America, Asia and Africa.
- May 2012: a seminar entitled “Challenges for the protection of human rights defenders in Mesoamérica” was undertaken in Guatemala. PI co-organized and participated in this event (together with CEJIL and UDEFEGUA).
- June 2012: an international round table was held in Geneva entitled “National mechanisms and national public policies for the protection of HRDs: Reflections on current developments and ways ahead”. The event was jointly organised with the UN Office of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Margaret Sekaggya. Representatives of more than 20 international and regional organisations as well as NGOs participated in it.
- August 2012: a workshop on “Public Policies for the Protection of Defenders” was implemented in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, involving more than 20 civil society organizations, which was co-organized with CEJIL.



SECURITY WORKSHOP DELIVERED BY PI IN OAXACA. THE NATIONAL MECHANISM REPRESENTS AN INSTITUTIONAL ANSWER TO THE RISKS FACED BY DEFENDERS AT RISK, COLLECTING THE WORLD'S BEST PRACTICES IN THIS AREA.



CHEBEYA-BAZANA CASE : TRIAL OBSERVATION REPORT

Floribert Chebeya was a prominent Congolese human rights defender, founding member and executive director of the famous organization La Voix des Sans Voix. On 2 June 2010, he was found dead in his car. The day before, he and his driver, Fidèle Bazana, had gone to the office of the Inspector General, John Numbi. The body of Fidèle Bazana has not been found to date. One year after the events, the Military Court ruled that Floribert Chebeya had been assassinated and declared that five members of the PNC were responsible. As

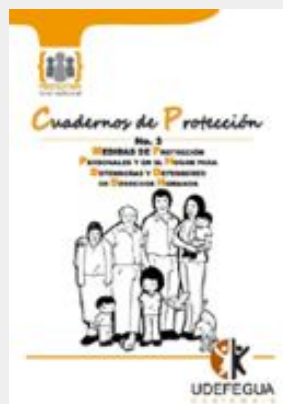
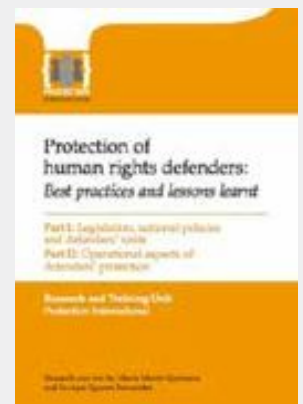
for Fidèle Bazana, the Court ruled only that he had been arbitrarily arrested and detained, to the exclusion of murder or assassination. Protection International observed the trial and cited various shortcomings during the pre-trial procedure and the trial in itself.

Author : Sophie Roudil. 60 pages. Novembre 2011. French.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS : BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

In recent years, several governments have developed specific national mechanisms to protect defenders, all of them in countries seriously lacking in protection. They have been established under pressure from (and with the cooperation of) national and international human rights organisations, with essential legal support from the UN Declaration on human rights defenders. PI's Policy and Research Unit studies these national initiatives, in order to show what defenders think constitutes good practices and what we can learn. This manual analyses both the legislative and structural aspects of protection initiatives and their practical aspects.

Authors : María Martín Quintana, Enrique Eguren Fernández. 251 pages. 2012. English, French, Spanish.



GUATEMALA : PROTECTION MANUALS 2 & 3

These two manuals have been developed by Protection Desk Guatemala, in association with our long-term partner UDEFEGUA. They draw directly from our field experience in Guatemala and concretely address protection measures which can help defenders in situations of risk. "Protection measures at home for human rights defenders" deals with security management in the daily life of defenders and their families. "Vigilance and counter vigilance for Human Rights Defenders Organizations" gives useful tips to stay vigilant and avoid attempts which monitor defenders' activities.

ADVOCACY

2011 Highlights

MAY

Preparing an EU Delegation to Honduras

In May 2011, the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) of the European Parliament visited Honduras in order to assess the situation of human rights in the country. Before this visit, PI's Advocacy Unit delivered background information to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) along with other NGOs. Thanks to this preparatory work, PI and its partner NGOs obtained the agreement that the delegation would meet the alternative truth commission. MEP staff thanked PI for this « *great job to advocate and inform the MEPs.* »

OCTOBER

Setting up protection at the Q! Festival

The Q! Festival is an Indonesian film festival, which has been organized since 2002. It screens films related to, but not exclusively aimed at, the LGBTI community. During the last few years, the Q! Festival has been targeted by Islamic hardliners. In 2010, there were threats to burn down one of the venues in order to stop the screenings. In 2011, PI played a key role in accompanying organisers to rally international support, including European diplomats, as well as in the preparations, security assessment and management of the newly improved edition of the festival.

FEBRUARY

Raising awareness around the Ethiopian Charities and Societies Proclamation

In February 2009, Ethiopian authorities passed a very restrictive law on NGOs, called the Charities and Societies Proclamation, with harsh restrictions for human rights organizations who receive over 15% funding by international donors (virtually covering all of them). PI raised awareness with several of its European partners - including German and Spanish Members of Parliament - around this worrying criminalization of defenders' activities.

JULY

DRC : Acting on Justin Bahirwe's case

In late June 2011, Justin Bahirwe, a lawyer and coordinator for the Bukavu-based NGO SOS-IJM, received several death threats relating to his activities. Due to SOS-IJM's work in strengthening the role of civil society in South Kivu's rural areas, PI had been accompanying them in the improvement of their security management. After these threats were issued, PI released press statements, drawing support from the UK Great Lakes Group. PI also assisted Justin Bahirwe in setting-up self-protection measures.

DECEMBER

First Roundtable on national protection mechanisms

December saw the organization of a roundtable on national mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders at the Belgian Federal Parliament which was arranged with the support of MP Juliette Boulet. Defenders from Latin America, Asia and Africa presented their assessments on key existing national mechanisms, as well as ongoing projects working to create new ones. Representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as the Belgian and Dutch ministries of Foreign Affairs also explained their own protection policies.

ADVOCACY

2012 Highlights

MARCH-MAY

Advocacy on the Chebeya-Bazana trial observation report

In early 2012, PI published a trial observation report on the Ernest Chebeya - Fidèle Bazana case. Several advocacy initiatives followed. PI actively participated in the debate that followed the presentation of Thierry Michel's documentary « *L'affaire Chebeya, un crime d'État ?* », in

Brussels on the 15th March 2012. The report was also distributed during advocacy meetings in the Netherlands and Germany, was presented at a policy dialogue meeting in the German Bundestag and was used by the Belgian MP Dirk Van Der Maelen as a basis for raising questions to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, PI delivered policy briefings on impunity in DR Congo to the Foreign Affairs Minister Didier Reynders and to MEP Veronique de Keyser, before their visits to the country.

JUNE

Support to Osman Işçi

In June 2012, Osman Işçi, a well-known human rights activist and trade unionist who has focused his work on the defence of the rights of minorities and of freedom of association and expression, was arbitrarily arrested at his home in the Ankara province by anti-terrorist police forces. During the months following his unlawful arrest and detention in a high security prison, PI, along with other human rights NGOs and trade unions in Turkey and across Europe, launched several initiatives directed at EU authorities and Foreign Ministries of Member States calling for Mr. Işçi's release. Our advocacy efforts continued in 2013.

13 FEBRUARY

Belgium ; New resolution on defenders' protection

Following a November 2011 hearing at the External Relations Commission of the Belgian Federal Parliament, where PI was invited to share its experience in Thailand, DR Congo and Colombia, the legislative body unanimously adopted a new resolution on the protection of defenders. In this text, Belgian MPs formulated 13 concrete requests to their government for specific action in favour of defenders.

JUNE

Second roundtable on national mechanisms

On 18 June 2012, PI and the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of HRDs, Margaret Sekaggya, organized the roundtable "*Mechanisms and National Policies for the Protection of HRDs: reflections on current developments and ways ahead*", in Geneva. Over 20 representatives of intergovernmental institutions, human rights NGOs, and several diplomatic missions to the UN participated in the event. It was mentioned that besides well-crafted pieces of legislation, countries need to implement adequate technical tools for systematically assessing risk and threats and adapt them to the specific needs of defenders, while involving civil society in the setup process.

END OF 2012

Developing a UPR Shadow Report on Burundi

During the first half of 2012, PI, its partner organization East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) and Front Line Defenders carried out field research and drafted the report "Situation of Human Rights Defenders : 2008-2012". This was meant for submission to the Human Rights Council in Geneva in July 2013, in the run-up to the Universal Periodic Review of Burundi in early 2013. Furthermore, PI and EHAHRDP carried out an advocacy tour with EU missions in Bujumbura in late November 2012.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

2011

BALANCE 31/12/2011 (IN EUROS)	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
ASSET		
FIXED ASSETS	22808,62	23408,52
Equipment and furniture	22808,62	23408,52
CURRENT ASSETS	327802,14	158445,88
Amount receivable	283429,80	92125,10
Current investments and cash at bank	44372,34	66320,78
TOTAL ASSETS	350610,76	181854,40
LIABILITIES		
FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION	88602,01	79246,31
Accumulated profit	88602,01	79246,31
DEBTS	262008,75	102608,09
Supplier	73249,36	-29507,47
Taxes, remuneration and social security	167759,39	132115,56
Deferred income	21000,00	0,00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	350610,76	181854,40
I. OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES		
OPERATING INCOME		
Sales manual and DVD's	970,00	12596,11
Provision of service		
Donation		
Grants	1645362,06	1327022,30
Other operating income	5063,99	30055,55
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1651396,05	1369673,96
OPERATING CHARGES		
Service and other goods	-760331,39	-652214,22
Remunerations and social security	-845704,43	-702134,39
Depreciation	-15233,57	-12891,90
Other operating charges	-15062,34	-11116,04
TOTAL OPERATING CHARGES	-1636331,73	-1378356,55
OPERATING RESULT	15064,32	-8682,59
II. FINANCIAL INCOME AND CHARGE		
Financial income	2797,28	4586,98
Financial charge	-11200,28	-10175,35
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	6661,32	-14270,96
III. EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES		
Exceptional income	2694,38	21955,96
Exceptional charge		-7421,65
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	9355,70	263,35
Profit for the fiscal year to be allocated	9355,70	263,35
Profit brought forward from previous year	79246,21	78982,86
PROFIT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD	88601,91	79246,21

FINANCIAL REPORT 2012

AUDITORS' OPINION:

In our opinion the financial statements ended December 31 2012 present fairly the assets and the results of the AISBL. Without prejudice to formal aspects of minor importance, the accounts are kept in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.

Braine le Comte, 27 August, 2013

Patricia VANOSBEECK
Expert-Comptable IEC

2012

BALANCE 31/12/2011 (IN EUROS)	31/12/2012	31/12/2011
ASSET		
FIXED ASSETS	15416,88	22808,62
Equipment and furniture	15416,88	22808,62
CURRENT ASSETS	381258,83	327802,14
Amount receivable	206332,35	283429,80
Current investments and cash at bank	174926,48	44372,34
TOTAL ASSETS	396675,71	350610,76
LIABILITIES		
FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION	58862,19	88602,01
Accumulated profit	58862,19	88602,01
DEBTS	337813,52	262008,75
Supplier	25066,83	73249,36
Taxes, remuneration and social security	50197,22	167759,39
Deferred income	247549,47	21000,00
Others debts	15000,00	0,00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	396675,71	350610,76
I. OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES		
OPERATING INCOME		
Sales manual and DVD's	27,00	970,00
Provision of service		
Donation		
Grants	1241514,14	1645362,06
Other operating income	29213,38	5063,99
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	1270754,52	1651396,05
OPERATING CHARGES		
Service and other goods	-392597,28	-760331,39
Remunerations and social security	-862177,64	-845704,43
Depreciation	-16696,66	-15233,57
Other operating charges	-20189,02	-15062,34
TOTAL OPERATING CHARGES	-1291660,60	-1638331,73
OPERATING RESULT	-20906,08	15064,32
II. FINANCIAL INCOME AND CHARGE		
Financial income	927,15	2797,28
Financial charge	-9598,57	-11200,28
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	-29577,50	6661,32
III. EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES		
Exceptional income	0,00	2694,38
Exceptional charge	-162,32	0,00
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	-29739,82	9355,70
Profit for the fiscal year to be allocated	-29739,82	9355,70
Profit brought forward from previous year	88602,01	79246,31
PROFIT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD	58862,19	88602,01

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

We would like to thank all individuals, groups and institutions who have supported our work in 2011 and 2012. We would especially like to thank:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights EIDHR



Auswärtiges Amt

ifa Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.



FONDS SOCIAL
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Foreign Affairs,
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National Endowment for Democracy
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& private donations

Full names : Amnesty international Dutch section , Amnesty international, International Secretary , American Jewish World Service AJWS, Brot für die Welt / Ev. Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung, Embassy of the Netherlands Kinshasa DRC, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), European Commission DEVCO/ EIDHR, Federal Foreign Office Germany / ifa e.V. (Zivik), Fondation Hirondelle DRC , Fonds4S Belgium, Foreign Affairs Ministry Belgium, Foreign Affairs Ministry Spain , Freedom House, Misereor, National Endowment for Democracy NED DRC, Open Society Foundations, Soleterre, SOS SIDA DRC, Trocaire, True Heroes Films, Private donations



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