

FROM THE GROUND UP



Partners for Justice

MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Changing the World from the Ground Up



At **Global Rights—Partners for Justice**, our work is motivated by a vision of a changed world. Since our inception as the International Human Rights Law Group in 1978, we have struggled against seemingly insurmountable barriers, always with the same, critical goal: a global society built on the fundamental principles of human rights.

More than 25 years later, we are still struggling. We still have a long way to go before we realize our vision. In countries around the world, we still see far too much systemic discrimination, marginalization, and abuse. But while the challenges are many, we at Global Rights are profoundly fortunate to have a network of dedicated staff, local activists, and supporters around the globe who believe that real change is possible—and who are committed to making a measurable difference on the ground, over time, through tireless advocacy, education, mobilization, and reform.

The Global Rights network is large and disparate, spread across more than 30 countries, yet tied together by these core beliefs: human rights cultures are built from the ground up, and change comes from within. With ever more organizations joining the fight for human rights, we distinguish ourselves by creating long-term partnerships with local activists in their own communities, gaining trust and building momentum to make a lasting impact. We work at the grassroots level in countries around the globe, nurturing the seeds of justice and promoting sustainable change.

Our job is to help others challenge
injustice, to increase access to
advocacy tools, and to amplify new voices
that desperately need to be heard.



In 2003, we changed our name from the International Human Rights Law Group to Global Rights—Partners for Justice. Our re-naming reflects our unique role in the changing landscape of human rights protections. In this report, you will read about an approach we call *building capacity*. Our job is to help others challenge injustice, to increase access to advocacy tools, and to amplify new voices that desperately need to be heard. At Global Rights, our work begins and ends with people—people whose daily lives are profoundly impacted by our mission. People like Sevima Sali-Terzi, who is fighting ethnic segregation and discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the wake of Yugoslavia’s genocide. Like Lucie Nizigama, of the Association of Women Lawyers in Burundi, who has leveraged Global Rights’ tools and networks to fight for women’s land inheritance rights and other human rights laws.

Individual stories are at the heart of what we do. Relying on five proven strategies—Exposing Human Rights Violations, Mobilizing Communities, Human Rights Lawyering, Advocating Legal and Policy Reform, and Promoting International Advocacy—we remain embedded in local communities and deeply connected to the true-life stories of injustice that lend urgency to our work. On behalf of our board of directors and staff, we thank you for your interest in Global Rights. In 2006 and beyond, we will continue our struggle to change the world from the ground up, enlarging our network, building capacity, and helping people defend their human rights. We hope you will join us.


Jim Fitzpatrick
Chair, Board of Directors


Gay McDougall
Executive Director

STORIES FROM THE 'CAPACITY BUILDING THE GROUND UP

We find them all over the world, in communities of all kinds: ordinary people with the courage and conviction to fight for human rights. To support them, Global Rights has become a truly global organization. We defend human rights with our partners in more than 30 countries, with a permanent presence, such as a field office, in ten countries. Our staff includes 130 legal and human rights professionals, and we rely on extensive networks of local

activists and organizations, bringing together international coalitions that must bridge differences such as language, religion, ethnicity, gender, and culture in order to expand human rights protections around the world.

We unite these disparate individuals, programs, and initiatives through an approach we call “capacity building.” In all of our work, we seek not to be the primary actors for change, but rather to help our local partners permanently gain the skills they need to create change. As facilitators and catalysts, we offer our partners support, guidance, resources, and training to strengthen the impact and visibility of their work. We work side by side with them as they define their goals and their responses to what they have identified as human rights issues.

We have developed a context-adaptable methodology that combines human rights training, technical assistance, networking and coalition building, advocacy formulation, and strategic linking between local groups and their national, regional, and international counterparts. Our approach is people-centered, participatory, and empowering. Whenever possible, we rely on local or regional expertise, working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have a strong connection to the grassroots. Global Rights has developed five core strategies on which we work with our partners to reach our shared objectives:

THE FIELD Y, ' FROM D UP

- EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

through investigations, documentation, monitoring, and publicity.

- MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES

through outreach and education, and constituency and coalition building.

- HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERING

through impact litigation, class actions, and other legal action.

- ADVOCATING LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM

through policy formulation and legislative advocacy.

- PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

through international and regional bodies.

Global Rights implements these strategies through our in-country programs to target issues including racial discrimination, women's rights, and human trafficking. While every nation is unique—and every Global Rights initiative is tailored to the needs of local populations—the struggle to protect human dignity, promote access to justice, and ensure equal rights for all is universal.



FROM THE

GLOBAL RIGHTS FROM THE GROUND UP

SEVIMA SALI-TERZI

Human rights activist

Bosnia and Herzegovina



The Yugoslavia of my childhood seemed to me a united country, where ethnic and religious differences were of little importance. I didn't know the ethnicity of all of our neighbors, and I certainly didn't care.

But as I grew older, Yugoslavia began to fall apart. The hunger for territorial expansion led to aggression and ethnic cleansing. Neighbors turned against each other. Hatred and discrimination became institutionalized, and then popularized through propaganda.

War came in the early '90s, bringing with it unimaginable levels of violence, discrimination, institutionalized exclusion. The war left nearly 250,000 people in my country dead, and many more displaced and disillusioned. Once again we were witnesses to genocide in central Europe.

“We fought a campaign against ethnic segregation in our public schools, to make sure

GROUND



UP

Global Rights is working in Bosnia to tackle these issues. We are promoting the rights of disadvantaged or excluded communities, while demanding a democratic political process. We fought a campaign against ethnic segregation in our public schools, to make sure that our children would not be divided in our classrooms. We are forcing the Bosnian government and the international community to address the growing crime of trafficking in persons. We just won a four-year campaign to draft, debate, and pass a nationwide Gender Equality Law.

Our country does have a bright future. But that future must be shaped by our society and accepted by our communities. It must be a future that builds trust and tolerance in our neighbors, just as it rebuilds the bricks and mortar of our neighborhoods. Global Rights' vision is one that we share: the vision of a country and a people whose destinies are their own.

that our children would not be divided
in our classrooms.”



STORIES FROM THE

AFGHANISTAN

The defeat of the Taliban in 2001 presented a unique opportunity for Afghans to unite against injustice and create a society responsive to the needs of all citizens. But decades of war, brutality, and displacement have made reconstruction difficult. Governmental efforts to tackle the population's vast legal needs—as well as the problems of opium, warlords, gender inequality, and poverty—have been compromised by the absence of a formal justice sector.



Since 1999, Global Rights has worked on these issues, first through our field office in Pakistan, and for the past four years, through our office in Kabul. Global Rights has focused on supporting Afghanistan's efforts to build a rights-protective culture and reestablish the population's trust in the government and the fledgling justice system. Working with a group of 36 legal professionals and civil society activists—many of them women—our aim has been to enhance our partners' capacity to use the law strategically to protect human rights.

During 2005, through a strategic alliance with the Kabul University Law School, Global Rights launched a practical human rights training and internship program for law students. Students are paired with human rights defenders who have participated in Global Rights' forums, conferences, and trainings. The program builds the skills of law students and provides our partners with support as they engage the courts on human rights issues.

Global Rights also continued working with women's groups across the country to monitor and document human rights abuses. Together with our partners, we plan to produce a comprehensive report on women's rights in Afghan society that will be used to develop future advocacy campaigns on specific women's rights issues.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Global Rights has been working in Bosnia and Herzegovina for almost a decade, helping our partners rebuild a civil society torn apart by systemic discrimination, ethnic cleansing, and brutal war. Since opening our office in Sarajevo in 1997, we have empowered activists and legal practitioners to apply international human rights standards in the domestic arena, document human rights violations, and press for legislative transparency. We have helped the region's most vulnerable populations by facilitating and partnering with coalitions working on gender equity, human trafficking, disability rights, legal aid, and conscientious objection.

Global Rights and its partner, the Gender Equity Coalition, were instrumental in the successful creation of a Gender Equity Law that was adopted in June 2003 after more than three years of intensive advocacy. Its adoption makes Bosnia and Herzegovina the first country in the region to pass such a comprehensive law.

In December 2005, Global Rights' Bosnia office published the "Legislative Advocacy Resource Guide: Promoting Human Rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina," which is designed to mobilize civil society groups to promote legislative transparency and government accountability.



BURUNDI

After 1993, when Burundi's first democratically elected president was assassinated, the political and humanitarian situation in the country steadily deteriorated. Long-standing ethnic rivalries, heightened by the legacy of colonialism, resulted in a civil war that claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people. Hundreds of thousands more became refugees in neighboring countries or relocated into camps for the internally displaced. The broken judicial system, coupled with the unequal disposition of justice, intensified ethnic tensions and aggravated an already volatile political environment.

Burundi's Peace Agreement, signed in 2000, called for the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Global Rights has worked alongside a network of local human rights organizations to ensure the efficacy of the TRC, influencing policymakers through policy debates, advocacy meetings, and the creative use of broadcast media. Three key recommendations advocated by Global Rights were endorsed by Burundi's Parliament in 2004, including an amendment ensuring that persons who committed crimes against humanity and war crimes will not be able to receive amnesty from prosecution.

In 2005, Global Rights continued working with civil society groups and local activists to push for key legal and policy reforms to address some of the causes and consequences of conflict in Burundi. These issues include local governance and accountability, impunity, and land management, as well as inheritance rights and the participation of women in government.

We also designed and successfully pushed for the passage of a new human rights-based Local Government Law, which has dramatically changed accountability standards for local government officials and has included local populations in decision-making.





FROM THE

GLOBAL RIGHTS FROM THE GROUND UP

FRANCISCA CORTES
Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Immokalee, Florida
United States



I'm from Oaxaca, Mexico, and I came to the U.S. to work in the tomato fields of Florida. Now I'm also a staff member of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), an organization of 3,000 low-wage worker members who fight to end sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in U.S. fields.

In the course of our struggle, we have uncovered, investigated, and helped in the prosecution of modern-day agricultural slavery operations involving more than one thousand workers. In these cases, people were held against their will through threats or actual violence including beatings, pistol-whippings, and shootings. They worked indebted, for little or no pay.

Slavery doesn't happen out of the blue; it is tied to an overall environment that permits it to grow. Most farm workers are not enslaved, but the majority of workers toil at sub-poverty wages with no benefits, excluded from the right to overtime pay and the right to organize—rights that virtually all other U.S. workers have. They work, in essence, in sweatshops in the fields.

“If we get rid of sweatshop conditions,

UP

So we fight slavery both by eliminating slavery operations case-by-case, and also by seeking to change the broader conditions in our industry that allow such operations to take root. If we get rid of sweatshop conditions, we'll see slavery go, too.

CIW is a member of the Freedom Network (USA), co-founded by Global Rights, which is dedicated to ending human trafficking and ensuring that we all live free. And Global Rights was central to ensuring that a stronger federal law against modern-day slavery was recently passed. Some of our early slavery investigations raised awareness for the need for the law, but it was Global Rights that had the resources and ability to ensure that the law was written and adopted. With this law, we are now able to put behind bars the employers who deprive workers of their fundamental right to liberty.

we'll see slavery go, too.”



STORIES FROM THE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Years of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—at times involving eight African countries and several rebel factions—have resulted in one of the most catastrophic humanitarian and human rights situations in Africa. More than two million Congolese people were internally displaced, hundreds of thousands became refugees in neighboring countries, and an estimated three million people were killed. All sides to the conflict have subjected the civilian population to severe abuses, including massacres, torture, looting, sexual violence, and forced displacement. All of this occurred in a context where no mechanisms of law enforcement or justice existed to provide protection or redress to victims. Although fighting persists in some parts of the country, a slow-moving peace process began in 1999, and DRC finally seems to be evolving out of conflict.

Global Rights has spent more than a decade supporting Congolese human rights groups in their efforts to document grave human rights violations and provide services to victims of these atrocities. Today, with offices in Kinshasa and Bukavu, Global Rights works to harness the efforts of DRC's civil society movement toward building a democratic society. We have focused on strengthening the capacity of these groups through substantive training and mentoring on a range of issues such as human rights standards, fact-finding and reporting, and women's rights.



In 2005, alongside our partners, Global Rights was instrumental in the enactment of a new Nationality Law—as well as ensuring rights protections in Congo's post-transition Constitution. Global Rights is also working alongside local groups on an advocacy campaign to push for the adoption of a comprehensive and harmonized draft law criminalizing sexual and gender-based violence. The draft law, which was finalized in March 2005, is the result of Global Rights-supported provincial and national consultations and advocacy efforts.

Today, with offices in Kinshasa
Global Rights works to
civil society movement toward building a

THE FIELD



INDIA

India—the world’s largest democracy—has struggled for years to overcome discrimination based on religion, custom, and caste, and to build a legal and economic framework that will allow women and girls of all backgrounds to access the rights and opportunities guaranteed in the Indian Constitution.

To address these inequalities, and to respond to the many constraints on women attempting to protect and achieve their rights, Global Rights trains activists and lawyers to develop and implement legal and advocacy strategies, specifically targeting the human rights issues of most concern to women. In 2005, we expanded our access to justice programs in Rajasthan and Karnataka, training paralegals on the legal rights of women so they, in turn, can become community trainers.

and Bukavu,
harness the efforts of DRC’s
democratic society.



FROM THE

GLOBAL RIGHTS FROM THE GROUND UP

LUCIE NIZIGAMA

Association of Women Lawyers

Bujumbura, Burundi



I think my desire to help women stems from my childhood. After my father passed away, his siblings took all of my family's land. My mother was left with only a tiny parcel on which to raise our family. She struggled before the courts for years to obtain justice for us. Ever since then, I have felt that I wanted to do something to help women in similar situations.

Early in my career, I was the first female magistrate in Karusi province. Almost all of the conflicts that came before me were land-related, and most had to do with inheritance disputes. Most often, a widow would initiate a case against her brother-in-law after he tried to take away all of her deceased husband's land. I constantly was troubled by the fact that women in my courtroom were unable to express their concerns adequately.

I decided to join the Association of Women Lawyers because I wanted to work directly with women on land-related issues. I have found that when local associations stand behind common people, authorities are more likely to resolve conflicts properly. Although the organization is now focused primarily on handling individual cases, we also are trying to influence public policy. Currently, we are working on a law protecting women's inheritance rights.

“I have found that when local associations stand behind common people,



UP

Through the networks Global Rights has developed, our ability to help people has increased. One network in which we participate is designed for Burundian NGOs that run legal clinics for indigent communities. That network allows us to share experiences, learn from one another, and develop joint strategies. Global Rights also provides us with technical training in areas such as listening, mediation, and advocacy. With these tools, we are better able to serve our communities.

The second Global Rights network in which we participate is for local organizations that want to influence lawmakers on specific human rights issues. Together, we already have proposed amendments to key pieces of legislation, such as the law establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Electoral Law, and the Constitution. This type of work is new to most Burundian NGOs. But as the political context has changed and opportunities now exist for such initiatives, we have learned to do it by working alongside Global Rights.

As part of these networks, we are better able to push our government to respect human rights. And pursuing these activities makes us feel strong. Slowly but surely, we can sense that our positions are being taken more seriously.

authorities are more likely to resolve conflicts properly.”



STORIES FROM THE

LATIN AMERICA

For the past seven years, Global Rights has partnered with NGOs and individuals who are working to protect the rights of Latin America's Afro-descendant community, helping them to incorporate an international legal approach in their own domestic work. Currently, Global Rights addresses racial and ethnic discrimination in Brazil and Colombia.

In Brazil, although the black community is estimated to constitute more than 50 percent of the country's population, racism is pervasive and systemic. High illiteracy rates, low-paying jobs, and weak enforcement of the country's anti-discrimination laws conspire to keep blacks from fighting for their human rights or pursuing higher education. Only two percent of minorities attend universities. Global Rights has been instrumental in working with government officials and local groups to defend affirmative action legislation for higher education institutions.

In Colombia, 40 years of civil war has divided the country and undermined its democratic institutions. In the last 15 years, the various parties that are engaged in this armed struggle have increasingly committed serious human rights abuses and other violations of international humanitarian law against civilian populations. Historically disenfranchised Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities have been particularly hard hit by the ongoing violence. Global Rights works with our network of local partners and lawyers to protect this population's rights to traditional communal lands, and to promote greater access to justice and education.

In 2004, Global Rights and our partners pushed the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to create the position of Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of African Descendants, in order to monitor and advocate against racial discrimination in the Americas. The Commission announced the decision to create the position in response to a formal request from Global Rights and a group of partners from Latin America. We were also instrumental in getting the Organization of American States to create a working group to draft a new regional human rights mechanism against racism and discrimination titled "The Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance."



MONGOLIA

Mongolia's recent transition from a communist state to an open society has created a unique opportunity for fostering and encouraging the promotion of equality and protection of human rights. In 2004, Global Rights began helping local lawyers to capitalize on this opportunity by networking, engaging the newly independent press, incorporating international human rights precedent into legal theories, and creating innovative litigation strategies.

As strategic litigation is a new concept in Mongolia, lawyers and legal service providers need education, background, and training in this arena. Global Rights and our partners have created a partnership to work on a four-part legal guide (in Mongolian) on strategic litigation for NGOs, legal service providers, and lawyers. The guide will include sections on international practices of strategic litigation, an assessment of the legal framework in Mongolia for strategic litigation, best practices, and case studies.

In 2005, Global Rights and our partners conducted capacity-building workshops focusing on the nascent environmental movements taking root in Mongolia. We are working with experts on environmental human rights issues to create a public mobilization guide, which will include a special component on legal literacy for environmental advocacy.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

Human trafficking is a multi-million dollar global industry. Traffickers operate in organized criminal gangs, small family groups, and alone. They use deception, force, or coercion to move migrants into situations of vulnerability. Then they can easily hold their victims in forced labor, slavery, or servitude. The United States government estimates that about 14,000-17,000 people are trafficked into the United States each year for forced labor in homes, brothels, farms, and factories.

While governments are increasingly addressing the problem, many take no action, or, worse, condone or tolerate this trade in human lives. Much of the burden of providing assistance to trafficked persons has fallen on the shoulders of grassroots NGOs. Increasingly, human rights organizations are engaging in advocacy, research, and outreach to educate civil society and governments on the nature and scope of the problem and the need for human rights-based responses and resources to support services for trafficked persons.

Since 1998, Global Rights has partnered with organizations and engaged with governments to promote effective responses to human trafficking, utilizing internationally recognized human rights standards. Global Rights is a founder of the Freedom Network, a U.S. coalition of NGOs advocating for the rights of, and providing services to, trafficked persons. It is also helping to build a regional network of grassroots activists in Central America and Mexico.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Over the years, the annual six-week session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has offered activists and their organizations a premier forum for raising awareness of and seeking redress for human rights abuses. More than 3,000 delegates from member and observer states and from non-governmental organizations have attended the Commission each year.

Global Rights' Advocacy Bridge Program brings activists from traditionally underrepresented countries to the Commission. As of April 2005, more than 100 human rights activists from more than 25 countries have participated in Global Rights' Advocacy Bridge Program, where they learn how to incorporate international human rights laws and protections into their domestic strategies for safeguarding human rights.

Following on the success of our Advocacy Bridge program, in October 2005, Global Rights launched a new program, Amplifying Youth Voices, to mobilize young people from marginalized ethnic groups around the world to take part in the burgeoning global discourse about poverty as a human rights violation.



STORIES FROM THE

MOROCCO / MAGHREB

Since the late 1980s, groups of activists and lawyers throughout Morocco have been advocating for women's rights. But despite significant legal reform, most recently with the adoption of the new Personal Status Laws in 2004, the rights of women and girls are still curtailed. Even where legal protections exist, cultural norms, high illiteracy rates, lack of knowledge of legal rights, and fear of discrimination may prevent women from invoking their rights or reporting crimes against them, such as rape, child abuse, sexual exploitation, or domestic violence.

Since 2000, Global Rights has conducted a unique human rights education program through our office in Rabat. Centered on a community liaison model, the program partners with grassroots organizations to connect urban and rural groups and reach historically underserved areas. Activities include human rights training for women and girls, legal counseling to women victims of violence, and national public awareness campaigns.

In partnership with 31 women's rights NGOs and local development associations, Global Rights created a 420-page Arabic language facilitator's manual, "Making Human Rights Real: A Human and Legal Rights Education Program for Women in Morocco," and trained hundreds of local NGO members as facilitators for the program, which has reached thousands of women across the country.

In 2004, our field office also developed a unique strategy to help publicize changes to Morocco's Family Code, or Moudawana, to women who can't read or write. Their "Women Draw the New Moudawana" poster is used all over Morocco. It includes drawings by local artists depicting the law's key reforms in areas such as marriage, divorce, child guardianship and custody, and marital property.

Responding to the need voiced by our civil society partners in the Maghreb region, in 2005, we expanded the highly successful Moroccan program to include activities in Algeria and Tunisia. We work with our Maghreb partners to promote the use of creative legal and advocacy strategies by women's rights lawyers, support a legal rights education program for women, and strengthen the ability of people to confront the rising tide of religious extremism.

Global Rights currently conducts
public information campaigns that
advocate for increased protection of women's rights,
work against abuses by diamond



NIGERIA

After 30 years of near continual authoritarian repression under military rule, Nigeria's pro-democracy movement was vindicated in 1999 with the democratically elected Obasanjo Administration. But frustration soon followed, as the new National Assembly was marred by corruption scandals, human rights violations by security forces, and violence against women. Communal and ethnic tensions were heightened by the absence of a democratically drafted constitution.

Nigeria continues to face numerous problems today, yet Nigerian civil society groups are leading an ambitious legislative reform movement supported by Global Rights, which has been working in the region since 1996 and opened an office in Abuja in 2000. Global Rights trains and partners with local organizations to mobilize support for initiatives that address Nigeria's constitutional process, criminal justice system, and electoral procedures.

One of the legacies of Nigeria's undemocratic past is a widespread culture of official secrecy, which makes it difficult to promote public understanding and scrutiny of the government's decision-making and policies. Against this backdrop, in 2004, Global Rights supported a network of civil-society organizations, academics and NGOs who formed the Freedom of Information Coalition. The coalition drafted and submitted legislation on two key reforms: passage of a Freedom of Information Act, and a Whistle-Blower Protection provision that would offer legal protection to persons revealing information in the public interest.

In 2005, Global Rights' initiatives on transparency and accountability resulted in the creation of a permanent Civil Society and Government Consultative Forum on Corruption, the first of its kind in Nigeria.

confront corruption,
and
mining and other extracting industries.

SAMUEL KOFI WOODS, II

Co-founder, Foundation for International Dignity
Liberia



Fourteen years of civil war and the terror regime of Charles Taylor decimated Liberia's once thriving and just society. The collapse of the state will not be rectified by the interim government alone. Instead, Liberia's restoration will depend on its people's commitment to their own future. The evolution of this future must begin at the grassroots level, ushered in by the re-emerging civil society. Without civil society involvement at all levels of Liberia's recovery, the restoration of a just society may never happen.

As one of many human rights leaders, I am concerned about the promotion and protection of civil society involvement in the peace process. The role of civil society in the recovery of dignity for Liberians must be protected from opportunists claiming to represent grassroots concerns, and must be promoted within institutions including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Human Rights Commission, and the Governance Reform Commission.

Civil society can swiftly recover its influence by working with Commission members to help guide those who are open to working with grassroots groups. Furthermore, working in this consultative manner will enable civil society groups to reposition themselves as the transition watchdogs and primary sources for rights-based, alternative public policy.

“Liberia's restoration will depend

UP

The Foundation for Individual Dignity (FIND) is a grassroots organization that is helping to shape the return of Liberian civil society by training human rights activists to reach more people in communities outside of Monrovia and Montserrado. Because of the arrests, intimidation, and trials suffered by activists during Taylor's reign, many civil society groups remain cautious and have therefore lost momentum in sustaining a proactive, strategic vision of their role in Liberia's recovery of justice.

To help solve this problem, FIND, with the support of Global Rights, has begun to create thematic working groups to provide civil society leaders with opportunities to form collective advocacy strategies for confronting mutually determined priority actions. These include strategies for: resolving the impunity gap in the transitional justice procedures; assimilating child soldiers and combatants back into communities; promoting the devolution of power through constitutional reform initiatives; and introducing legislative reform initiatives that address the long-standing monopolies over revenue-generating sectors and key natural resource commodities. FIND also is working with Liberian refugees and internally displaced communities in the Mano River Union sub-region of West Africa to ensure that legal protections are guaranteed and that these communities are empowered to be directly involved in advocating for their own protection and for the opportunity to re-establish their lives.

on its people's commitment to their own future.”



STORIES FROM THE



SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone’s nine-year civil war was marked by horrific and massive atrocities committed against civilians, the deaths of thousands of people, the internal displacement of two-thirds of the population, and the mass exodus of hundreds of thousands of people to neighboring countries. Years of a brutal conflict interrupted NGO activity in Sierra Leone, leaving the country’s human rights groups without the requisite skills, institutional stability, and outreach capacity that they need to contribute to their country’s post-conflict transition. Another casualty of the conflict in Sierra Leone was the country’s justice sector.

Since 2000, Global Rights has been working with local organizations to develop strategies for increasing access to justice, particularly in rural areas. Following our public education campaign on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Special Court, Global Rights currently conducts public education on corruption, advocates for increased protection of women’s rights, and works against abuses by diamond mining and other extractive industries.

UNITED STATES

Despite the legacy of the U.S. civil rights movement and the implementation of civil rights legislation, race-based disparities and injustices persist. U.S. activists are increasingly turning to the international arena to support and complement their domestic anti-racism work, building on the experiences of the global human rights movement. Global Rights' U.S. Racial Discrimination Program has been a leader in this regard, seeking to strengthen the social justice movement fighting racial discrimination in the United States by integrating an international human rights approach. We partner with, train, and provide technical assistance to groups working against discrimination.

In 2004 and 2005, the U.S. Racial Discrimination Program focused on domestic workers' rights. We coordinated the participation of domestic workers groups from the United States in the former U.N. Commission on Human Rights to call for greater protections for migrant domestic workers. We conducted training on international human rights for workers and organizers as part of our partners' leadership and outreach efforts. Additionally, we offered technical assistance to partners on engaging U.N. and Inter-American human rights experts in the struggle to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers in the United States.

In October 2005, Global Rights submitted a petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of survivors of the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. Hundreds of African-Americans were killed, thousands of homes burned, and millions of dollars of property destroyed on May 31, 1921, when white rioters in Tulsa, Oklahoma, attacked the black community. For decades after the riot, survivors and their descendants were unable to gain redress in U.S. courts. In a recent appeal to the Supreme Court, the court refused to hear their case on the merits, ruling that the statute of limitations has expired. The petition submitted by Global Rights asked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to urge that U.S. courts hear this case on the merits and give the survivors of the Tulsa Race Riot a chance to obtain an effective remedy for the harms they have suffered.

Government actions in response to 9/11 have compelled Global Rights to help defend against erosions of human rights standards in the name of counter-terrorism. Shortly after 9/11, we filed a petition before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights challenging the unlawful detention of the nearly 1,200 people who were swept off American streets without warrant, held without charges, and tortured and mistreated, some for months and years. Most were summarily deported.

In 2004, we filed amici briefs to the Supreme Court in the Yaser El Hamdi and Jose Padilla cases, calling for an end to arbitrary detention of U.S. citizens and others in the name of the war on terrorism. Global Rights also signed onto a brief concerning the detainees at Guantanamo Bay. The Supreme Court's decision unequivocally upheld the rights of people detained by the government to have their day in court.



FROM THE

GLOBAL RIGHTS FROM THE GROUND UP



NILOFAR SAYAR

Regional Officer, Rabia-I Balkhi Advocacy and Skills Buildings Agency
Afghanistan

I am a regional officer for the Rabia-I Balkhi Advocacy and Skills Buildings Agency, where I work in several provinces of northern Afghanistan on women's rights and local capacity building. I am also a member of Global Rights' Human Rights Defenders Network in Afghanistan, focusing on issues of human rights and women's rights. A 1985 graduate of the law faculty at Kabul University, I participated in three workshops for human rights defenders organized by Global Rights between 2003 and 2004.

In 2003, I traveled to all the districts of Afghanistan's Baghlan and Sarpul provinces, where I conducted workshops to inform women about their rights to political participation. During this time, I invited elders and influential members of society, both men and women, to participate in several open discussions about women's rights in their communities. In each of these workshops, at least 100 people participated, and as a result of the initiative, a total of more than 2,000 people were trained.

“I was able to obtain the release of four medical students who were



UP

In early 2004, I organized a training program on sustainable poultry farming for 40 women who had been repatriated from Iran, and provided them with the technical assistance they needed to establish farms. During this period, I also organized sessions for the women to learn about political participation, the structure of governmental agencies, and working with men.

I also have spent time visiting detention centers in three provinces to find out about the problems of detainees. I was able to obtain the release of four medical students who were wrongly accused of kidnapping a young man. I have worked on the rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked young women through negotiations with local governors, security officers, and, in one case, with the Pakistani Embassy. And I have organized and spoken at several roundtable discussions on women's rights and human rights in nine of the northern provinces of Afghanistan. Importantly, these discussions were broadcast through local TV and radio stations. I now produce a 15-minute radio program each Sunday to inform women about human rights issues such as domestic violence that airs on a local radio station.

wrongly accused of kidnapping a young man.”



STAFF

EXECUTIVE

GAY MCDOUGALL,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIYA NIJHOWNE,
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

RACHEL TAYLOR,
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

ARLETHA GREER,
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

COMMUNICATIONS

ANN ANDREWS MORRIS,
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

ALLIE SHAW,
PRINT AND WEB DESIGNER /
COORDINATOR

DEVELOPMENT

BRIGITTE SAVAGE,
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

AMY FREEMAN,
INDIVIDUAL DONOR COORDINATOR

SALMA SAMAD,
FOUNDATION GRANTS
COORDINATOR

ANN PROCTER,
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

JEFFREY HONG,
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

CELINE OKOH,
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR

BERNIE FRUCTUOSO,
CONTRACTS AND GRANTS OFFICER

LASONJA BLACK,
CONTROLLER

LAUREN BLAND,
FINANCIAL AND BUDGET ASSOCIATE

MITZI BOWEN,
OFFICE MANAGER / INTERNSHIP
COORDINATOR

KEESHA BULLUCK,
OFFICE ASSISTANT / RECEPTIONIST

PROGRAM

MARK K. BROMLEY,
DIRECTOR FOR POLICY AND
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

SCOTT CAMPBELL,
DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS

JENNIFER RASMUSSEN,
DIRECTOR OF CORE PROGRAM
DESIGN

ELIZABETH WEST,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT FOR
ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

AFRICA PROGRAM

MARIA KOULOURIS,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE (BURUNDI
AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
CONGO)

RUWIMBO MASUNUNGURE,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
(NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE, WEST
AFRICA)

ASIA PROGRAM

AISHA BAIN,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
(INDIA AND MONGOLIA)

TAZREENA SAJJAD,
AFGHANISTAN FELLOW

LATIN AMERICA PROGRAM

CARLOS QUESADA,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION PROGRAM

MARGARET HUANG,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ANN JORDAN,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

BEATRIZ FERNANDEZ CARRILLO,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

AFGHANISTAN

**ADAM SHAPIRO /
SHAHEEN RASSOUL,**
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

SAREER AHMED,
LEGAL PROGRAM MANAGER

ABDUL BASIR FAIZI,
LEGAL PROGRAM OFFICER

SONIA YASIN,
LEGAL PROGRAM MANAGER

MARINA JOYA,
FINANCE OFFICER

JAMILA OMAR,
WOMEN'S PROGRAM OFFICER

GHULUM AKBARI,
GUARD

ZIAUDIN AMERI,
GUARD

NAYEEM LATIFI,
DRIVER

PAYNEL MOND,
CLEANER

NASIM NASEM,
GUARD

MOHAMAD NAZIR,
GUARD

GUL RUKH SARWARI,
GUARD

ABDULLAH SEDEQI,
GUARD

AHMAD ZAHER,
GUARD

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DIANA SEHIC,
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

FEDRA IDAKOVIC,
STAFF ATTORNEY

NILANA JAMAKOVIC,
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

BURUNDI (BUJUMBURA)

LOUIS-MARIE NINDORERA,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

ESPÉRANCE MUSIRIMU,
PROGRAM OFFICER

ARMAND NDAYISHIMIYE,
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
OFFICER

LILIANE NDAYISABA,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

ODETTE NTAHIRAJA,
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

ROSELYNE RUBENGEBENGE,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

CHARLES MUHETO,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

EVELYNE NZOJIBWAMI,
SECRETARY-RECEPTIONIST

SALVATOR IRADUKUNDA,
NIGHT GUARD

FILBERT MBONIHANKUYE,
GARDENER

JEAN-CLAUDE NGOMANDUNDI,
NIGHT GUARD

THADDÉE NIYIMPAYE,
CLEANER

DIEUDONNÉ NSABIMANA,
NIGHT GUARD

JANVIER SINZINKAYO,
DAY GUARD



BURUNDI (NGOZI)

GEORGES KARAHIRIMBA,
PROGRAM OFFICER

SYLVESTRE MPABWANAYO,
PROGRAM OFFICER

ALBERT NDAYIKENGURUKIYE,
PROGRAM OFFICER

BÉATRICE NINYIBUTSE,
PROGRAM OFFICER

DONNA-FABIOLA NSHIMIRIMANA,
PROGRAM OFFICER

JEANNETTE MANIRAKIZA,
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

STEVE NDONGOZI,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CLOTILDE NGENDAKUMANA,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

PIERRE BUHINJA,
DAY GUARD

ALEXANDRE HATUNGIMANA,
NIGHT GUARD

JEAN-RICHARD HAKIZIMANA,
OFFICER

FABIEN MPFAYOKUGENDA,
NIGHT GUARD

JOCELYNE MUSHIMIYIMANA,
CLEANER

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (KINSHASA)

MARK LAROCHE,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

VICTOR KASHOSI,
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

THIERRY KAMBERE,
PROGRAM OFFICER

MARCEL WETSHO'KONDA,
PROGRAM OFFICER

NYTHA NTALEMWA,
PROGRAM OFFICER

KUEYATUKA MBIYAVANGA,
DRIVER

BAMUENKO MVUMBI,
DRIVER

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (BUKAVU)

BASHUSHANE CISHIBANJI,
PROGRAM OFFICER

KIBUMBA WAKILONGO,
PROGRAM OFFICER

MWINGA ZABULONDA,
ACCOUNTING

CHIBALONZA MAHESHE,
SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

KAHONDWA BAHAYA,
GUARD/SECURITY

SANDRA KABEMBA,
GUARD/SECURITY

MULOLWA LUKALA,
GUARD/SECURITY

MASIRIKA MASHIMANGO,
GUARD/SECURITY

BUNANI MASIRIKA,
LOGISTICS ASSISTANT

DEOGRATIAS SAVURA,
DRIVER

MOVING FORWARD

As Global Rights forcefully advances the organizational mission to challenge injustice and amplify new voices within the global discourse, we welcome Salih Booker as the new executive director. A veteran of the human rights movement for more than two decades, Salih joins Global Rights after having spent seven years as the head of Africa Action, the oldest organization in the U.S. working on African affairs. A firm believer in creating social change from the ground up, Salih says, “I am truly honored to have been selected to be executive director of Global Rights. I have long admired the work of Global Rights and I look forward to working with the board and staff to advance the organization’s vision for a just society worldwide built on the fundamental principles of human rights.”



INDIA

DEEPIKA MOGILISHETTY,
INDIA COORDINATOR

REBECCA EAPEN,
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

ASHWATI JOSEPH,
PROGRAM OFFICER

PAYAL SAKSENA,
PROGRAM OFFICER, JAIPUR

ASHUTOSH SRIVASTAV,
PROGRAM OFFICER, JAIPUR

SAHANA BASAVAPATNA,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT, BANGALORE

LGBTI

STEFANO FABENI,
SENIOR FELLOW

LIBERIA

ISMENE ZARIFIS,
CONSULTANT

MOROCCO

STEPHANIE WILLMAN BORDAT,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

SAIDA KOUZZI,
FIELD LEGAL OFFICER

HOUDA BENMBAREK,
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

NIGERIA

SHARON ROGERS,
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

ANNE IKPEME,
PROGRAM OFFICER

FABIAN OKOYE,
PROGRAM OFFICER

TOM ADANBARA,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

CHRIS KWAJA,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

JANE ONWUMERE,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

MARGARET GANG,
OFFICE MANAGER

PETER MADUOMA,
SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

ABUBAKAR SAHABI,
GRANTS ACCOUNTANT

ADEMOLA ADEWUYI,
COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR

STELLAMARIES AMUWA,
RECEPTIONIST

RAKIYA ABDULKADIR,
INTERN

ABEL CHOJI,
SECURITY GUARD

JULIA ONOBU,
INTERN

STEPHEN EDE,
SECURITY GUARD

ABDULMALIK MAHDI,
INTERN

AYUBA JOSEPH,
SECURITY GUARD

OPEYEMI ABEBE,
INTERN

EMMANUEL SHIDE,
GARDENER

COMFORT SHAMANG,
CLEANER

DAUDA YAKUBU,
DRIVER

SIERRA LEONE

HELEN BASH-TAQI,
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

CECILIA MATTIA,
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

FRANCIS AMARA,
ADMINISTRATION / ACCOUNTING

AMADU TARAWALLY,
OFFICE ASSISTANT

ALBERT RENNER,
OFFICE ASSISTANT

JENKINS BAYE,
GUARD

YENGBEH CONTEH,
GUARD

TEJAN FOFANAH,
DRIVER

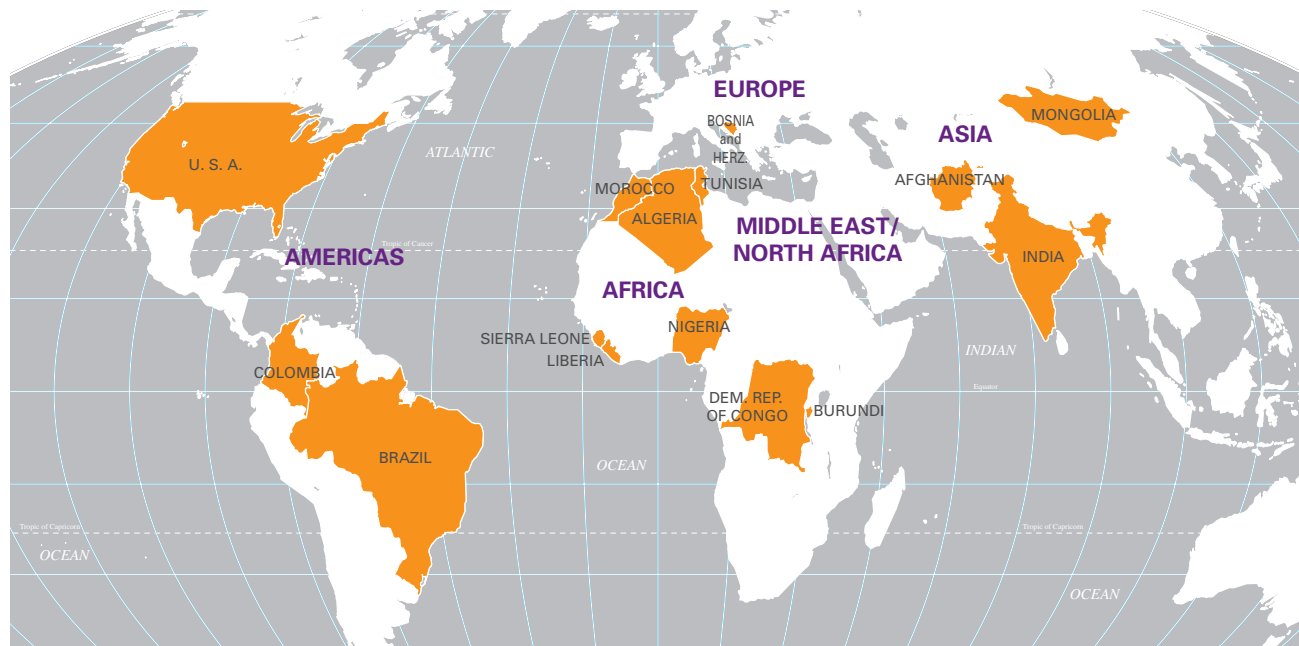
MOHAMED JALLOH,
GUARD

ALHASAN MORIWA,
GUARD

CONTACT US

GLOBAL RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

With programs around the world, Global Rights and our local partners strive to create just societies founded on the fundamental principles of human rights.



FIELD OFFICES:

United States (Headquarters)

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 602
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.822.4600
Fax: 202.822.4606
info@globalrights.org
www.globalrights.org

Afghanistan

House No. 200, District 4, Street 3
Charahi Ansari, Shahr-e-Now
Kabul City, Afghanistan
Tel: 93.20.29.02.25
Fax: 93.91.84.34.23

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marsala Tita 8/2
7100 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel: 387.33.207328; 205319
Fax: 387.33.216032

Burundi

3, Avenue des Patriotes
Bujumbura, Burundi
Tel: 257.24.66.56
Fax: 257.24.36.27

Democratic Republic of Congo

Galerie du Centenaire
Boulevard du 30 Juin
Kinshasa, République Démocratique du Congo
Tel: 243.122.1712

55 Avenue de Maniema
Bukavu, South-Kivu
République Démocratique du Congo
Tel: 250.085.330.66

India

B-4 Block 1 Casalavelle
85-1 Lavelle
Bangalore 56001
India
Tel: 91.98.8605.0563
Fax: 91.80.5662.3457

Morocco

3 rue Oued Zem, Appt.4
Hassan 10000, Rabat, Morocco
Tel: 212.37.66.04.10
Fax: 212.37.66.04.14

Nigeria

17-B Mississippi Street
Maitama District
Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: 234.9.413.4152
Fax: 234.9.413.4153

Sierra Leone

26 Main Motor Road
Brookfields, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232.22.242.150

PHOTO CREDITS:

COVER: AP/Aijaz Rahi; AP/Rodrigo Abd; PAGE 1: AP/Bullit Marquez; PAGE 2: AP/Free Burma Rangers, HO; PAGE 4: AP/Hidajet Delic; Reuters / Damir Sagoli; PAGE 7: AP/David Brauchli; Reuters/Danilo Krstanovic; PAGE 8: Reuters/Zohra Bensemra; PAGE 9: Reuters/Antony Njuguna; PAGE 10: AP/Alan Diaz; AP/Wilfredo Lee; PAGE 13: AP/J. Pat Carter; Reuters/Joe Skipper; PAGE 14: AP/Schalk van Zuydam; PAGE 15: AP/Gurinder Osan; PAGE 16: Reuters/Jean Pierre Harerimana; PAGE 19: Reuters/Antony Njuguna; Maria Koulouris; PAGE 21: AP/Michael Kohn; PAGE 22 & 25: AP/Free Burma Rangers, HO; PAGE 28: AP/Pewee Flomoku; PAGE 31: Reuters/Luc Gnago; AP/Schalk van Zuydam; PAGE 32: AP/Ben Curtis; PAGE 34: AP/Tomas Munita; PAGE 37: AP/Tomas Munita; Reuters/Ahmad Masood; BACK COVER: AP/Aaron Favila

MISSION

OUR VISION

The work of Global Rights is motivated by our vision of a just society worldwide built on the fundamental principles of human rights.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

The critical forces for achieving deep-rooted and sustainable change in societies come from within each nation. Human rights cultures are built from the ground up.

OUR MISSION

Global Rights is a human rights advocacy group that partners with local activists to challenge injustice and amplify new voices within the global discourse. With offices in countries around the world, we help local activists create just societies through proven strategies for effecting change.

- We seek justice for victims of human rights abuses.
- We work to promote racial and gender equality and help people and communities feel empowered to change their societies.
- We work through field offices in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and in the United States, partnering with local human rights advocates to strengthen their effectiveness in combating abuses in their countries.
- We focus on developing the skills of local activists that are essential to addressing human rights concerns and promoting justice such as: documenting and exposing abuses, conducting community education and mobilization, advocating legal and policy reform in countries and internationally, and using the courts to increase access to justice for disadvantaged populations.
- We help local activists to engage with the international community, including the United Nations, to further their human rights objectives at home.



Partners for Justice

United States (Headquarters)
1200 18th Street NW, Suite 602
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.822.4600
Fax: 202.822.4606

info@globalrights.org
www.globalrights.org