

From the Directors

December concluded an exciting—but sobering—year for the Human Rights Center.

As 2013 drew to a close, several of us were returning from a successful workshop we had hosted in Salzburg, Austria, to help advance digital investigations at the International Criminal Court. The week before, we had showcased the summer work of this year's 17 Human Rights Fellows. And our campaign to match the \$100,000 Sandler Challenge grant was shifting into high gear.

Then we received alarming news from El Salvador.

Gunmen had burst into the offices of our partner organization, the Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos, dousing computers, archives, and classified documents with gasoline and setting them on fire.

While the motive behind the attack is still being investigated, this incident underscores the risks our local partners face on a daily basis and why it is so important for us to support their efforts. It is also a reminder that we must not only help our partners collect evidence, but improve their capacity to protect it.

This year the HRC team reached many milestones:

• Our new Atrocity Response Program—headed by former Human Rights Fellow Stephen Cody—launched an in-depth study of the experiences of hundreds of survivors who have testified or registered as victim participants at the International Criminal Court:

- At the request of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, our Sexual Violence Program led by Kim Thuy Seelinger and supported by program officer Julie Freccero-took the world's first look at safe shelter options available to refugees and internally displaced people fleeing sexual and gender-based violence;
- Our Forensic Program—directed by Cristián Orrego Benavente—laid the foundation for a new project called Missing at the Border, a multi-agency effort to identify the thousands of undocumented migrants who have perished along the U.S.-Mexico border; and
- Our student Fellowship Program—managed by Andrea Lampros and Rachel Kaplan—selected its 244th fellow, dispatching this year's cohort to work with human rights organizations around the globe.

This year marks our 20th anniversary—20 years since Herb and Marion Sandler had the vision to establish the first universitybased human rights center on the West Coast.

We look forward to partnering with you in 2014 and for the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Eric Stover, Faculty Director

FRONT COVER: A student at the Pader Girls Academy in northern Uganda studies for national exams. With assistance from the Human Rights Center, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation helped to found the school in 2002 to educate girls who had been held captive by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). (Photo by Stephen Cody)

ABOUT PHOTOS: Due to confidentiality concerns and security precautions, we have in some cases omitted the names of our colleagues and people interviewed in the course of our research.





Atrocity Response Program

The pitted road snaked north toward the massacre site. Seasonal rains beat down red dust, transforming cracked clay into sinkholes that entrapped overloaded trucks. We greeted our hosts in a remote village in northern Uganda and soon retreated into a spear grass hut to hear their stories.

"During the conflict, I didn't realize that there were people who think about us," one survivor told us. "But when I started to know about the [International Criminal] Court and to give my views, I started to feel a bit of hope that there are people who think about me. Not only that, I started realizing that as much as we have suffered, we have some value as human beings."

We stayed a few more hours. On the road back, as motorcycles swarmed around us, we scribbled our field notes and gazed out the window.

STEPHEN CODY, DIRECTOR OF THE ATROCITY RESPONSE PROGRAM, WHO INTERVIEWED SURVIVORS OF THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN UGANDA







This year the Human Rights Center launched the Atrocity Response Program to generate thoughtful, long-term responses to war crimes and other serious violations of human rights. By developing the capacity of the International Criminal Court to investigate atrocities and serve victims' communities, our hope is to prevent future abuses and account for those that have occurred. We initiatiated two major studies this year involving hundreds of victims and witnesses in Kenya, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Our studies will help international and national courts better protect and serve those who testify at war crime trials, often at great risk to themselves.



LEFT Photo by Andrea Lampros **ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ** 2013 Fellows Joana Tchoukleva, Steve Fisher, and Ruyan Rahnama. (Photos by Andrea Lampros)

Fellowship Program

'Truth-telling' and 'reconciliation' describe actions, processes, things that people do together events that connect past, present, and future. There is, in other words, real work involved in truth and reconciliation. But my experiences at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission suggest that indigenous peoples are bearing the burden of sharing their stories. The settlers have a more passive role of listening, hearing, and absorbing. This led me to question the meaning of a reconciliation that is scripted, photographed, and televised—performed and watched, rather than experienced and acted upon.

GENEVIEVE PAINTER, 2013 FELLOW AND PH.D. CANDIDATE IN JURISPRUDENCE AND SOCIAL POLICY WHO RESEARCHED TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE RELATING TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN CANADA







In 2013, with generous support from Thomas White, the Human Rights Center enabled 17 students from six University of California campuses to collaborate with human rights organizations, bringing our 20-year fellowship total to 244. Their work spanned topics and continents: Rebecca Peters studied connections between clean water, sanitation, and education for girls in Bolivia. Steve Fisher heard the stories of undocumented workers in detention on the U.S./Mexico border. Nolan Phillips and Jayson Hunt worked with a coalition in Brazil that is defending human rights in anticipation of the World Cup and Olympics. And Ricardo Velasco Trujillo documented the aftermath of a massacre in Colombia.

Students gave their time, energy, and expertise, and in return were moved in unexpected ways by the struggles and fortitude they encountered.





Forensic Program

I will always be grateful to the Human Rights Center and Pro-Búsqueda for giving me the chance to have a relationship with my biological family, especially for the seven years I had to know my birth mother before her passing earlier this year. I am just one example of how the work of the Human Rights Center changes lives, giving victims the opportunity to tell our stories and find peace.

ANGELA FILLINGIM, REUNITED WITH HER BIOLOGICAL FAMILY IN EL SALVADOR IN 2006







In San Francisco—far from the country she fled nearly three decades ago—a mother listened to a radio interview with Cristián Orrego Benavente about the search for children and other loved ones separated during El Salvador's civil war. She herself had lost a daughter during this time of war, upheaval, and migration.

Previously unaware of any efforts to reunite families, this mother immediately contacted the Human Rights Center and we connected her with our partner in El Salvador, the Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos, to provide a DNA sample that may bring her together with her biological daughter.

This is the challenge and goal of the Human Rights Center's new international outreach campaign: to reach mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters in the Salvadoran diaspora to share the possibility of finding family.

Unfortunately, Pro-Búsqueda now faces grave challenges. In November, gunmen stormed its office in San Salvador, wreaking havoc through violence and intimidation. While the motive is still unknown, the outcome is devastating. We are working quickly to help Pro-Búsqueda get back on its feet and shore up its capacity for safeguarding evidence.

Back in the United States, the Forensic Program is also working with law enforcement to improve forensic testing for early detection of domestic violence, as well as chairing a high-level, multi-agency working group to explore and integrate the use of DNA technology to identify people who have gone missing at the border of Mexico and the United States.



LEFT Photo by Stephen Cody **TOP TO BOTTOM** Julie Freccero shares Safe Haven research findings with leaders of the Muslim Women's Association on the Thailand-Burma border (Photo by Sophia Naing) former safe shelter in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya 2011 (Photo by Kim Thuy Seelinger); participants at the Safe Haven report back

Sexual Violence Program

Abusers sometimes come here, knocking and shouting. . . . Sometimes at nighttime they come, and it's so scary.

SAFE SHELTER STAFF, THAILAND

In a refugee camp at the Kenya-Sudan border, an angry husband stabbed a security guard through the wire fence surrounding the safe shelter where his wife slept. In Colombia, a staff member at a safe shelter suffered flashbacks of war and abuse every time she counseled a new resident. Like the clients they served, several Haitian shelter staff had suffered rape or displacement from the 2010 earthquake—but without counseling, they could only relieve their collective stress through jokes. On the Thai-Burma border, safe house staff described terrifying attacks by drunk husbands who stormed the shelter huts at night.

These are some of the stories policymakers needed to hear.

We shared these stories as well as research findings from our seminal series of reports—Safe Haven: Sheltering Displaced Persons from Sexual and Gender-based Violence—with the heads of the policy and protection divisions at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who are currently developing guidelines for sexual and gender-based violence shelters based on our findings and recommendations. We also presented research findings in the case study countries: Haiti, Colombia, Kenya, and Thailand.

Our reports offer the world's first in-depth look at safe shelter options available to refugees and internally displaced persons fleeing sexual and gender-based violence. We recommend that aid organizations increase security within the camp's shelters; promote greater "buy in" from surrounding communities to demystify shelter services; identify and close protection gaps; and provide support for both residents and staff.

In addition, our researchers continue to examine accountability for sexual violence in areas affected by conflict and will soon publish a comparative report on challenges to and promising innovations in Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, and Sierra Leone.









Eric Stover, faculty director of the Human Rights Center, and Camille Crittenden, deputy director of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society, address the Salzburg Workshop on Improving War Crimes Investigations. (Photo by Rob Fish)



Fredy Peccerelli, executive director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, talks with Berkeley Law students and community members. (Photo by Andrea Lampros)



2013 Human Rights Fellow Davorn Sisavath speaks about unexploded landmines in Laos at the 2013 UC Human Rights Fellowship Conference. (Photo by Andrea Lampros)

Events

The Human Rights Center, in partnership with the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society, convened the first Salzburg Workshop on Improving War Crimes Investigations this fall. We brought together ICC prosecutors, lawyers, technology innovators, human rights investigators, and students to look at the potential and pitfalls of digital technology in war crimes investigations. Funded by the Oak Foundation, Humanity United, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, and Open Society Foundations, this first workshop asked the question: How can we document and collect evidence of war crimes in ways that are both systematic and court admissible? Two additional workshops in 2014 will further explore this question, creating a framework for how we use digital technology to document atrocities.

In February 2013, the Sexual Violence Program co-sponsored a major international conference on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings with the US Institute of Peace, the Stockholm Peace Research Initiative, and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo in Washington, DC. Titled Missing Peace, the conference pushed some of the world's leading thinkers, advocates, and policymakers to generate a proactive response to sexual violence during war.

In July, the Sexual Violence Program's Kim Thuy Seelinger and Julie Freccero presented findings from their seminal reports on sheltering refugees and internally displaced people seeking protection from sexual violence at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees headquarters in Geneva.

In November, University of California students, faculty, family, and community members came together for our annual fellowship conference—Lessons from the Frontlines. Seventeen fellows from six UC campuses described their human rights work in Haiti, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Uganda, Malaysia, Canada, Laos, India, and the United States.

The Human Rights Center and the Boalt Hall Committee for Human Rights worked together to help educate, engage, and inspire our UC Berkeley students and broader campus community. Highlights from the year included:

Rebecca Tinsley, director of Waging Peace, on why the international community continues to allow genocide;

Peter McClosky, prosecutor with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, on Srebrenica and the ongoing trial of Ratko Mladic;

Fredy Peccerelli, executive director of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, on the Ríos Montt trial and other efforts to document abuses during the Guatemalan civil war:

Geoffrey Raymond, UC Santa Barbara professor of sociology, on research related to the use of force by police officers; and

Rape in the Fields documentary screening, co-sponsored with the Center for Latin American Studies and the Journalism School's Investigative Reporting Program.

Classes and student projects

Human Rights Center staff worked with law students through the Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects on research related to sexual violence, the use of forensic science in the early detection of domestic violence, and the experience of victims and witnesses with atrocity crimes. We also worked with students from UC Berkeley's International Human Rights Law Clinic to further accountability for sexual violence in Liberia and improve cyberinvestigations at the International Criminal Court.



Programs Administrator Alexey Berlind sets up for the Safe Haven presentation at Boalt Hall in September. Download the Safe Haven reports at http://www.law.berkeley.edu/11979.htm).



Kim Thuy Seelinger and Julie Freccero present Safe Haven research findings to the heads of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees policy and protection divisions, policymakers, and donors in Geneva. (Photo by Marybeth Morand)



Executive Director Alexa Koenig welcomes the 2013 Human Rights Fellows. (Photo by Andrea Lampros)



A gathering of Human Rights Center staff and friends.



Stephen Cody works in northern Uganda.



Cristián Orrego Benavente talks with Angela Fillingim

Staff

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Harvey Weinstein Cathy Zimmerman



Deborah Goldblatt, Molly Vitorte, and Harvey Weinstein kick off the HRC's 20th anniversary. (Photo by Rachel Kaplan)



Advisory Board member Elizabeth Farnsworth speaks about the Human Rights Center's impact. (Photo by Rachel Kaplan)



Advisory Board member Deborah Goldblatt welcomes guests to her home to launch the HRC's 20th anniversary celebrations. (Photo by Andrea Lampros)

Conducting research in Uganda.



Beth Van Schaak, a UC Santa Clara law professor and war crimes expert, speaks to the Salzburg Workshop.

Donors and Partners

The work of the Human Rights Center is made possible by the generous support of individuals and institutions that are committed to pursuing justice and human rights. We are grateful for your support.

Individuals

Anonymous

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Paul Albert

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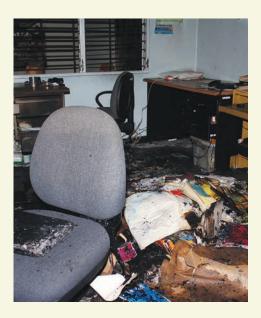
Alan Tansman, East Asian Studies

Khatharya Um, Asian American Studies

Michael Watts, Geography

Harvey Weinstein, Public Health

John Wilmoth, Demography



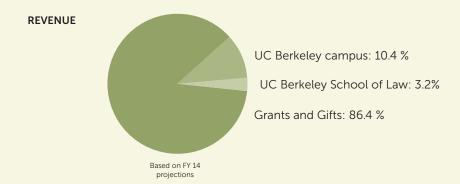
Pro-Búsqueda attacked

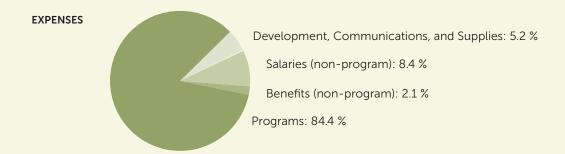
Masked gunmen tied up staff and destroyed important documents during the November 14 attack on the Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos in El Salvador. The attackers doused equipment and files with gasoline and set the office on fire.

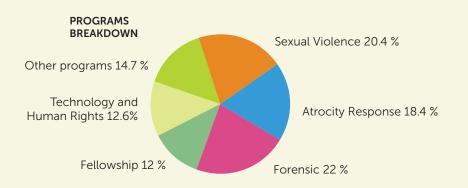
The pain is still there. I would actually suggest that we never use the word 'closure' because it's never ending. . . . I think we need to pursue identification until we get the last person, as best as we can, because it reminds us that every individual counts; that you don't work in round numbers: that individuals are important; that every person on earth has a name and an identity and a family and a history and that that needs to be preserved.

ERIC STOVER, FACULTY DIRECTOR. SPEAKING ON DAN RATHER REPORTS ABOUT THE CONTINUED NEED FOR EXHUMATIONS IN BOSNIA.

2013 Financial Report









HRC Sexual Violence Program Officer Julie Freccero (third from the right) conducts research in Uganda on accountability for sexual violence.

