



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 / 2024

HUMAN
RIGHTS
CENTER
UC Berkeley School of Law



Introduction

Dear Friends,

Almost 30 years ago, our founder and Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover turned a two-person program at the UC Berkeley Townsend Center for the Humanities into the Human Rights Center — an institution that has helped define some of the field's most remarkable achievements by pursuing justice through science, technology, and law.

Over the past year, we have achieved the following accomplishments:

- Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, joined us on Berkeley's campus to launch the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations in all the languages of the United Nations.
- We launched a Climate Justice program to address the human impacts of climate change. We have initiated projects to create policy and industry recommendations to better protect the human rights of people in climate-affected communities.
- Our Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover was awarded the 2024 AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility in honor of his lifetime of work investigating mass atrocities, holding perpetrators accountable, and promoting justice for victims and their families.
- Our Health and Human Rights program started a new project on increasing protections for LGBTQI+ refugee youth in humanitarian settings, and continued their evaluation of an innovative foster care program in San Francisco centering youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Our Technology, Law & Policy program continued to investigate cyber attacks in Ukraine, and present their findings to key partners in the international criminal justice space.
- Our student fellows spent the summer working with local human rights organizations on six continents. They supported their host institutions in the fields of law, journalism, public health, public policy, and information technology.

We are grateful for the opportunity to reflect on our legacy of work over the last three decades, and strategize how we will seize the next 30 years to continue our investigations of human rights violations, support survivors and their communities, and bring those responsible to justice.

We could not do this work without you. Thank you!

Signed,



Eric Stover, Co-Faculty Director

Alexa Koenig, Co-Faculty Director,
Investigations Program Director

Betsy Popken, Executive Director,
Climate Justice Program Director

COVER: A firefighter battles a brush fire that broke out Friday afternoon on June 17, 2022 in Jurupa Valley, California (Qian Weizhong/VCG via Getty Images).

LEFT: A partial group photo of the Human Rights Center team at a staff retreat in Tomales Bay, California in August 2024.

30 Years of Impact

These on-the-ground investigations and publications captured how communities in these war zones were suffering from war crimes and crimes against humanity that would last for decades.

Eric Stover and Gilles Peress publish "**The Graves: Srebrenica and Vukovar**," which documents efforts to reconstruct atrocities perpetrated in the former Yugoslavia through a forensic investigation of mass graves and interviews with survivors.

Eric Stover, Fred Abrahams, and Gilles Peress publish "**A Village Destroyed, May 14, 1999: War Crimes in Kosovo**," documenting the anatomy of a massacre of Cuska village.

At the onset of the Iraq War, a joint **HRC & Human Rights Watch** team traveled to northern Iraq to investigate reported violations of international humanitarian law.

HRC researches and publishes "**The Witnesses: War Crimes and the Promise of Justice in The Hague**," about the first trials held in the UN tribunal system. This was the first study conducted at the ad hoc international criminal tribunals, and resulted in several changes in the policies of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for witnesses testifying.

1994

HRC launches **Student Fellowship program**, funding students to work with frontline human rights defenders around the world. More than 400 students have gone through the program over the last 30+ years. These alumni have gone on to lead change in their respective fields of law, policy, journalism, public health, science, information science, and beyond.

1998

1999

HRC co-publishes "**Crimes of War**," a guidebook for journalists and aid workers on international humanitarian law. "Crimes of War" was translated in 11 languages, and strengthened the legal accuracy of journalists' reporting on war and conflict.

2001

HRC conducts research in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia on communities impacted by genocide and mass violence, and publishes "**My Neighbor, My Enemy: Justice and Community in the Aftermath of Mass Atrocity**," reflecting their views on accountability and restorative justice.

2003

2004

HRC publishes the "**Hidden Slaves**" report, the first nationwide study that revealed the extent of labor and sex trafficking, particularly among migrants, in the United States.

2005

2006

HRC helps the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation establish a trust fund for war-affected children in northern Uganda, creating the **Pader Girls Academy**, a boarding school for girls and their children. The Pader Girls Academy, now called the Te-Kworo Foundation, has educated more than 4,000 girls and has expanded into three boarding schools and a maternal health clinic serving 300,000 people.

2007

HRC launches the **DNA Reunification project with Asociación Pro-Búsqueda in El Salvador to reunite families torn apart by civil war**. Since HRC helped establish a DNA bank for Pro-Búsqueda, 469 families separated due to El Salvador's civil war have been reunited.

HRC publishes study **"When the War Ends: A Population-Based Survey on Attitudes about Peace, Justice, and Social Reconstruction in Northern Uganda."**

These unprecedented empirical studies helped international criminal courts better protect witnesses and victims who came to testify at great risk to themselves and their families.

2008

HRC spends years conducting in-depth interviews with men released from Guantánamo Bay to humanize their experiences, illuminate the spectrum of abuses they suffered, and expose the enduring harms they experienced post-release, resulting in a number of publications including **"Guantánamo and Its Aftermath: U.S. Detention and Interrogation Practices and Their Impact on Former Detainees."**

HRC publishes study **"Living with Fear: A Population-Based Survey on Attitudes about Peace, Justice, and Social Reconstruction in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo."**

2009

HRC hosts the first global conference on human rights and digital technologies, called **"Soul of the New Machine."** This conference brought together technologists, war crimes investigators, and human rights researchers to help launch the technology and human rights movement.

HRC publishes study **"So We Will Never Forget: A Population-Based Survey of Attitudes about Social Reconstruction and the Extraordinary Chambers of Cambodia."**

2010

HRC co-hosts a **conference on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence in Kenya** with lawyers, judges, and medical practitioners. This resulted in changes in law and practice that opened up the possibility of legal accountability for thousands of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence across the country.

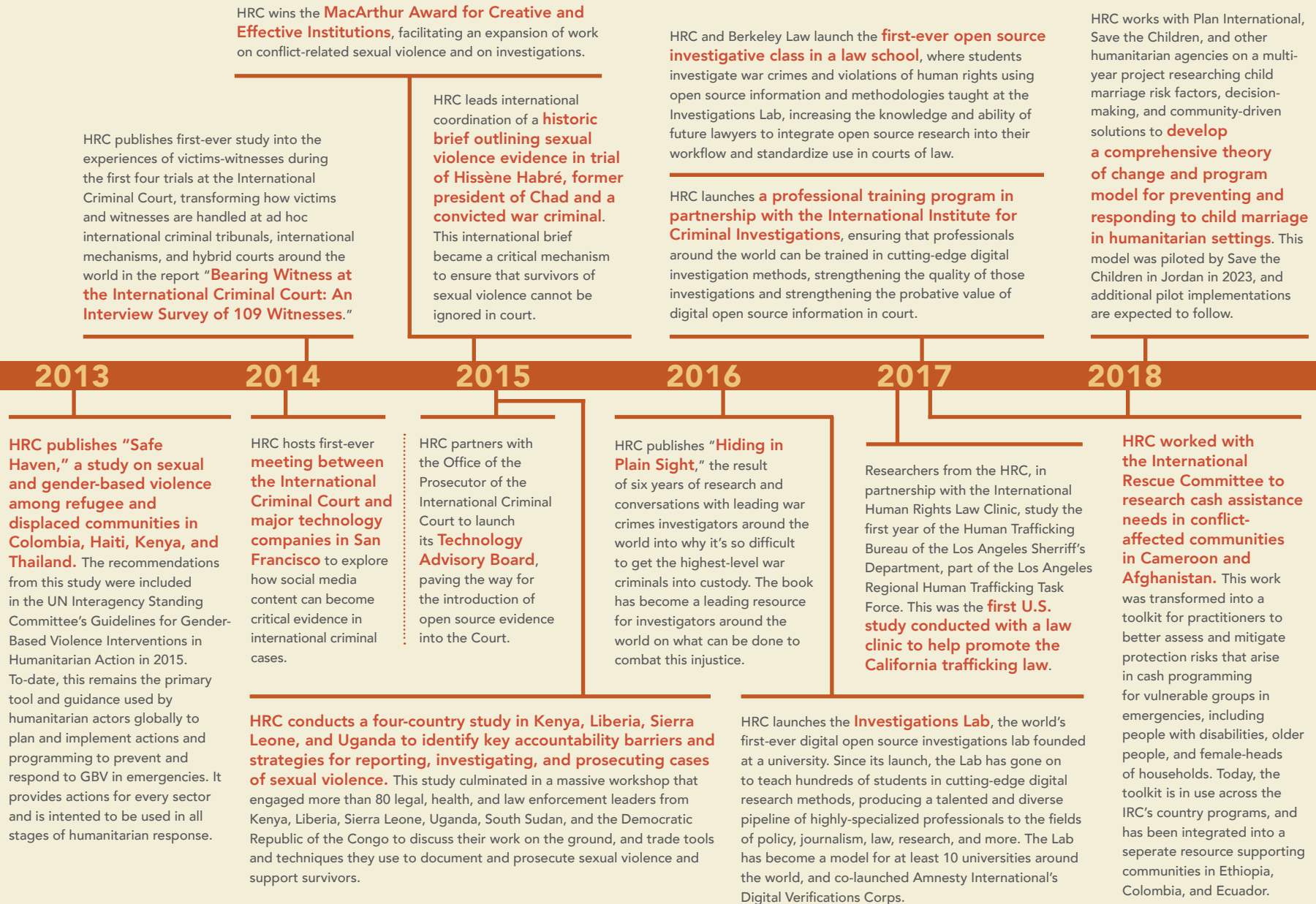
HRC incubates the development of **Kobo Toolbox**, a data collection software for remote research settings now used in data collection across the globe by all major humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations.

2011

HRC launches a series of workshops with the **International Criminal Court** that brings together technologists, human rights practitioners, and others to explore the potential for digital open source information to support the stories of survivors in court, launching the digital open source evidence movement and bringing critical awareness to the ways that scientific and technical information can serve as evidence in international criminal trials.

2012

30 Years of Impact *continued*



HRC starts collaborating with local organizations on **the first family-based foster care program to center youth experiencing / at risk of commercial sexual exploitation in the San Francisco Bay Area.** This includes an emergency housing program for youth at immediate risk.

The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations, the first set of global guidelines on using digital content to investigate human rights violations with an aim toward improving its effective use in international criminal, humanitarian, and human rights investigations, is published in English.

The Berkeley Protocol launches in the remaining languages of the United Nations — French, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, and Russian.

HRC supports a criminal complaint made by Open Society Justice Initiative, Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, and Syrian Archive on behalf of victims of the chemical weapons attacks on Eastern Ghouta in August 2013. Using open source investigation methods to help build the evidentiary dossier, **HRC's team found corroborating information and evidence to support the criminal complaint and contribute to a dossier showing that the Syrian government used chemical weapons in violation of international law.** In November 2023, French Magistrates issued arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and three associates for these attacks, relying in part on that brief.

HRC publishes **"Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives."** This seminal book unites the perspectives of war correspondents, digital content moderators, social scientists, digital investigators, teenagers using social media, and more to interrogate the collective social impact of seeing with graphic imagery online and how to engage online in a meaningful way.

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

HRC helps **organize research and legal support of Ugandan attorneys for a case establishing Ugandan women's constitutional right to improved maternal care to combat maternal mortality.** The final judgement established the right to maternal health care—and the right to health broadly—as encoded in Uganda's Constitution.

HRC and Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program launch the **first-ever graduate-level open source investigative reporting class**, publishing with legacy media outlets such as the *Associated Press* and *Reveal* from the Center for Investigative Journalism.

HRC launches **Open Source Investigative Reporting Workshops with the Investigative Reporting Program at Berkeley Journalism.** This first-of-its-kind conference unites the world's top investigative journalists with open source researchers and innovators to explore what's possible for the future of investigative journalism, conduct workshops to increase capacity, and celebrate the year's most exceptional open source reporting.

HRC submits multiple **Article 15 communications to the International Criminal Court arguing for Russian cyber attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine to be charged as war crimes.** The submissions played a significant role in launching the Office of the Prosecutor's effort to draft a cyber policy and the ICC Prosecutor's 2023 announcement that his office will investigate cyber attacks as potential violations in all investigations at the Court going forward.

HRC co-launches the **University of California Digital Investigations Network**, a three-campus initiative that powers digital investigations with local partners in pursuit of justice in the Americas and around the world. Collaborative investigations have focused on election misinformation, targeted killing of Indigenous land defenders in the Brazilian Amazon, violence against pro-Democracy protesters in Chile, and more.



"I'm a former foster youth. I aged out of the system. FAM would've been an incredible program for me to be a part of. It would've helped stabilize my situation a hell of a lot more. It would've helped my primary caregivers so much more. I'm just so proud as someone that's come from Child Welfare to see that there is movement in this arena, that there are people and there are entities that truly want to support these subsets of at-risk and in-risk youth."

– Francesca Gonzalez,
Freedom Forward Executive Director

Health and Human Rights Program

Improving the health and protection of marginalized communities impacted by conflict, forced displacement, and violence.

HIGHLIGHTS

Supporting LGBTQI+ refugee youth in humanitarian settings

- ▶ In times of crisis, disaster, and conflict, impacted children and families need quality, accountable, and reliable humanitarian services. Unfortunately, the needs of LGBTQI+ children and their families in humanitarian contexts are often overlooked, resulting in insufficient support for a population disproportionately impacted by inequality and discrimination. The marginalization of LGBTQI+ children can lead to conflict with the law, gender-based violence, and other grave violations of children's rights.
- ▶ To address this, HRC launched the PRISM project in collaboration with Save the Children and EdgeEffect to improve protection and support for LGBTQI+ children and adolescents in humanitarian settings. This project includes participatory research in two countries with LGBTQI+ children, adolescents, and young adults and their service providers. Findings will be used to develop new guidance for practitioners on child protection, gender-based violence, and mental health and psychosocial support, which will be piloted in three countries in 2025. Funding for this project is provided by the United States Government.

- ▶ To begin this work, HRC researchers completed a global scoping study between October 2023 and February 2024. The report includes results from a review of existing resources and literature on protection, mental health, and psychosocial support for LGBTQI+ children in humanitarian settings, and interviews with 30 practitioners working to support displaced LGBTQI+ children and their families from around the globe. The purpose of this scoping study was to understand LGBTQI+ children's protection and mental health needs, to identify gaps in available resources and research for practitioners serving this community of youth, and to provide recommendations for further research and resource development.

Bay Area foster youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking

- ▶ HRC released the first two evaluation reports of the second phase of the Family and Me (FAM 2.0) foster care pilot, which was designed to meet the needs of San Francisco foster youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). FAM 2.0 supports youth and caregivers with three innovative interventions: 1) a shared model of caregiving engaging a primary and alternative caregiver; 2) specialized training for caregivers on CSE, harm reduction, and trauma-



Image courtesy of Jakob Owens via Unsplash.

informed care, and; 3) access to fast and flexible funding to meet the immediate, diverse needs of this community of youth and caregivers. Today, youth are successfully enrolling in FAM 2.0, and are receiving essential support and care that they would not have without it. Through interviews with FAM 2.0 service providers and caregivers, these reports explored the progress of the pilot and offered recommendations to adapt and improve the model of care. It is hoped that when this evaluation is completed, the series will contribute to addressing gaps in the effectiveness of interventions for youth impacted by CSE and trafficking and help to build a foundation of evidence-based practice.



Technology, Law & Policy Program

Advancing innovation in international criminal law.

HIGHLIGHTS

Integrating digital investigations into casebuilding

- ▶ At Europol, the Human Rights Center presented open source information evidencing war crimes in Ukraine that we found using methodologies detailed in the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations. The meeting was convened for open source investigation experts affiliated with Europol's Core International Crimes project, and aimed to ensure the highest possible quality of future collaborative work on collecting open source information focused on war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the context of the war in Ukraine.
- ▶ In November 2023, the French judiciary issued historic arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and three of his associates for the alleged use of chemical weapons in 2013 that killed more than one thousand civilians. The underlying investigation for complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes was initiated in April 2021 by our partners at Open Society Justice Initiative, the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, and the Syrian

Archive with support from ArcticWind and our TLP team. We led a team including Berkeley students to assist our partners by collecting digital open source information and evidence showing that the Syrian government violated international law in its attacks.

- ▶ We participated in the opening panel at the International Criminal Court's one-day event "Addressing Cyber-Enabled Crime through the Rome Statute." The session explored the latest trends of how cyberspace is being abused to commit or facilitate serious crimes, and highlighted the impact and implications of cyber-enabled crimes on human rights, justice, and accountability.
- ▶ We joined esteemed guests from international courts, states, academia, and civil society to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, in Italy. Program Director Lindsay Freeman spoke on a panel titled "Reinforcing Rome Statute Crimes" alongside an ICC Judge and Deputy Prosecutor, among others. This international conference culminated with the adoption of the Siracusa Declaration, reaffirming the commitment to strengthen the ICC and promote justice and human rights globally.

Spotlight

We co-hosted a roundtable titled "Looking Ahead: Emerging Technologies and Accountability for Core International Crimes" with the Center on National Security at Georgetown Law. This closed-door meeting brought together members of government, industry, and academia to engage on forward-looking issues in international justice and accountability that arise from technologies that are currently under development.

LEFT: TLP Director Lindsay Freeman (center) presented on cyberwarfare in Ukraine at RightsCon 2023 with Microsoft's Digital Diplomacy Team. U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack (L) introduced the event, which drew 60 attendees.



ABOVE: TLP Director Lindsay Freeman (center) participates in a roundtable on cyber threats at the International Criminal Court on January 22, 2024.

Co-Faculty Director and Investigations Program Director, Human Rights Center

Eric Stover

Co-Faculty Director, Human Rights Center

Volker Türk

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Investigations Program

Improving the quality of investigations into alleged violations of human rights, humanitarian, and international criminal law.

HIGHLIGHTS

Setting standards for digital investigations of conflict-related sexual violence

- ▶ Along with our partners at the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, we are working with a group of open source investigators, gender researchers, and experts on investigating sexual violence to develop a guide on how to create a victim-centered approach to online investigations of conflict-related sexual violence. After conducting a framing workshop and integrating feedback from project contributors into multiple drafts, we are close to finalizing the guide, which will be a companion to the Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, also known as the Murad Code after Nobel Laureate Nadia Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi human rights activist.

A global launch of the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations

- ▶ On February 13, 2024, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk

LEFT: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk (speaking) joined the Human Rights Center to officially launch the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations in all the languages of the United Nations on February 13, 2024. Türk spoke in conversation with HRC Co-Faculty Directors Alexa Koenig and Eric Stover (R) at the event.

joined the Human Rights Center to officially launch the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations, which sets international standards for using online information to investigate war crimes and human rights violations, in all six languages of the United Nations. The event, moderated by award-winning *Washington Post* investigative journalist Albert Samaha, featured an exclusive first look at how the Berkeley Protocol, first released in English in December 2020, is being used by professional investigators and HRC's researchers and students to investigate the potentially intentional blinding of protesters by security forces in Iran.



Co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig speaks on a panel with Oleksandra Matviichuk, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2022 Center for Civil Liberties; and Gauthier Vasseur, Executive Director Fisher Center for Business Analytics, about tracking war crimes in the AI era. Photo by Kateryna Akymenko.



(L-R): Jessica Peake, Alexa Koenig, and Sylvanna Falcón, respective directors of student investigations labs at the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA Law, the Human Rights Center at Berkeley Law, and the Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas, are the founding members of the University of California Digital Investigations Network. The Network is a research consortium across three campuses that trains diverse, interdisciplinary cohorts of students in digital open source investigation methodologies to monitor, document, and seek accountability for human rights crises in the United States and around the world.

Research

Reveal the scale and consequences of protests and university students in Iran. testimony, and data around internet in

Project aims to investigate crimes against the UN Fact Finding

Investigations Lab

Strengthening human rights investigations; developing student skills; and producing a pipeline of talent to the fields of technology, journalism, public policy, and law.

HIGHLIGHTS

Blinding of Iranian “Woman, Life, Freedom” protesters

- ▶ Our students identified and verified instances of roughly 120 people being blinded by Iranian security forces during Iran’s “Woman, Life, Freedom” protests in late 2022. This work is part of a larger investigation into violence against civilians by Iranian security forces by HRC, the Atlantic Council’s Strategic Litigation Project, Mnemonic, Amnesty International’s Digital Verification Corps, the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights, and the Azadi Archive. At the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council on March 19, 2024, HRC Co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig presented some of our team’s work documenting and verifying instances of intentional blindings of protesters and bystanders by security forces. Following the release of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran’s report to the U.N. Human Rights Council, our coalition formally launched the Iranian Archive. This archive, hosted by Mnemonic, forensically preserves more than 1.3 million pieces of open source digital

information related to the violent crackdowns against civilians by Iranian security forces during nationwide protests.

Investigating environmental crimes using digital open source tools

- ▶ As part of the University of California Digital Investigations Network — a collaboration between our Investigations Lab and sister labs at the UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights and the UCSC Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas — our students put together a guide on how to investigate environmental crimes using digital open source methodologies.

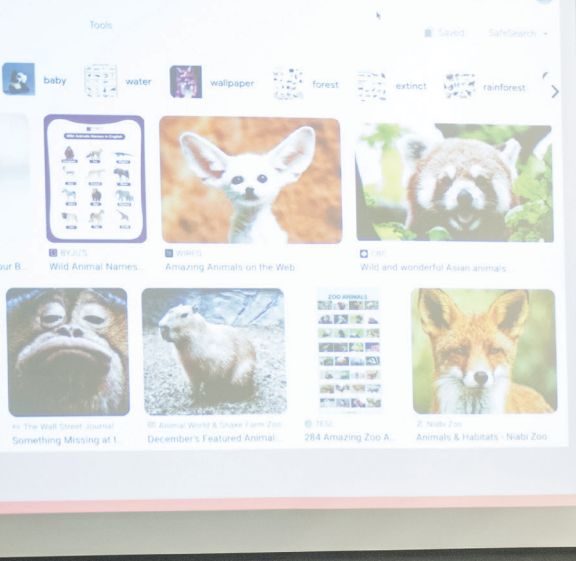


LEFT: Investigations Lab student Miyu Nagashima presents an investigation into violence against protesters in Iran at the annual student showcase on April 12, 2024.

ABOVE: The Iran Archive team celebrates at HRC’s annual student showcase on April 12, 2024.

Lab alumni spotlights

- ▶ **2020 graduate Devon Lum** has joined the *New York Times*’ Visual Investigations team through the prestigious *New York Times* fellowship program. During his time at HRC, Devon worked on investigations such as “Myanmar’s Junta using bodies to terrorize” and “Violence Against Health Care: Attacks During a Pandemic.” More recently, he was an open source researcher at Human Rights Watch, where he investigated the murder and abuse of Ethiopian migrants by Saudi Arabian border guards. Devon also worked on the HRC team as the Lab’s coordinator for one year.
- ▶ **2018 graduate Hannah Bagdasar** has joined the International Criminal Court’s Investigations Team as an associate analyst. Hannah was one of the founding students of HRC’s Investigations Lab in 2016. Prior to her current role, Hannah worked with Bellingcat as Lead Investigator for the Global Authentication Project and as an investigator in Bellingcat’s Justice & Accountability Unit. She has also worked as an analyst at a United Nations investigative mechanism.



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Open Source Investigative Reporting

Impact of palm oil and beef supply chains on communities and the environment in the Brazilian Amazon

For the last two years, our open source investigative reporting class — which unites students from Berkeley Journalism and Berkeley Law — has been investigating the impact of global palm oil and beef supply chains sourcing from the Brazilian Amazon. Our investigation is being conducted in partnership with the Pulitzer Center's Rainforest Investigations Network, and will be published in multiple formats later this year.

Open source workshops bring together leading investigative reporters for third year running

The Human Rights Center hosted the third annual Open Source Investigative Reporting Workshops in partnership with UC Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program. The event featured four hands-on workshops: Introduction to Open Source Investigative Reporting with Gisela Pérez de Acha and Sasha Schell; New Tools and Tactics for Conflict Reporting with Alexa Koenig, Joe Dyke, Emily Tripp, and Jackie Geis; Networks of Money and Power: How to Report on AI with Karen Hao and Lam Thuy Vo; and Investigating Digital Election Ads with Craig Silverman. The workshops were offered in collaboration with the 16th annual Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting.

LEFT: Sasha Schell (L) and Gisela Pérez de Acha (R) teach an introductory session on digital open source investigations at the third annual Open Source Investigative Reporting Workshops, held jointly with the Human Rights Center and Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program. Image courtesy of Luiz Monticelli.



Craig Silverman runs a session on investigating digital election advertisements at the third annual Open Source Investigative Reporting Workshops. Image courtesy of Luiz Monticelli.



Jackie Geis speaks alongside Alexa Koenig, Emily Tripp, and Joe Dyke for a session on conflict reporting at the third annual Open Source Investigative Reporting Workshops. Image courtesy of Luiz Monticelli.

Spotlights

Thank you Gisela Pérez de Acha, and welcome Sasha Schell

- Thank you to **Gisela Pérez de Acha**, who oversaw teams of student investigators and journalists as supervising reporter through her co-appointment at the Human Rights Center and Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program. Gisela led students on reporting that spanned from a shadow industry profiting off the deportation of Haitians from the United States to attacks on women's right to abortion and birth control. She will be working on independent projects, including a book co-authored with Alexa Koenig and David Barstow, and collaborating with our team on a digital investigations guide for journalists.
- We're thrilled to have **Sasha Schell** joining our team as supervising reporter! In the past year, Sasha has worked closely with HRC and the IRP to document the unseen human and environmental toll embedded in global food supply chains. His most recent work is centered on land conflict surrounding agriculture in the Brazilian Amazon.



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Professional Trainings

The Human Rights Center offers courses and workshops on digital open source investigations to human rights researchers, lawyers, analysts, investigators, and journalists worldwide. Our trainers teach the methodology found in the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations and Digital Witness: Using Open Source Information for Human Rights Investigation, Documentation and Accountability.

We use our first-hand experience conducting and supporting open source investigations in combination with research developed at HRC to engage participants through lecture, case studies, and hands-on exercises. In 2024, we hired longtime HRC collaborator Brian Nguyen to lead our professional training program.

In 2023 and 2024, we conducted trainings with the following organizations (for safety reasons, several confidential organizations are not listed):

- Afghanistan Human Rights Coordination Mechanism - Documentation Working Group
- The Associated Press
- The International Center for Transitional Justice
- The International Criminal Court

- Institute for International Criminal Investigations
- Iranian Archive
- Los Medanos
- Conflict Observatory
- The University of Chicago Law School's Global Human Rights Clinic
- The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights
- UCSC Dolores Huerta Research Center for the Americas
- University of Virginia
- Yale University

Training for long term impact

In partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice, we trained 20 journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders from Libya on digital open source investigation methodologies in Tunisia in October 2023. In July 2024, we reconvened the group to deliver an advanced curriculum, and delivered a Training of Trainers course to scale up the ability of those closest to conflicts to organize and conduct their own investigations.



Brian Nguyen leads a session at an advanced digital open source investigations training in Tunis, Tunisia with members of Libyan and Tunisian civil society held by the Human Rights Center with the International Center for Transitional Justice. Image courtesy of Abdelrhman Zayid.

LEFT: Participants from Libyan and Tunisian civil society at an advanced digital open source investigations training in Tunis, Tunisia held by the Human Rights Center with the International Center for Transitional Justice. Image courtesy of Abdelrhman Zayid.

Protecting the Rights of Humans in a Changing Climate



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Climate Justice Program

Addressing the human impacts of extreme weather made more severe by climate change.

HIGHLIGHTS

As the climate changes, the prevalence and ferocity of extreme weather events — severe heat waves, torrential rains, alarming floods, extensive droughts, and destructive wildfires — are increasing. Such events drastically affect peoples' lives — their health, livelihood, housing, access to food and clean water, and personal security. This year, HRC launched a Climate Justice program to address the enormous impacts of climate change on human beings.

California agricultural workers in wildfires

As climate change exacerbates extreme fires across the state, California legislators have amended state law to address how agricultural work is regulated during wildfires. Recent legislation enables counties to implement work authorization programs that allow agricultural work to continue in wildfire evacuation zones. This change expands work opportunities for farmworkers but harms their physical health by exposing them to smoke, heat, and chemicals. Risks to farmworkers can be exacerbated by a lack of coordination between county and state governments, and failure to engage directly with impacted communities' needs. These risks compound already existing vulnerabilities agricultural workers experience based on their

socioeconomic position, educational background, and immigration status.

The Human Rights Center is assessing existing protections in place in California as well as the needs of agricultural workers to strengthen protections for their health, safety, data privacy, and economic security during wildfires. This study incorporates extensive stakeholder engagement and a three-pronged analysis that includes a legal and policy review, a data protection assessment, and a public health survey of 1,000 farmworkers about their experiences working in wildfires. The public health survey was conducted under the leadership of and in collaboration with UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. We are assessing the efficacy of existing protections through the case study of Sonoma County, the first county in the state to implement the new evacuation legislation through the Agricultural Access Verification Card (Ag Pass) Program. We are studying the Ag Pass Program's implementation; evaluating the acceptance and viability of the program; analyzing the program's impacts on the data privacy of workers who provide personal data to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to register for the Ag Pass; economic incentives and potential disaster pay accommodations; and short and long term health impacts experienced by workers from work in wildfire evacuation zones. We are developing recommendations in collaboration with a community engagement team and relevant



Agricultural workers prepare for harvest during a wildfire in King City, California on September 11, 2020. Image courtesy of United Farm Workers.

stakeholders to strengthen such rights for farmworkers of the county and state.

Forced migration due to climate change

We are working in collaboration with a team of Berkeley Law students to develop novel legal case theories in support of Our Children's Trust to bring cases in jurisdictions worldwide on behalf of youth plaintiffs for human rights violations resulting from climate displacement. While climate displacement can impact peoples' rights to health, livelihood, education, property, and life, we will first be developing case theories where litigation can be brought on behalf of youth plaintiffs where climate displacement has exposed them to sexual and gender-based violence. Our goal is to contribute to the successful litigation against states, both national and subnational, whose failures to stem climate migration led to human rights violations.

LEFT: Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken leads a multidisciplinary discussion on climate change at the Rossmoor Human Rights Forum on November 5, 2023.

2024 STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

BERKELEY HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER



Student Fellowship Program

Training, funding, and supporting students to work with human rights organizations around the world.

The Human Rights Center's most lasting impact is the cultivation and encouragement of future leaders. Investing in our students means investing in the future of human rights. For the last 31 years, our fellows have provided crucial skills and support to frontline organizations across the globe, gaining invaluable experience in the field as they do so.

Our students come from a range of disciplines across campus including law, journalism, public health, public policy, sociology, and information technology. This year, they are pursuing projects ranging from exposing the consequences of greenwashing for small farming communities in Colombia to studying the impact of severe occupational heat exposure in Bangladesh, reunifying migrant families separated at the U.S. / Mexico border, and advocating for legal protections for the LGBTQI+ Romani community in Hungary, among others.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The 2024 student fellowship cohort is the first to pair all fellows with alumni mentors working in similar fields of practice. We launched our fellowship mentoring program last year to strengthen our fellow support system during their fieldwork, foster professional connections, and engage our fellowship community in a meaningful way.
- ▶ The 2023 student fellows presented their research, field work, and reporting from their summers during the annual Human Rights Fellowship Conference this past October. They worked on urgent human rights issues including global press freedom, upending the persecution of Hazara women in Afghanistan, access to clean water in California's central valley, reproductive health of Rohingya refugee women living in Bangladesh, and much more.

2024 Fellows: AJ Kurdi, Ash Cornejo, Cara Schulte, Ifsha Zehra, Jenae Carpenter, Joy Omeiza, Jesus Alejandro Garcia, Marion Apio, Dr. Naureen Mirza-George, Sabreen Tuku, Shavar Martin, Yvette Vargas



(L-R) 2024 student fellows AJ Kurdi, Marion Apio, and Sabreen Tuku meet at fellowship orientation on April 12, 2024.



Mulika Musyimi and Gabriel Lazo laugh with other 2023 student fellows at the 2023 Human Rights Fellowship Conference. Image courtesy of Brittany Hosea-Small.

Special Projects

Human rights assessment of generative AI

Digital technologies have touched every facet of society from personal communication to public discourse, and are entering a new phase with the advent of generative artificial intelligence. Generative AI has the potential to generate text, images, and other media at an unprecedented speed and scale. However, despite its growing influence, there is an absence of public-facing research and analysis of the impact and potential impact these models have on human rights. HRC is currently conducting a human rights assessment of Large Language Models (LLMs). Our human rights assessment has two parts. The first is a human rights impact assessment of the use of LLMs by educators, legal professionals, and journalists in their work, which includes interviews of experts and practitioners around the world, a review of relevant literature, and an assessment of the human rights risks and opportunities of using LLMs in these three fields. We are pairing this with a model evaluation of ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and LLaMA to surface the risks of investigative journalists using LLMs in their work. We will produce recommendations for companies developing LLMs, policymakers, and industry groups to better minimize human rights risks and maximize human rights opportunities.

Preparing Ukrainians to participate in future peace negotiations

We collaborate with the United Nations Institute on Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) on advising parties to conflict and likely participants in international peace negotiations. This work builds upon over a decade of experience working on UN-mediated peace and ceasefire negotiations in Darfur, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Ukraine. Last year, UNITAR invited us to train women diplomatic leaders from Ukraine's Academy of Diplomacy on international frameworks requiring the involvement of women in peace negotiation efforts. In collaboration with PILPG, we are advising Ukrainian players on issues relevant to resolving Russia's invasion. We also organized and moderated a virtual event with three former members of the Syrian opposition's negotiation delegation to highlight lessons learned which may help future Ukrainian negotiators.



Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken spoke on a panel titled “Advancing Human Dignity: Exploring the Intersection of Business, Human Rights, and ESG Compliance” at the 2024 Stefan A. Riesenfeld produced by the Berkeley Journal of International Law on April 10, 2024.



Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken spoke on a panel about the responsible use of technology at the inaugural UC Berkeley Tech Policy Summit on March 7, 2024.

Scholars at Risk

The Human Rights Center has hosted many scholars over its thirty years of research. Some of these individuals were persecuted in their countries of origin, and came to HRC for refuge and opportunity to continue their important work.

- ▶ In April 2024, **Omar Gómez Trejo** joined the Human Rights Center as our newest visiting scholar. Omar previously served as the lead prosecutor investigating the 2014 disappearance of 43 missing students from Ayotzinapa, Mexico, and is spending his time with HRC writing and teaching about what he has learned and what more is left to do to secure justice and accountability in Mexico.



Omar Gómez Trejo (right) and his wife Helen Kerwin, clinical supervising attorney at the Berkeley Law International Human Rights Law Clinic, Gómez Trejo's mother and brother, and his mother-in-law (on the phone) celebrate his arrival at the Human Rights Center at a welcome lunch.

- ▶ In August 2021, following the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the city of Kabul fell to Taliban forces. In the days and weeks following, thousands of people attempted to flee Afghanistan. With the UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor, UC Berkeley Afghan Student Association, San Jose State University Human Rights Institute, and the Scholars at Risk organization, the Human Rights Center created an emergency evacuation and placement program for professionals at risk of Taliban violence. We had the privilege of hosting three scholars and their families. Although their fellowships have ended, we have continued to support them both with financial, legal, and research assistance.

Khwaga Ghani, a journalist who has worked with National Public Radio, the *New York Times*, and Amnesty International, among others. In May 2024, Khwaga graduated with a Master's in Journalism from Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. She is co-founding an Afghan women's media collective to continue telling stories of Afghan women living under Taliban rule.

Maria Raheen, a journalist and academic focused on women's issues and media freedom. Maria is finishing her research project documenting the history of political and social change in Afghanistan, and how it has impacted Afghan women.

Hon. Basira Qazizada, a judge who previously sat on Kabul's Commercial Primary Court. In May 2024, Basira graduated with a Masters of Laws degree from UC Berkeley School of Law.



Former scholar-at-risk Judge Basira Qazizada graduated with an LL.M. degree from Berkeley Law on May 10, 2024.

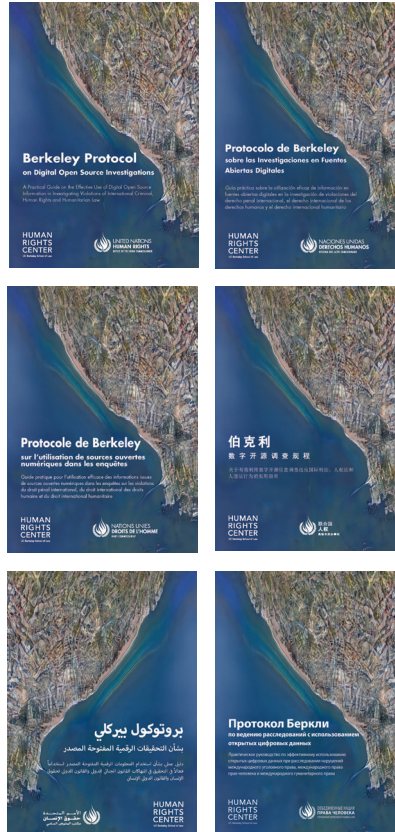
Publications

Spotlights

► Evaluating Digital Open Source Imagery: A Guide for Judges and Fact-Finders

This guide, based largely on the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations, is intended to assist judges and other decision makers in their assessment of open source photographs and videos during investigations, and is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Ukrainian. It is organized around several key issues that a court or fact-finding body may need to address in their own evaluation of open source imagery evidence, including determining the authenticity of the digital image, and analyzing relevant metadata, source, location, and time information. The guide is the result of a collaboration between HRC and leading institutions including Queen Mary University of London, Open Society Justice Initiative, WITNESS, Mnemonic, Swansea University, University of Essex, University of Oxford, and the Hertie School Centre for Fundamental Rights.

The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations was officially published and launched in all languages of the United Nations in 2024.



► Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives

HRC Co-Faculty and Investigations Director Alexa Koenig and former HRC Associate Director Andrea Lampros published the book “Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives” in September 2023. Drawing on the latest social science research, interviews, and their experiences co-founding and running the Human Rights Center’s Investigations Lab, Koenig and Lampros provide practical tips for maximizing the benefits and minimizing the harms of being online. Timely and urgent, “Graphic” helps audiences navigate the unprecedented psychological implications of the digital age. Koenig and Lampros launched the book with a conversation moderated by former PBS Newshour Correspondent Elizabeth Farnsworth at the Human Rights Center in December 2023. Koenig launched the book in England at Queen Mary University of London and in Wales at Swansea University in May 2024. Over the last year, the co-authors were interviewed for articles in *Berkeley News*, the Global Investigative Journalism Network, the Reuters Institute, and Berkeley Law, among others. They were featured on the podcasts *World Affairs* and *Voices Carry*, and published op-eds in *TIME Magazine* and *Greater Good Magazine*.



(L-R) Co-authors of “Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives” Andrea Lampros and Alexa Koenig are joined by Elizabeth Farnsworth at a launch event for the book on December 7, 2023.

This year's publications

Authored / co-authored by HRC faculty, staff, fellows:

- **Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations:** Arabic, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian (Berkeley Human Rights Center, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights)
- **Ethical Considerations for Open-Source Investigations into International Crimes** (A. Koenig)
- **Family and Me (FAM) 2.0: A New Model of Foster Care for Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation in San Francisco (Evaluation 1)** (J. Freccero, M. Austin, A. Taylor, A. Montoya)
- **Family and Me (FAM) 2.0: A New Model of Foster Care for Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation in San Francisco (Evaluation 2)** (M. Austin, A. Montoya, C. Walter)
- **Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives** (A. Koenig, A. Lampros)
- **Links in the Chain: How the Berkeley Protocol is Strengthening Digital Investigation Standards in International Justice** (A. Koenig, L. Freeman)
- **How to Stop Doomscrolling and Find Meaning on Social Media** (A. Koenig, A. Lampros)
- **Merging Responsibilities: Ethical Considerations for Securing Consent in Open-Source Investigations of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**, *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (A. Koenig, A. Ghaly, S. Levine)

- **'Nor Is It Neutral': New Technologies and the International Criminal Court** (A. Koenig, L. Freeman)
- **Nourishing the Heart with Helia Sadeghi** (M. Andresen)
- **Seeing Through the Fog: The Impact of Information Operations on War Crimes Investigations in Ukraine** (L. Freeman)
- **Pride in Supporting LGBTQI+ Children in Humanitarian Emergencies** (J. Freccero, A. Taylor)
- **Strengthening Faith in Facts: International Verification Standards for Open Source Videos** (A. Koenig)
- **The Role of International Justice in Cyber Defense and Deterrence** (L. Freeman)
- **The Use of Technology to Monitor Human Rights Violations and to Bring Perpetrators to Justice** (A. Koenig)
- **Climate Candor: Ridding Climate Cases of Questionable Science** (A. Koenig, B. Sakuikaruna-ar-ree)
- **11 Tips for Protecting Yourself From Upsetting Images on Social Media** (A. Koenig, A. Lampros)

Authored by students:

- **Mapping our Environmental Footprint: The OSINT Forest Tracker as a Case Study for Digital Investigations of Environmental Crimes** (R. Foulds, N. Purewal, M. Cordellini, C. Tong, M. Nagashima)
- **Scars on the Land: Honoring the Lives and Investigating the Deaths of Indigenous Land Defenders** (V. Raman, A. Montoya, R. Foulds, C. Choi, Z. Long)

Wider collaboration:

- **Critical Condition: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict**, in collaboration with Safeguarding Health in Conflict, Insecurity Insight, Physicians for Human Rights, Save the Children International, Human Rights Watch, and many others.
- **Evaluating Digital Open Source Imagery: A Guide for Judges and Fact-Finders**, in collaboration with WITNESS; Open Society Justice Initiative; Swansea University; Queen Mary University of London; Mnemonic; Hertie School, and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at University of Oxford.
- **The Next 25: A Collection of Essays on The Future of Human Rights**, in collaboration with Article 3.org.
- **The Use of Open Source Investigation Methods in Tracking Environmental Harm**, in collaboration with the UC Digital Investigations Network.



Events

Every year, the Human Rights Center participates in dozens of events with collaborators and partners to share our work with the world.

- HRC presented in more than 30 conferences, summits, panels, workshops, webinars, roundtables, and other events.
- HRC fully produced or co-produced more than 25 events both on and off campus.



Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover presents on the history of international law at the Rossmoor Human Rights Forum on November 5, 2023.

LEFT: Our Children's Trust Chief Legal Counsel Julia Olson (L) is joined by (R-L) Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken; Climate Justice program Manager Linda Gordon; and Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment Executive Director Louise Bedsworth for a conversation with about climate change in California at Berkeley Law on April 16, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

Two Climate Justice program events with Our Children's Trust

- ▶ In February 2024, Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken spoke at Berkeley Law with Kelly Matheson of Our Children's Trust, the legal nonprofit behind *Juliana v. the United States*, *Genesis v. EPA*, and the victorious *Held v. Montana* and *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation* settlement, among other constitutional climate cases filed on behalf of youth plaintiffs around the country and the world. Matheson discussed the nonprofit's approach to climate litigation representing youth plaintiffs with Popken. In March 2024, HRC hosted a panel event at Berkeley Law on climate change's impact on California's people, environment, and future with Julia Olson of Our Children's Trust, HRC's Betsy Popken and Linda Gordon, and the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment's Louise Bedsworth. Gordon, manager of the Human Rights Center's Climate Justice program, described the importance of engaging communities in HRC's California Wildfires project, and Olson, chief legal counsel for Our Children's Trust, discussed a new California climate youth plaintiff case on harmful air pollution.

RIGHT: President of the International Criminal Court Judge Piotr Hofmański participated in a public discussion with HRC Co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig at Berkeley Law on October 5, 2023.

International Criminal Court President Hofmański joins HRC at Berkeley Law

- ▶ In October 2023, International Criminal Court President Judge Piotr Hofmański participated in a public discussion with HRC Co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig about contemporary challenges in international criminal law, the relationship between the ICC and the United States, and threats to global human rights. The talk brought together more than 200 UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff, and community members at Berkeley Law. HRC Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover introduced the event, highlighting HRC's history of working in partnership with the ICC on establishing secure ways of handling witnesses and victims of atrocity crimes. HRC has also trained members of the ICC in the analysis, collection, preservation, and use of digital open source evidence in the pursuit of international legal accountability through our professional training program, which is based on the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations.





Human Rights Classes

Health and Human Rights

School of Public Health
Rohini Haar, Eric Stover

Human Rights Research and Practice

Legal Studies
Rohini Haar, Eric Stover

Human Rights and Social Justice Writing Workshop

School of Law
Alexa Koenig, Eric Stover

Human Rights and War Crimes Investigations

Legal Studies
Alexa Koenig, Eric Stover

International Peace Negotiations

School of Law
Betsy Popken

Open Source Investigative Reporting I

School of Journalism
Alexa Koenig, David Barstow, Gisela Pérez de Acha

Open Source Investigative Reporting II

School of Journalism
Alexa Koenig, David Barstow, Gisela Pérez de Acha

Technology & Human Rights

School of Law
Betsy Popken



Students from the Open Source Investigative Reporting class, held by the Human Rights Center and Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting program, learn the basics of open source research on January 20, 2024.

Spotlight

International Peace Negotiations

Taught by Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken, this course explored how international law guides international peace negotiations of conflicts around the world, drawing from her personal experience working on negotiations of conflicts in Syria, Darfur, and Yemen. Each class focused on substantive and procedural issues affiliated with peace negotiations, and welcomed one or more guest speakers with first-hand experience negotiating in different places around the world.



Co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig (center) is joined by Investigations Lab alumnae Andrea Richardson (L) and Haley Willis (R) of the *New York Times* for a session with 2023–2024 Investigations Lab students on October 18, 2023. Richardson now collaborates with our Investigations program as a senior legal researcher.

LEFT: Students attend a conversation on climate change at Berkeley Law held by the Human Rights Center and Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment on April 16, 2024.



Our Appreciation

Spotlights

Welcoming Kelly Matheson and Lisa Reinsberg to our Advisory Board

Kelly Matheson runs the global work for Our Children's Trust, a legal nonprofit representing youth plaintiffs around the world in constitutional cases advocating for their right to a healthy climate. Lisa Reinsberg is an international human rights lawyer and the founding Executive Director of the International Justice Resource Center, which informs and advises advocates around the world.

Thank you Maja Kristin!

Longtime HRC champion and philanthropist Maja Kristin has made an exceptional gift to the Human Rights Center, donating \$3,000,000 to support HRC's work empowering women and girls. Her gifts to HRC over the past twelve years exceed \$5 million. "We cannot express enough gratitude for Maja's transformational gift. Her commitment to advancing human rights is truly extraordinary and awe-inspiring," said co-Faculty and Investigations program Director Alexa Koenig. "Her remarkable generosity will create lasting impact not only for HRC, but for the global communities we serve."

Thank you to the following foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support:

- Afghan Challenge Fund
- Berkeley Collegium
- California Department of Social Services
- Commission for International Justice and Accountability
- Department on the Status of Women
- Institute for International Criminal Investigations
- International Center for Transitional Justice
- Lois & Irving Blum Foundation
- Microsoft
- Miller Fund
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
- Public Interest Technology University Network
- Robert & Shirley Harris Family Foundation
- Save the Children
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Student Technology Fund
- TarverWalls Foundation
- The Maisel Foundation
- UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives
- US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Advisory Board

Carolyn Patty Blum	Art Reingold
Richard M. Buxbaum	Lisa Reinsberg
Henry Erlich	Robert J. Rosenthal
Hany Farid	Patricia Viseur Sellers
Elizabeth Farnsworth	Miranda Sissons
Deborah Goldblatt	Gerson H. Smoger Darian
Dr. Rohini Haar	Weltman Swig Hon.
Adam Hochschild	Rebecca Westerfield Dr.
Kelly Matheson	Thomas J. White



HRC Advisory Board member and Professor Emeritus Dick Buxbaum speaks about the history of international law at the Rossmoor Human Rights Forum on November 5, 2023.

LEFT: HRC Advisory Board member Gerson Smoger attends the official launch of the Berkeley Protocol at Berkeley Law on February 13, 2024.



Our Team

Staff

Maggie Andresen, *Editorial Manager and Lead Writer*
Michaela Austin, *Program Coordinator, Health and Human Rights Program*
Alexey Berlind, *Associate Director, Student Fellowship and Events*
Annie Canizares Chávez, *Administrative Associate*
Julie Freccero, *Director, Health and Human Rights Program*
Lindsay Freeman, *Director, Technology, Law & Policy Program*
Linda Gordon, *Manager, Climate Justice Program*
Alan Iijima, *Development Manager*
Alexa Koenig, *Co-Faculty Director; Director, Investigations Program*
Sofia Kooner, *Investigations Lab Coordinator*
Brian Nguyen, *Open Source Training Manager*
Betsy Popken, *Executive Director; Director, Climate Justice Program*
Olivia Rizk, *Communications, Development, and Events Assistant*
Sasha Schell, *Supervising Reporter*
Eric Stover, *Co-Faculty Director*

Researchers

Camille Chabot / Danil Cuffe / Ceren Fitoz /
Amanda Ghahremani / Lene Guercke /
Nathaniel Kavaler / Ana Linares Montoya /
Vyoma Raman / Andrea Richardson / Helia Sadeghi /
Audrey Taylor / Leila Younes

LEFT: (L-R) HRC's Alan Iijima, Brian Nguyen, Annie Canizares Chávez, Ceren Fitoz, and Olivia Rizk at the launch event for "Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives" on December 7, 2023.

Scholars at Risk

Omar Gómez Trejo

We're pleased to welcome the following new staff members to our team!

Annie Canizares Chávez, *Administrative Associate*
Linda Gordon, *Manager, Climate Justice Program*
Sasha Schell, *Supervising Reporter*

We're thrilled to reintroduce the following team members who have changed their roles at the Human Rights Center:

Brian Nguyen
– Formerly: *Research Manager*
– Now: *Open Source Training Manager*
Alexey Berlind
– Formerly: *Fellowship, Programs, and Events Coordinator*
– Now: *Associate Director, Student Fellowship and Events*
Betsy Popken
– Formerly: *Executive Director*
– Now: *Executive Director; Director, Climate Justice Program*

A heartfelt thank you to the following former team members for their outstanding work with HRC and for all they will continue to do to advance human rights:

Khwaga Ghani, *Scholar*
Gisela Pérez de Acha, *Supervising Reporter*
Basira Qazizada, *Scholar*
Maria Raheen, *Scholar*

Spotlight

Announcing our inaugural Richard Buxbaum Global Justice fellow!

We're thrilled to share that Brian Nguyen, our open source training manager, has been named as the inaugural recipient of the Richard Buxbaum Global Justice Fellowship after Professor Richard Buxbaum. For the past 63 years, Professor Buxbaum has advocated for and defended student protestors, conscientious objectors, and strikers that give UC Berkeley its rich history of outspoken student activism. From bailing out students during the Free Speech Movement, representing Third World Liberation Front strikers and students protesting the Vietnam War, litigating in support of affirmative action for students, and laying the groundwork for reparations for Holocaust survivors, Professor Buxbaum has been a staunch defender of human rights movements on campus and worldwide. The Richard Buxbaum Global Justice Fellowship will be awarded to one or more recent graduates or current students of UC Berkeley to conduct investigations or research at the Human Rights Center. Through their work, we hope to continue Professor Buxbaum's legacy of mentorship, impact, and action.



Human Rights Center staff celebrates Brian Nguyen (front right) as the inaugural recipient of the Richard Buxbaum Global Justice Fellowship with Professor Richard Buxbaum (front left) in May 2024.



Our Students



Investigations Lab alumna and HRC Technology Researcher Vyoma Raman speaks at a fireside chat with Executive Director and Climate Justice program Director Betsy Popken and European Center for Not-for-Profit Law's Vanja Skoric and Marlena Wisniak on human rights and AI.

Graduate Student Researchers

Anthony Ghaly
Sasha Schell
Sophie Lombardo
Linda Gordon
Cassie Walter

Investigations Lab Lead Undergraduate Student Researchers

Bhalpriya Sandhu	Chris Hoeft
Sofia Schnurer	Ana Zolotova
Rosie Foulds	Anna Diaz
Maddi Wong	Megan Lee
Melinda Zou	

LEFT: Investigations Lab alumnus Chris Hoeft was one of two Lab students selected to join Amnesty International's Digital Verification Corps summit with other students from DVC partner universities in Berlin, Germany for several days in September 2023. Students met with investigators from Amnesty International, Forensic Architecture, and Human Rights Watch, and brainstormed how to better engage the student cohort.

Student Spotlight

Our GSR Linda Gordon has joined our team as manager of the Climate Justice program! Linda graduated from Berkeley Law in May 2024, where she focused on impact litigation, advocacy, and research in the context of climate justice, environmental health, and labor law. Before law school, Linda worked as the grant program coordinator at the Impact Fund, funding social, economic, and environmental justice impact litigation.



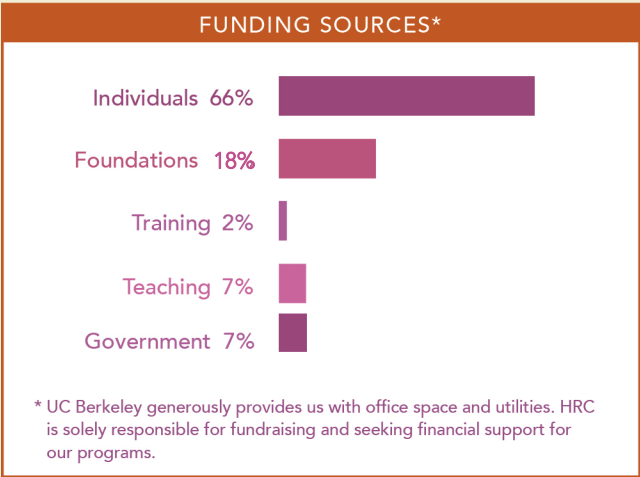
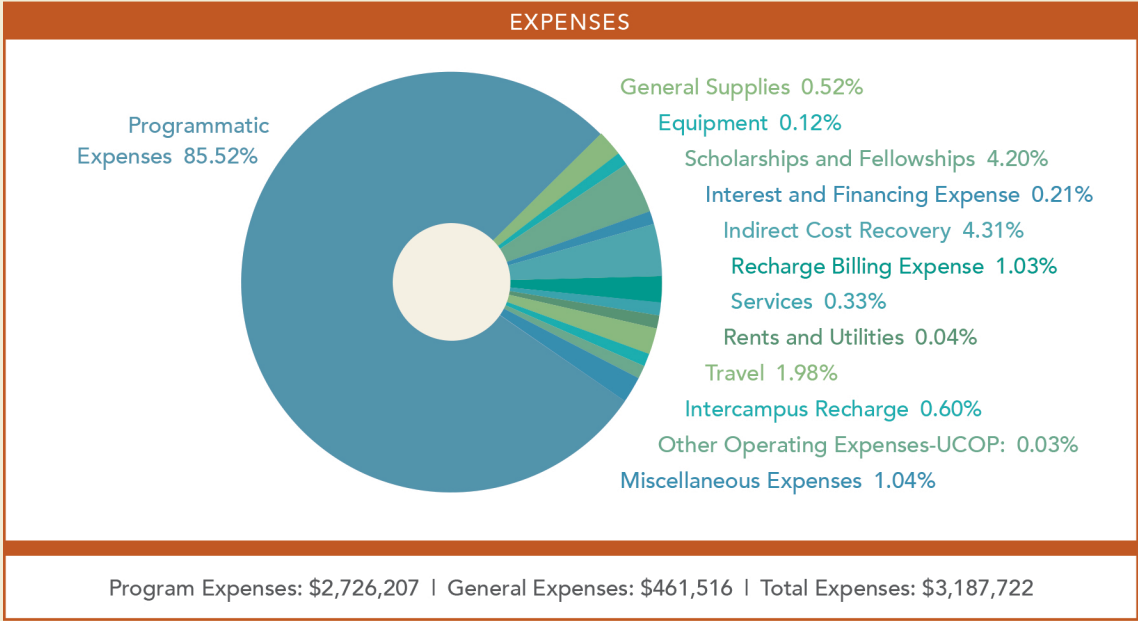
Understanding of Protestors Standards in Iran



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CENTER

By the Numbers

Financial Report 2024–2025



LEFT: Students Ali Mousavi and Sabreen Tuku chat before presenting on an investigation into violence against protesters in Iran at the annual student showcase on April 12, 2024.

“You have the 30-year anniversary of an amazing center that has really inspired so many human rights activists, human rights defenders, journalists, and people around the world.”

—VOLKER TÜRK, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS