

ANNUAL REPORT

2004

HUMAN

RIGHTS

WATCH



ANNUAL REPORT

2004

Human Rights Watch is dedicated to **protecting the human rights** of people around the world. We stand with victims and activists to **bring offenders to justice**, to prevent discrimination, to uphold political freedom and to protect people from inhumane conduct in wartime. We investigate and **expose human rights violations** and hold abusers accountable. We **challenge governments** and those holding power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law. We **enlist the public** and the international community to support the cause of human rights for all.



Front Cover:

Displaced from their home in Darfur, Sudan, these young Sudanese refugees now live in makeshift shelters in Chad.

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A family returns to their home in Hazarajat, Afghanistan. Nearly half a million people from the Hazara ethnic group fled their homes in the country's central highlands to escape decades of civil war and brutal treatment by the Taliban. Many of the main commanders and political faction leaders implicated in the crimes of the past are today officials in the Afghan government.

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We live in an age of “spin.” Increasingly, it seems, public relations has taken the place of truth and fact. Human Rights Watch knows well what this is like.

As you will see in this annual report of our work, governments commit abuses and try to hide them. People in authority evade responsibility for their actions. Officials gloss over mistreatment. Global citizens are deceived, their concerns dismissed.

Human Rights Watch believes in the moral responsibility to tell the truth. We do it every day. We're scrupulous about our fact-finding. We're careful in our advocacy. We don't mind being called sober. The world demands sobriety of us.

It's not easy being principled. We make enemies in the process. We alienate people in power. We offend those who are partisan. We refuse to cling to nationalistic or ideological positions. We believe in being fair. We take justice seriously.

Our work shows this seriousness. In the past year, Human Rights Watch confronted a human rights and humanitarian crisis of epic proportions in western Sudan. We worked to counter efforts by the Sudanese government to minimize our findings of ethnic cleansing. We did everything in our power to make our voices heard, to demand action, to dispute rhetoric, to end violence. We succeeded to some extent, but we have much more to do.

We expressed horror at the photographs of torture at Abu Ghraib and called for an appropriate government response. The actions so far taken, while significant, are still insufficient. They do not inspire trust in the U.S. government to own up to abuses that could well amount to war crimes. The U.S. government cannot expect to be a global leader if it lacks moral principles. It cannot speak of freedom credibly. It invites international condemnation, not support. Such behavior does a disservice to Americans and to people worldwide.

Human Rights Watch has argued that corruption, particularly in connection to the extraction of natural resources, is not only dishonest and illegal, but also impedes the socio-economic development to which all people are entitled. Our work in Angola this year demonstrated that the government could run from publicizing information about its oil revenues, but it could not hide. The International Monetary Fund has adopted our argument that Angola must be transparent about its use of oil revenues, else create an environment inhospitable to investment and human rights. It, too, now cares about the truth.

More people, it seems, are questioning to whom non-profit organizations are accountable. We find that question easy to answer. We are accountable to the people who plead to us for help, to the activists who ask us for protection, to the journalists who seek out our first-hand information, to the policymakers who need advice, and to people everywhere who know that Human Rights Watch plays a vital role in ensuring that governments are indeed by the people and for the people. We are proud to lead an organization that prizes and practices honesty and accountability.



JANE OLSON, *Chair*



KENNETH ROTH, *Executive Director*

DARFUR A HUMAN RIGHTS CATASTROPHE

I worked in Darfur nearly twenty years ago providing humanitarian assistance—shelter, food, water, and medicine—to refugees who had fled from war and drought in Chad into neighboring Sudan. It was truly a daunting challenge. Mortality and malnutrition rates were high. The size, remoteness and poor infrastructure of Darfur made delivering aid incredibly difficult.

Text continues on page 9



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUNO STEVENS | TEXT BY IAIN LEVINE



A Sudanese refugee in Chad carries the body of nine-month old Hafiz Malik Yaya to his burial. The infant died of malnutrition.

DARFUR A HUMAN RIGHTS CATASTROPHE



(above) Family and friends mourn the death of a 21-year old Sudanese refugee killed during a Janjaweed cross border attack into Chad.

(right) A Sudanese refugee in Chad.



Photo Essay | Darfur—A Human Rights Catastrophe



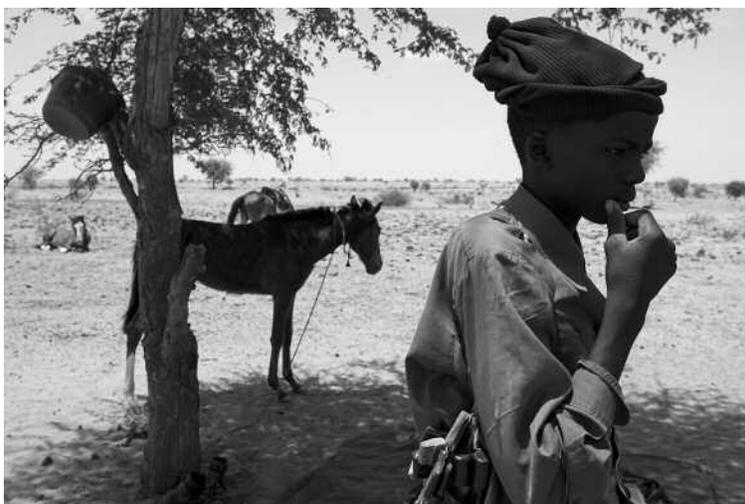
(above) A group of Janjaweed militiamen distribute uniforms to the village men under the supervision of a Sudanese police officer (fourth from right).

(right) The graves of two villagers killed a day earlier during a Janjaweed militia incursion.

(below) Zaghawa militia members protect herds of cattle from the repeated incursions of the Janjaweed militias over the border with Sudan.



(below) People forced from their homes.



(above) A child soldier in the Sudanese Liberation Army.



(above) A child's drawing on the door of a school depicts bombing by helicopter gunships.



DARFUR A HUMAN RIGHTS CATASTROPHE

Today, Darfur is suffering again. But, this time the situation is even more difficult. Darfurians are being forced to flee in search of security and life-saving assistance. Not because of drought, but in response to a human rights catastrophe characterized by acts of great violence and brutality against civilians. And, in that respect, this crisis is far harder to solve. Those affected need both aid and protection. But the international community has responded too slowly.

Our challenge at Human Rights Watch has been to try and shock the conscience of the international community and to demand a greater response to the human rights violations and humanitarian consequences of ethnic cleansing in Darfur.

Text continues on page 13



(above) Sudanese Liberation Army members in Terbeba, a village destroyed and looted by Janjaweed militia.

(right) Sudanese refugees prepare to bury Hafiz Malik Yaya.





DARFUR A HUMAN RIGHTS CATASTROPHE

Our researchers this year went several times to eastern Chad and western Sudan to conduct interviews with victims and witnesses. We uncovered grave abuses—murder, pillaging, and rape—and brought them to the attention of the international community. We showed that the violence in Darfur was not random; documents and personal testimony revealed clearly that it was the work of the Sudanese government and its proxy militia known as the Janjaweed. The government encouraged the Janjaweed to engage in a campaign of killing, sexual violence, and ethnic cleansing.

To stop these heinous crimes, we pressured the U.N. Security Council to hold Sudan accountable. Knowing that the leadership in Khartoum feared the prospect of war-crimes trials, we pushed for an international commission of inquiry to collect evidence of atrocities in Darfur.

Ending the human rights violations in Darfur proved to be an uphill battle. But there have been some successes. Our on-site investigations, intensive press work, and high-level government meetings helped put this crisis on the agenda of policymakers and the public. Our reporting and advocacy helped persuade the U.N. Security Council to order the Sudanese government to disarm the militia, end impunity for its atrocities, and guarantee humanitarian access to civilians. The Security Council did, in fact, support the creation of an international commission of inquiry, as we had recommended. Feeling the global heat, Sudan has eased restrictions on humanitarian access to those in need in Darfur.

But the Sudanese government has not disarmed or disbanded the Janjaweed, let alone begun to hold them accountable for their crimes. And Khartoum, with allies in the United Nations, has managed to prevent a protective force and to escape sanctions, which Human Rights Watch has also recommended.

As I reflect on the photos in this essay and see the quiet dignity of those affected by the crisis despite the awful experiences they have lived through, I find myself instantly transformed back nearly 20 years. Though the work of Human Rights Watch is very different from the work I did in those days, there has been a common goal: to transform our moral outrage into effective action that protects life, alleviates suffering, and demands justice. The crisis in Darfur this year showed how inextricably tied are human rights and humanitarian efforts.

Iain Levine, Human Rights Watch's program director, worked for many years at UNICEF, first in the field in Sudan and Mozambique, and then in the organization's emergency unit, where he brought a human rights perspective to UNICEF's humanitarian work.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | **Programs**



Sudanese refugees from Darfur, who made their way across the border into Chad, board a UNHCR vehicle that will take them to a refugee camp.

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- Human Rights Watch Offices

LIST OF ALL COUNTRIES REPORTED ON FROM JULY 2003–JUNE 2004

AFRICA

Angola
Burundi
Cote D'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of
Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya

Liberia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

AMERICAS

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Haiti
Jamaica
Mexico
Peru
United States
Venezuela

ASIA

Afghanistan
Australia
Bangladesh
Burma
Cambodia
China
East Timor
India
Indonesia
Malaysia

Nepal
North Korea
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vietnam



EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA

Armenia
 Azerbaijan
 Belarus
 Belgium
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Croatia
 Denmark
 France
 Georgia
 Germany
 Greece
 Kazakhstan
 Kyrgyzstan
 Former Yugoslav Republic
 of Macedonia

The Netherlands
 Russia and Chechnya
 Serbia and Montenegro
 Slovak Republic
 Spain
 Sweden
 Tajikistan
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Ukraine
 United Kingdom
 Uzbekistan

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

Algeria
 Bahrain
 Egypt
 Iran
 Iraq
 Israel
 and the
 Occupied Territories
 Jordan

Lebanon
 Morocco
 Saudi Arabia
 Syria
 Tunisia



(top) In Tikrit, Iraq, U.S. Army troops arrested these men for possessing weapons. They were transported to an improvised prison on an army base and were made to walk blindfolded, holding onto one another for balance.

© 2003 Geert van Kesteren (Agentur Focus/Contact Press Images)

(bottom) In northwestern Iraq, near the border with Syria, U.S. troops conduct house-to-house searches, confiscating weapons and arresting suspected insurgents. This man was found carrying an unusually high amount of cash and was apprehended and detained.

© 2003 Teun Voeten

THE ROAD TO ABU GHRAIB

The only thing exceptional about Abu Ghraib was that it was caught on camera.

Through photographs, the world was shocked to learn that men at the U.S.-run prison in Iraq were being tortured and subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

To Human Rights Watch, this revelation, while deeply disturbing, was consistent with and the logical extension of what we had exposed in Afghanistan, Guantánamo, and since the U.S. “war on terror” began after September 11, 2001.

At Bagram air base in Afghanistan, the main U.S. detention facility north of Kabul, former detainees told us they were continuously shackled, intentionally kept awake for extended periods of time, and forced to kneel or stand in painful positions. Some were kicked and beaten. Others were doused with freezing water in the winter. In December 2002, two Afghan detainees died at Bagram. No one knows why.

The U.S. Department of Defense still has not explained adequately the circumstances of these deaths, nor has it allowed detainees’ families, lawyers, journalists, or human rights researchers to visit the U.S.-run facilities. The number of detention facilities and detainees in Afghanistan is unknown, kept secret by U.S. authorities.

For more than two years, Human Rights Watch exposed these findings in hard-hitting reports and raised our con-



cerns in person with high-level U.S. officials, including Condoleezza Rice. We urged the administration to investigate abuses and hold those responsible accountable. We denounced the administration's interpretation of the Geneva Conventions as permitting cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in interrogation or detention.

These pleas were often dismissed, until the photographs of Abu Ghraib came to light. They finally forced the Bush administration to publicly confront the abuses.

Human Rights Watch framed this crucial development for policymakers, the press, and the public, and was quoted countless times in the media. We demonstrated that Abu Ghraib was not an isolated incident, but rather a systemic problem and the predictable result of the Bush administration's decision to circumvent international law.

We worked to ensure that coercive practices would never be used again. Human Rights Watch secured bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for legislation that would mandate humane interrogation guidelines. Members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees used our analysis to ask tough questions about interrogation techniques, following the Pentagon self-investigations of abuses at Abu Ghraib.

Human Rights Watch is calling for an independent bipartisan commission to shed full light on the policies that led to U.S. mistreatment of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, and

Guantánamo. Such a commission should hold hearings, have full subpoena power, and be empowered to recommend the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate possible criminal offenses.

Accountability is not a luxury here. It is a necessity if the United States and its allies expect to diminish the likelihood of future terrorist acts. The United States has no moral authority if it flouts longstanding legal norms that it expects other countries to adhere to.





A SWEET DEAL

Paramilitary Impunity in Colombia

A three-year stint at a comfortable ranch in the Colombian countryside doesn't sound like a particularly harsh sentence for someone who has been convicted of committing crimes against humanity. But that is the punishment that right-wing paramilitaries could receive ultimately if the Colombian Congress approves legislation designed to provide a semblance of accountability for widespread atrocities committed over the past two decades.

Human Rights Watch has actively monitored and denounced this evolving legislation. The original version of the bill would have allowed convicted paramilitaries simply to pay victims and escape further punishment for human rights crimes. Following our advocacy, the Colombian Congress strengthened the legislation and guaranteed a minimum sentence of five years for egregious abuses. But the bill still gave Colombia's president the ability to decide where paramilitaries would serve their penalty. It also allowed paramilitaries to receive a reduced sentence for "good behavior," which has been interpreted loosely as achievement in work or study, even for such minor accom-

plishments as reading several books in prison.

Moreover, the legislation failed to condition sentence reductions and other benefits on any specific action by paramilitaries to dismantle their complex networks and relinquish their vast illegally acquired wealth. Paramilitaries could receive benefits even if they refused to confess their crimes, failed to disclose information about their structure, refused to turn over land taken by force, and failed to make reparation to their victims.

This was not what we had in mind when we urged the administration of President Alvaro Uribe to ensure that the paramilitaries—who, we have shown, work in cahoots with the military—be held accountable for such crimes as murder, disappearances, kidnapping, and looting. To press this point, we testified before the Colombian Senate and met personally with President Uribe to persuade him to call for the revision of the bill, or else make a mockery of justice in Colombia. We have called on the international community to withhold funding for demobilization until Colombia passes a



law that meets international standards of truth, justice and accountability, and creates effective mechanisms to achieve the dismantling of these mafia-like organizations.

Under substantial international pressure, the Colombian government has once again revised the bill. The new version includes some improvements, such as required confession, but is still missing essential pieces: for example, paramilitaries may keep their sentence reductions even if they lie in confessions.

Human Rights Watch supports efforts to achieve peace in Colombia, including through the demobilization of paramilitary groups. But the current process should be aimed at a genuine demobilization that effectively dismantles these groups. It should not remain a façade of a demobilization

AUC paramilitary patrols openly with an automatic weapon in a village north of Barrancabermeja.

© 2001 Teun Voeten

process that leaves the underlying structures of these violent groups intact, their illegally acquired assets untouched, and their abuses unpunished. Peace will not last if truth and justice are sacrificed in negotiations with the paramilitaries.



You are a gay man in Egypt. Seeking anonymity, you go to the Internet and meet someone in an online chat room. Comfortable with this person's manner, you arrange to meet him in a discreet location. When you meet your correspondent, he arrests you. He works for the Egyptian Vice Squad. He takes you to a prison, where you are tortured. Egyptian groups refuse to support you. You are a sinner, not a victim of a human rights abuse. To whom will you turn?

TRAPPED AND GAY IN EGYPT

When conducting research on discrimination against gay men in Egypt, Human Rights Watch found hundreds of men who had been victimized by a brutal crackdown by the Egyptian government. The repressive campaign lasted three years and led to hundreds of arrests.

In March 2004, Human Rights Watch released a report in Cairo on this brutality and also formally launched a new program dedicated to defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We translated the report in Arabic and made it available on our website.

Five major Egyptian human rights organizations joined us in a press conference in Cairo to launch the report, marking an unprecedented show of support by non-governmental groups in Egypt on the issue. We met with government officials about the report's conclusions and in the following weeks helped coordinate a letter from forty-four members of Congress to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, condemning the arrests.

Since our report was launched, the number of arrests—which previously numbered up to a dozen per month—has dropped dramatically.

We attribute this success to the impact of our very public report release in Egypt and to the depth of our research, which detailed exactly how the arrests happened and even the email addresses some of the informers used. Having the information available in Arabic on our website didn't just embarrass the government about its duplicitous practices—it made the information available to potential victims.

We continue to monitor this precarious situation and campaign for the end of the repressive law that made these arrests possible. But for the time being, men who have sex with men in Egypt need not live in fear. They have somewhere to turn.



One of fifty-two men charged with homosexual conduct stand in a courtroom cage in Cairo. The defendants covered their faces to protest the invasion of their privacy.

© 2001 Norbert Schiller



A girl runs in front of a destroyed building that used to be a school in Kuito.

© 2002 Francesco Zizola/Magnum Photos

CORRUPTION AS A HUMAN RIGHTS

The government of Angola receives at least \$4 billion—85 percent of its total annual budget—from oil revenue and bonus payments by oil companies that seek access to the country's oil holdings, the second largest in Africa. That largesse should make Angola, which is recovering from three decades of civil war, capable of undertaking the social and economic reconstruction desperately needed by its impoverished population. Instead, Human Rights Watch found, nearly 20 percent of Angola's oil revenue from 1997 to 2002 had been mismanaged and stolen, much of it siphoned off into private bank accounts.



ABUSE IN ANGOLA

Human Rights Watch blew the whistle on this mismanagement, arguing that corruption of this scale impeded the country's post-conflict recovery, made Angola an unsuitable place for economic investment, and created a climate conducive to further human rights abuse. Moreover, we said, the opacity of the government's use of oil revenue violated the ability of Angolans to participate democratically in public discussions about their country's socio-economic development.

Our fact-finding—difficult in a place accustomed to shielding its financial practices—contributed to the decision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to close down its office in Luanda and deny any loan payments to Angola until the government adequately accounts for its use of oil revenue.

Human Rights Watch's reporting infuriated the Angolan government, which hoped to receive over \$1 billion in aid at a long-planned donors' conference. But we were able to show through detailed research that the amount of money

that was missing exceeded both what the government could hope to gain through aid agreements and what it had spent on social programs. Because donors did not want to subsidize billions of dollars of mismanagement and corruption by providing new aid, Angolan authorities have had no choice but to take steps to account for the missing funds.

Through this work, Human Rights Watch also succeeded in creating a public space for Angolans to question and monitor their government's misuse of oil revenue. Civil society groups historically have been rebuffed in their attempts to complain publicly about Angola's lack of transparency. Now they have Human Rights Watch—and the IMF—on their side.



A banner with Human Rights Watch's logo hung prominently on the façade of the Museum of Modern History of Russia in Moscow, where Human Rights Watch was celebrating the ten-year anniversary of our Moscow office. Even two decades ago, such a sight would have been unthinkable.

As she approached the museum and looked up at the banner, Anna Neistat, the departing director of the office, thought about Jeri Laber, a founder of Human Rights Watch who traveled clandestinely to Russia in the 1980s to support Soviet dissidents. Laber would be proud, Neistat thought.

A PAGE IN RUSSIA'S MODERN HISTORY

Human Rights Watch's work in Moscow



(top) Young conscripts form the backbone of the Russian army, yet many suffer systematic humiliation, ill-treatment, and torture by older conscripts and officers, as well as severe malnutrition and denial of

medical care. Russia's military leadership and military procuracy have failed to address these issues.

© 1997 Heidi Bradner/Panos Pictures

(right) Women and children survivors take flight after the notorious 1995 massacre of civilians in Samashki.

© 1995 Stanley Greene/Agence VU

Over the last ten years, Human Rights Watch's Moscow office has documented and publicized human rights abuses in Russia, conducted regular research missions throughout the country, developed partnerships with local non-governmental organizations, and brought the most burning problems to the international community's attention. These efforts have made Human Rights Watch a key source of trusted information about human rights in Russia.

To celebrate Human Rights Watch's national and global profile in Russia, the Moscow office organized two receptions and an exhibit of photos, posters, and reports about the evolution of our work. The museum venue was symbolic, said Carroll Bogert, Human Rights Watch's associate director who spoke at the event. "We added our name to a page of history."

translating into Russian some of our non-Russia-focused work, such as press releases, briefings, and reports on Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Israel, and Eastern Europe.

This outreach has had numerous beneficial outcomes. The number of people who read Human Rights Watch's Russian-language pages on our website has tripled in the past two years. We have enhanced our relationship with the Russian media, which quotes Human Rights Watch 150 to 200 times per month. We have greater credibility with a growing number of Russian authorities. And we have demonstrated to the Russian public that human rights abuses are global, as are the standards by which we judge these wrongs.

The commemoration of Human Rights Watch's Moscow office testified to the resonance of our message and to the role we have played in helping the international human



Expanding our presence in Russia was a key goal for Human Rights Watch over the last three years. The office achieved this public recognition by reaching out to the Russian media, developing a Russian-language website, and

rights movement come of age in Russia.

(right) Caption here Ugandan woman sits outside her home. Domestic violence prevents many women from freely accessing HIV/AIDS information, from negotiating condom use, and from resisting sex with an HIV-positive partner.

© 1995 Stanley Greene/Agence VU

MAKING HISTORY

Profile of a human rights activist: Richard Dicker

Richard Dicker has made his mark on history. As director of Human Rights Watch's international justice program, Dicker has led the organization's effort to institutionalize a global system for redressing the most grievous human rights wrongs.

Dicker has lobbied governments; advised parliamentarians, prosecutors, and judges; and beaten back a hostile U.S. administration that tried to sink the International Criminal Court (ICC), the first permanent tribunal with jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Without him, the court might never have come to fruition. Instead, it is now conducting its first two investigations.

"More than anyone else, Richard is responsible for there being an international justice system," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "He exemplifies how we can build alliances between governments and non-governmental organizations to get things done."

Dicker is well-known for being indefatigable, personable, and scrupulously fair. As Wilder Tayler, Human Rights Watch's legal and policy director, noted: "Richard is one of the top two or three campaigners in the human rights movement. He combines highly sophisticated political thinking, deep conviction, and the charm that's necessary to persuade even the most reluctant government officials. Richard is effective with elite decision-makers and grassroots organizations, because he treats both with respect."



Dicker, a lawyer by training, is often cited as being one of the primary engines behind the creation of the ICC. He brought together the group of sixty governments that were the first to ratify the ICC treaty. He did so by building coalitions among governments that believed in the principle of international justice and refused to be cowed by the U.S. administration.

Taylor recalled: “I remember watching Richard walk down a corridor in Rome, where the treaty establishing the ICC was negotiated in 1998. He was carrying two huge bags of papers across his chest, and a large mobile phone was attached to each ear. Still, he managed to stop a diplomat in the hallway and say something that was completely cogent. That’s just like him.”

“Richard is the consummate advocate,” said Roth. “He is always thinking about how to move things forward. He has an unparalleled ability to take a complex issue and make it digestible and quotable.”

After graduating from the University of Michigan, New York University School of Law, and Columbia University Law School, Dicker came to Human Rights Watch in 1990 as

a Fellow in the Africa division. He then worked on human rights in China, initiated our business and human rights program, led Human Rights Watch’s successful campaign to establish the International Criminal Court, and then became director of the expanding International Justice program.

Although he sometimes speaks longingly of having wanted to be a professor, Dicker has done more than teach history. He has made it.

(top) Caption here Richard Dicker at the ICC.

© 1997 photo credit

ANNUAL REPORT

2004

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | **Our Volunteer Community**

Chicago · Geneva · London · Los Angeles · New York · San Francisco · Toronto

Human Rights Watch has an important constituency that works to ensure the vitality of a core belief—that all people deserve to be treated justly and with dignity. In our work, we rely on the support of members of the Human Rights Watch Council, a network of Human Rights Watch committees in Europe and North America. Membership provides an inside perspective on the major human rights concerns of our time. The Committees are composed of opinion leaders who seek to increase awareness of local and global human rights issues and enlist the public and government to support basic rights for all. Committee members meet regularly to learn about human rights crises and policy and how they can support Human Rights Watch through outreach and fundraising initiatives.

The Human Rights Watch Council currently comprises committees in Chicago, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Toronto. We also have committees in formation in Munich and Berlin, Germany as well as Santa Barbara, California. In supporting Human Rights Watch’s work, members of the Human Rights Watch Council not only strengthen Human Rights Watch but promote and advance the human rights movement.

The Human Rights Watch Council

Los Angeles / California Committee South

EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS



In 2003, Michael Bochenek, a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch’s Children’s Rights Division, led a delegation of California Committee South members and Young Advocates on an investigation of Men’s Central Jail in Los Angeles. The group uncovered deplorable confinement conditions and woefully inadequate educational and mental health services for youths in the facility.

Shocked by this abuse, Committee members, Young Advocates, and volunteers in southern California swiftly mobilized a task force to combat violations against children in California’s criminal and juvenile justice systems. Working closely with Javier Stauring, a lay chaplain who ministers to incarcerated juveniles, the 30-member task force developed a multi-tiered plan of action, including grassroots and policy advocacy, media outreach, public education, and ongoing monitoring of confinement conditions in California facilities.

The Committee reached out to the legal community and conducted a series of interviews with children who had been held in adult facilities. Delegation members also met with juvenile court judges and added to a valuable discussion on the referral of juveniles to the adult court system and on gang-enhancement laws, which have resulted in disproportionately lengthy sentences without the possibility of parole.

As a result of Human Rights Watch’s collaborative work with local activists and volunteers, we were able to see important changes in policy. Our publicity of abuses at Men’s Central led the County Board of Supervisors to declare the facility unfit for detainees under the age of eighteen. Only a few juveniles remain there. The rest have been moved to juvenile detention centers.

Human Rights Watch’s community of supporters in Southern California made an important difference at home and set a standard that we will now push the rest of the country to adhere to.



(left and above) Human rights defender and California Committee South member Javier Stauring works with incarcerated youth in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles/California Committee South

Founded 1990

Co-Chairs: Mike Farrell,

Victoria Riskin,

Sid Sheinberg

Vice-Chairs:

Jonathan Feldman,

Zazi Pope

Director: Emma Cherniavsky

Jeri Alden
Elaine Attias
Rev. Ed Bacon
Joan Willens Beerman
Rabbi Leonard Beerman
Terree Bowers
Sarah Bowman
Pam Bruns
Justin Connolly
Geoffrey Cowan
Nancy Cushing-Jones
Peggy Davis
Stephen Davis
Phyllis de Picciotto
Mary Estrin
Eric Garcetti
Steven M. Glick
Danny Glover
Michael A. Gordon
Barbara Gortikov
Paul Hoffman
Paula Holt
Claudia Kahn
Barry Kemp
Maggie Kemp
Rev. James Lawson Jr.
Edward P. Lazarus
Shari Leinwand
Emily Levine
Richard J. Lewis
Roberto Lovato
Kimberly Marteau
Brian Matthews
Laurie McKinley
Jane Olson, *Co-Founder*
Eric Paquette
Thomas R. Parker
Marina Pisklakova-Parker
Madeline Ramer
Carol Richards
David W. Rintels
Stan Roden
Lawrence D. Rose
Pippa Scott
Marc M. Seltzer
Stanley Sheinbaum,
Co-Founder
Lorraine Sheinberg
Tiffany Siart
Arthur Silbergeld
Jango Sircus
Donald Spoto
Javier Stauring

William D. Temko
Richard Verches
Nina Walton
Ellie Wertheimer
Patricia Williams
Stanley Wolpert
Noah Wyle
Tracy Wyle

San Francisco/California Committee North

Founded 2000

Chair: Orville Schell

Vice-Chairs:

Rebecca Brackman,
Jim Swinerton

Director: Sarah Palermo

Carole Angermeir
Juliette Bleecker
Jeff Bleich
Joseph and Christine
Bouckaert
Rebecca Brackman
Jim Brosnahan
Stuart Burden
Janice Parker Callaghan
Maryles Casto
William K. Coblentz
Chip Conley
and Dr. Donald Graves
Peter Coyote
Kim Cranston
Stuart Davidson
and Wendy Webster
Chiara DiGeronimo
Jack Edelman
Lynn Fritz
Diane Foug
Roger Gordon
Lydia Graham
Elizabeth Rice Grossman
Barbara Henry
Tom Higgins
Diane Rice and Spencer Hosie
Sara Anderson Hsiao
Bryan and Nancy Barron
Kemnitzner
Todd Koons
Martin and Pamela Krasney
Sally Lilienthal
Walter Link
Nion McEvoy
Robert J. Nelson
Nancy Parrish
Bruno and Kathleen Schneider
Mani Sheik
Stephen Silberstein
Tom Silk
Alice Schaffer Smith
Peter Schwartz
Marya Stark
Jim Swinerton
Katherine J. Zoglin

New York Committee

Founded 1998

Co-Chairs: Michael Fisch,
Kevin Ryan

Director: Michael Pankow

William Ackman
Allen R. Adler
Omar S. Amanat
David Andryc
Amy Bernstein
Peter Bernstein
Kristine Bryan
Mayree Clark
Cristóbal Conde
Maurice J. Cunniffe
Maria del Pilar De Graffenried
Mike De Graffenried
Patrick Durkin
Barbara Finberg
Kenneth D. Gibbs
David S. Hirsch
Joseph Hofheimer
Yves-André Istel
Robert G. James
Robert D. Joffe
Henry McGee
Terence Meehan
Tiffany Moller
David Nachman
Bruce Rabb
Barbara Paul Robinson
David P. Wagener

Chicago Committee

Founded 2004

Co-Chairs: Judy Gaynor,

Susan Manilow

Founding Chair:

Jonathan F. Fanton

Director: Liba Beyer

Mirna Adjami
Dr. Javeed Akhter
Dr. Naheed Akhter
Ellen Alberding
Lois E. Altman
Lucy Ascoli
Edgar E. Bachrach
Cherif M. Bassiouni
Michael Bauer
Marjorie C. Benton
Leigh Bienen
Marshall Bouton
Timothy Breen
Doug Cassel
Marty Castro
Adela Cepeda
Judy Cottle
Allison Davis
Victoria Drake
Margaret Duncan
Sunny Fischer

Susan Gzesh
Inamul Haq
Karen C. Johnson
Falona Joy
Marilyn J. Katz
Mike Koldyke
John W. McCarter
Donna Melkonian
Ricardo Millet
Newton N. Minow
Richard R. Murray
Jerry Newton
Margot Pritzker
Nick and Susan Pritzker
George A. Ranney
Dana Rice
Anne E. Roosevelt
Anna C. Roosevelt
Bettylu Saltzman
John R. Schmidt
Smita Shah
Julia Stasch
Anne Studzinski
James B. Swinerton
Jean M. Templeton
Judy Wise

Toronto Committee

Founded 2002

Co-Chairs: Brenda Dinnick,

Helga Stephenson

Founding Chair: Wendy Keys

Director: Jasmine Herlt

Sally Armstrong
Lloyd Axworthy
David Baker
Suresh Bhalla
Sally Bongard
Roel Bramer
Pal Di Iulio
Sarah Dinnick
Atom Egoan
Jennifer Eggsgard
Suzanne Galipeault
Marc Giacomelli
Nancy Hamm
Marlene Hore
Peter Kavanagh
Merle Kriss
Ann Levitt
Elizabeth Levitt
Louise Levitt
Karin Lippert
Margaret MacMillan
Noah Novogrodsky
Susan Reisler
Clayton Ruby
Myra Sable
Allan Shiff
Nalini Stewart

continues on page 34

The Human Rights Watch Council

London Committee

Founded 2000

Chair: Tony Elliott

Vice-Chair: Sigrid Rausing

Director: Laura Boardman

Bomi Anise
Jane Ashley
Bettina Bahlsen
Deborah Bono
Sherry Buchanan
Kate Bucknell
Jenny Dearden
Phyllida Earle
Susan Gibson
Annette Grant
Louis Greig
John Howkins
Kirsty Jenkinson
Rona Kiley
Laura Malkin
Anna Massey

Margaret McCabe
Julie Meyer
Patricia Mirrlees
Trevor Pears
Chris Powell
Malcolm Smart
John G. Stewart
John J. Studzinski
Rebecca Tinsley
Caroline Younger
Ana Zenic

Europe Committee-At-Large

Miki Momèn
Jan Willem Nieuwenhuys
Gerhard Plasonig
Wiet H.M. Pot

Geneva International Committee

Founded 2003

Chair: Michel Halpérin

Executive Committee:

Rachel Babecoff,
Olivier Dupraz,
Atalanti Moquette,
Neil Rimer,

Director: Emmanuelle Werner

Ahmed Altuwaijri
Lorella Bertani
Camille Bonnant
Claes Cronstedt
Michael de Picciotto
Nadège Hentsch
Manja Kuy Gideon
Peter and Dinah Kung
Baroness Marion Lambert

John H. McCall McBain
Philippa Layland Vogel
Luciana Lins
Marina Manghi
Pierre Mirabaud
Abdullah Noman
David Rimer
Gerald Rimer
Erica Salzmänn
Jules Sambwa
Walter Stresemann
Dimitri Theofilides
Nancy Troxler
Sandra Wolf

Zurich

Daniel and Sabina Aegerter
Thomas and Cristina Bechtler
Maja Hoffmann
and Stanley Buchthal
Thomas and Janine Koerfer
Peter and Karin Schindler
Franz Wassmer

Geneva International Committee

THINKING GLOBALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY



As a member now of the United Nations, Switzerland does not have the luxury of neutrality. When Switzerland last year was the only western country to abstain from voting on a resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iran, Human Rights Watch's Geneva International

Committee took action.

Knowing of the deplorable human rights record of Iran and the horrific treatment of political prisoners, the committee wrote a letter to Micheline Calmy-Rey, the Swiss Foreign Minister, to express its concerns over Switzerland's abstention on the Iran resolution. After this private dialogue, the Committee publicized its concerns in the media.

The leading French-language Swiss newspaper interviewed the president of the Geneva International Committee in advance of a meeting in Switzerland between the presidents of Iran and Switzerland.

Three weeks later, Mrs. Calmy-Rey replied in writing that Switzerland had taken such a position because it was involved in bilateral human rights discussions with Iran and that, at this stage, it favored negotiations over condemnation. However, she added that she remained open to a possible resolution at the Commission on Human Rights and in future U.N. fora on Iran's human rights record. She also promised to review our comments and criticism in light of Switzerland's relationship with Iran.

Engaging the Swiss government in this dialogue represented a positive first step for the committee in urging the Swiss government to consider carefully the human rights records of its trade partners and to live up to its responsibilities as a new actor on the global policymaking stage.

(left) Caption here

London Committee

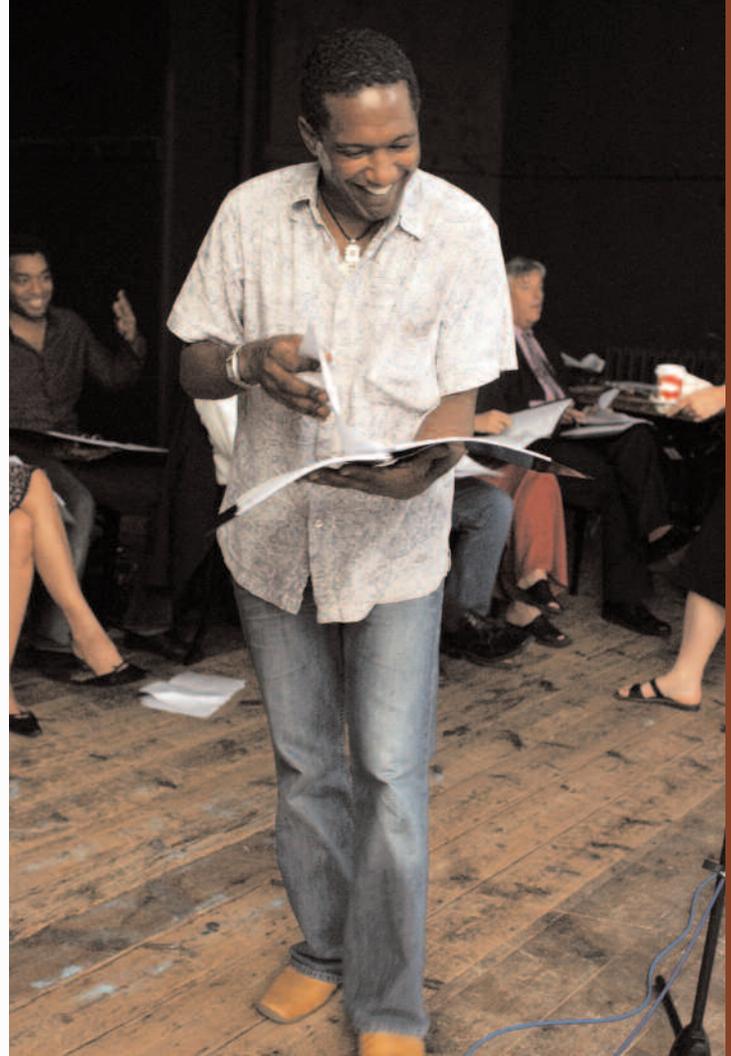
CRIES FROM THE HEART

Testimony—by witnesses and victims of human rights abuse—is the cornerstone of Human Rights Watch’s field-based research. Evoking this personal language, Human Rights Watch’s London committee this year staged for the second time, “Cries from the Heart,” a powerful evening of words and music imbued with human rights themes.

Featuring such well-known actors as Anna Massey, Alan Rickman, David Hare, Joseph Fiennes, and Sinead Cusack, this poetry and music event raised awareness of human rights and generated financial support for Human Rights Watch.

Cries from the Heart contained a diverse set of readings, all united by a single broad concern—the importance of bearing witness to and halting human rights abuse. Poetry, drama, and real-life testimonials from Human Rights Watch reports explored conflict, violence, discrimination, and other human rights issues.

Read by an extraordinary cast of actors, journalists and writers, the evening dramatized the work that Human Rights Watch does daily to illuminate the universality of human rights standards and end violations of these global standards of justice and dignity.



(above) Poet Lemn Sissay rehearses for Cries From the Heart at The Twentieth Century Theatre in London.

(below) Joseph Fiennes and Sinead Cusack review works onstage for Cries From the Heart



The Human Rights Watch Council

Toronto Committee

TAKING ACTION

Human Rights Watch's Toronto Committee means business. The group, part of the Human Rights Watch Council—an international body of influential citizens concerned about human rights—wasted no time in conducting advocacy with the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bill Graham, urging him to take a strong stand against ethnic cleansing in Sudan.

Committee Co-Chair Brenda Dinnick and the deputy director of our Africa division, Georgette Gagnon, met with Graham following the publication of Human Rights Watch's report, "Darfur in Flames: Ethnic Cleansing in Western Sudan." They called on the Canadian government to take a more active and assertive role at the United Nations in response to the Darfur crisis.

Graham seemed receptive to the committee's concerns and recommendations and appreciative of the new information that it presented on the scale of



(left to right) Marlys Edwardh, Helga Stephenson, and Brenda Dinnick, "Civil Liberties Under Fire" event at the Canadian Club Lunch, May 3, 2004.

the human rights and humanitarian catastrophe in Darfur.

One week later, Graham stated in a Reuters interview that the U.N. must take more aggressive action on Darfur. "There is no doubt that war crimes and crimes against humanity are taking place," he said. The next day, Allan Rock, Canada's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, engaged in an open debate at the U.N. Security Council and urged the decision-making body to protect the civilians of Darfur who were being slaughtered and displaced. He urged the Council to adopt resolutions that would end crimes against humanity and bring those responsible to justice.

These statements, as well as editorials by Dinnick and Gagnon, appeared widely in Toronto's media. They seem to have led the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pierre S. Pettigrew, to be one of the first to support the U.N. Security Council resolution on Darfur. The engagement of Human Rights Watch's Toronto Committee no doubt contributed to this positive step.



(top) Caption Sam

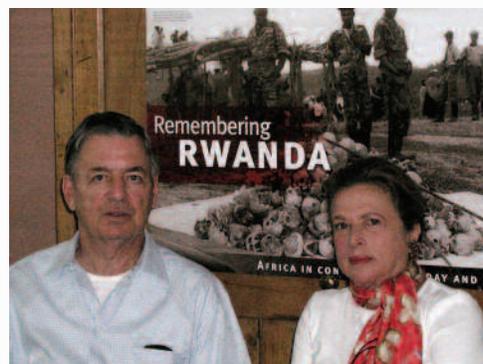
REMEMBERING RWANDA

AFRICA IN CONFLICT YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Through the generosity of Joe and Carol Reich and the Pumpkin Foundation, Human Rights Watch commemorated the 10-year anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. In the “Remembering Rwanda” lecture series, supported by the Reiches, Human Rights Watch researchers toured 17 universities in the United States and the United Kingdom and spoke to over 1,300 interested students. The series also included four special receptions for more than 200 people.

The series was designed to educate young people about how the genocide happened, how the international community responded, and what could be done in the future to prevent such appalling violence. More than 500,000 people died in Rwanda in a three-month period in 1994. Human Rights Watch researchers spoke about their own experiences in working to galvanize global action to stem the crisis. They also drew parallels to current conflicts in Africa.

The lecture series was inspired by Ambassador Townsend Friedman, Carol Reich’s brother and a career foreign service diplomat. Mr. Friedman’s last posting in Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide affected him greatly. The Reiches created the lecture series and special receptions to mark the anniversary of the genocide, honor the victims, and persuade a new generation of people to prevent the devastation that the world witnessed in 1994.



Joe and Carol Reich



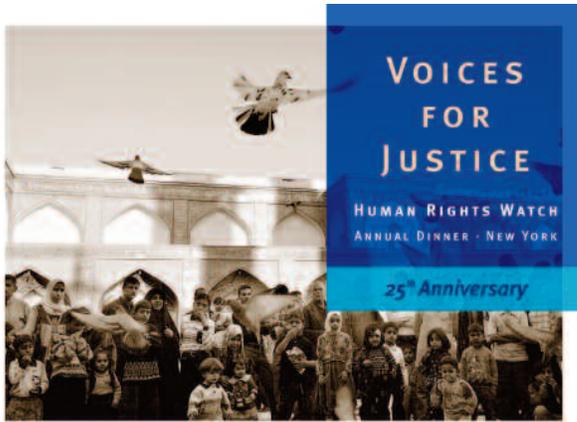
(left) Soldiers look on as the remains of victims of the genocide are exhumed for reburial.

© 1995 Corinne Dufka

Annual Celebrations

ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Human Rights Watch Annual Dinner, **VOICES FOR JUSTICE**, honors international human rights activists who put their lives on the line to defend the rights of others.



The Annual Dinners were held this year in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Chicago, Toronto, New York, London, and Geneva. We attracted more than 3,000 people to these events. We honored three activists—from Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Russia—whose work illuminates human rights challenges addressed by Human Rights Watch: the deadly conflict in eastern Congo, which has killed more civilians than any war since World War II; the lack of safety and security in Afghanistan; and serious abuses within the Russian military. The Annual Dinner brings a community of concerned supporters face-to-face with inspiring individuals who work with Human Rights Watch on the front lines of the human rights movement.



Tiawan Gongloe, one of Liberia’s leading human rights lawyers, is a steady voice calling for the rule of law and respect for human rights. Mr. Gongloe has exhibited incredible courage in helping political detainees, journalists, human rights activists and victims of abuse who are on trial in Liberia.

Dr. Aida Seif El Dawla co-founded the Egyptian Association against Torture, which provides services to victims and their families and advocates for prosecutions and legal change. Dr. Seif El Dawla has been a leading advocate in Egypt on women’s rights, children’s rights, and the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Los Angeles native **Javier Stauring** is a Catholic lay chaplain who challenges the conditions in which juvenile offenders are incarcerated. Shocked by abusive conditions in Los Angeles’s Men’s Central Jail, Mr. Stauring mobilized a local coalition that succeeded in pressing L.A. County to remove juveniles from the adult facility.



(left) Dennis Haysbert, Julia Ormond, Jorja Fox, emcee Annette Bening, and Mike Farrell



(above) Javier Staring addresses the Human Rights Watch juvenile justice task force in Los Angeles alongside Young Advocate Rob Force, California Committee South member Pam Bruns, and filmmaker Leslie Neale

(left) Tiawan Gongloe speaks to students at UCLA

Film Festival

THE FOREMOST SHOWCASE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FILMMAKING



Born Into Brothels

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

International Film Festival
New York - June 10th-24th 2004

Presented by
The Film Society of Lincoln Center

www.hrw.org/ff

Time Out New York

It is a testament to the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival that it selects human rights films that not only are compelling, but also that garner popular support and prestigious awards.

Last year, we opened our festival in London with *Fog of War*, Errol Morris’s riveting documentary about former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. After we selected the film for the London festival, it went on to win the 2004 Academy Award for best documentary. The New York festival premiered *Maria Full of Grace*, the moving and compassionate fictional film about a young Colombian woman who becomes a “mule”, transporting drugs from Colombia to the United States, desperately trying to make a better life for herself. This film previously had won the audience award at Sundance and, after our premiere, received rave theatrical reviews as one of the top-ten films of the year. We showed *Born Into Brothels* in June in New York and that recently picked up the 2005 Academy Award for best documentary.

Human Rights Watch’s International Film Festival is an important platform for independent filmmakers and it gives Human Rights Watch the opportunity to engage the public in our work. The films included in the festival consistently weave compelling stories of struggle and triumph that the mainstream media does not address.

The New York festival honored three talented filmmakers: Zana Briski and Ross Kaufman won the Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. Their astounding film, *Born Into Brothels*, provides a deeply sympathetic look at the lives of children of prostitutes in Calcutta’s red-light district. Peru’s most acclaimed filmmaker, Francisco J. Lombardi, received the festival’s 2004 Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding body of work on human rights subjects. The festival featured his latest film, *What the Eye Doesn’t See*, as our Opening Night selection.

The traveling festival realized another year of expansion—from over thirty cities in 2003 to over forty in 2004. We also reached out in other ways, particularly through co-presenting human rights films at other festivals, including in New York, Barcelona, and Geneva.

THE FOG OF WAR

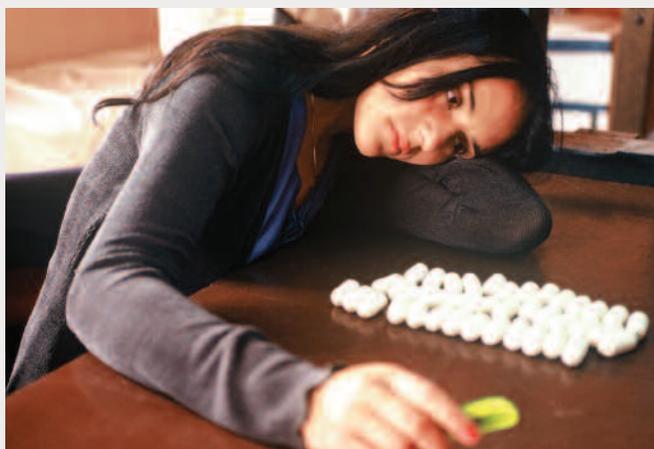
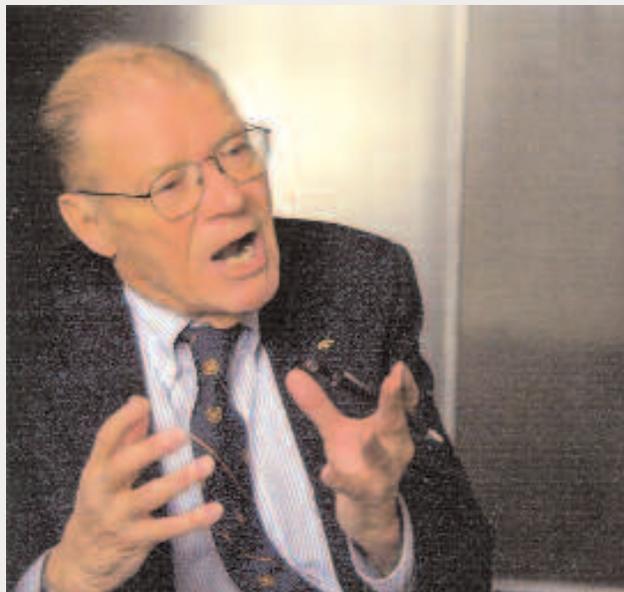
Errol Morris, U.S., 2003

“If there’s one movie that ought to be studied by military and civilian leaders around the world at this treacherous historical moment, it is Errol Morris’s sober, beautifully edited documentary portrait of the former U.S. Defense Secretary, Robert S. McNamara.”

STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Renowned filmmaker Errol Morris, director of *The Thin Blue Line* and *Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*—presents a powerful cinematic conversation with Robert S. McNamara—former US Secretary of Defense in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations—who was both witness to and participant in many of the crucial events of the 20th Century: WWII, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. Using archival footage, taped telephone conversations, visual aids and a Philip Glass score, Morris structures the film as “eleven lessons from the life of Robert S. McNamara”, with McNamara candidly presenting his version of the political processes at play, raising deep moral questions about his role and, by implication, the role of other key players. Reflecting on the firebombing of sixty-seven Japanese cities in 1945 he asks “In order to win a war, is a nation justified in killing 100,000 civilians in one night?”

Winner of the 2003 Academy Award for Best Documentary



MARIA FULL OF GRACE

Joshua Marston, U.S., 2003

Joshua Marston’s debut feature tells the story of Maria, a young Colombian woman who leaves her family and her job stripping thorns in a rose plantation to work as a “mule,” transporting heroin from Colombia to the United States. Like hundreds of women carrying drugs across borders, seventeen-year-old Maria is thrust into the world of international drug trafficking out of desperation. *Maria Full of Grace* is the story of her fierce determination and of the difficult choices she must make that will eventually lead her into adulthood. Filmmaker Joshua Marston demonstrates a stunning eye for detail and crafts a narrative of disarming authenticity. Through his stark

portrayal of a young woman’s struggle—her desire to break free from poverty—he examines the meaning of grace and a life of virtue.

Winner of the 2004 Sundance Film Festival Dramatic Audience Award

Winner of the 2004 Berlin International Film Festival Alfred Bauer Prize for Best First Feature

Promoting Human Rights Through Video and Photography

MAKING NEWS HAPPEN

One of the worst human rights crises in the world was occurring in Darfur, western Sudan, and television news reporting of the conflict was virtually nonexistent. Recognizing the gap in media coverage, Human Rights Watch sent investigator Joanne Mariner as part of a fact-finding team to the region. Mariner, a researcher with extensive experience covering human rights conflicts, is also a skilled videographer and photographer. The powerful video footage she brought back allowed Human Rights Watch to reveal what was happening in Darfur to the largest possible audience. We were able to secure broadcast of the footage on multiple major media outlets, including ABC, CNN International, CNN en Español, Fox News, and NBC. Putting images of Darfur into broadcast news helped give the crisis the media exposure it desperately needed and deserved.

Human Rights Watch also used this video footage in a collaboration with WITNESS, a colleague organization that uses video to bring public attention to human rights abuses. Together we produced *Darfur Destroyed*, a mini-documentary that uncovers the ongoing atrocities being committed in Darfur. The video includes scenes of burned and bombed villages and extensive interviews with the civilian victims of this disaster. Villagers interviewed for the video describe attacks by "Janjaweed" militias operating in concert with Sudanese government forces.

(top right) Researchers Jemera Rone (l) and Joanne Mariner (r), with their translator in North Darfur.

(above) Child soldier in the Justice and Equality Movement, a Darfur rebel group.

(right) Internally displaced women and children in a village in a rebel-held area of North Darfur.





Darfur Destroyed was streamed on the Human Rights Watch website (www.hrw.org) as part of its campaign to bring international attention to this human rights catastrophe and on the WITNESS website (www.witness.org) as a Rights Alert call to action. It has reached more than 20,000 viewers to date. Human Rights Watch has also screened the video before key decision-makers, including ambassadors and delegates to the United Nations, United States congressional staffers, and United Nations personnel. DVD copies of the video are currently being distributed upon request to other nongovernmental organizations, professors, student groups, religious organizations, and private citizens.

Open Wound—An Exhibition of Photographs from Chechnya

December 2004 marked ten years since Russia launched war in Chechnya. Through the eyes of photojournalist Stanley Greene thousands of people were able to witness the effects of this devastating conflict on civilians.



Human Rights Watch and Trolley Books co-presented a photo exhibit of Greene's work in New York during the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in the Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery at Lincoln Center. Over ten thousand people made their way through a selection of more than 25 images taken from Greene's recently published book, ***Open Wound: Chechnya 1994 to 2003*** (www.trolleybooks.com). The images provide visual evidence to the years of investigating and reporting by Human Rights Watch in Chechnya and testify to the suffering of others with an incomparable immediacy that is unique to photography.

A child in Chechnya awaits an anticipated incursion by Russian troops into the Chechen rebel stronghold of Itum Kale.

© 1996 Stanley Greene/Agence VU

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A person wearing a white thobe and ghutra is sitting on a beach, leaning against a large fishing net. The net is filled with various items, including a metal pot and some fabric. In the background, there are other people and structures on the beach, suggesting a coastal or fishing community. The overall scene is in a sepia or light brown tone.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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50	Advisory Committees
52	Staff Members
54	Annual & Endowment Supporters
58	In Memoriam
59	The Legacy Society
60	Publications
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Financial Information

(April 1, 2003—March 31, 2004)

These are excerpts from our audited financial statements. You may also obtain a full copy of the audited financial statements from:
 Human Rights Watch
 Attn: Finance Department
 350 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10118

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(with comparative totals for 2003)

March 31,

	Operating funds		Total operating funds	Endowment fund	Total all funds	
	Current	Future			2004	2003
Support and revenue:						
Public support:						
Contributions and grants	\$ 11,124,138	\$ 10,566,077	\$ 21,690,215	\$ 55,790	\$ 21,746,005	\$ 17,813,548
Special events	2,422,208	-	2,422,208	-	2,422,208	2,109,099
Total public support	13,546,346	10,566,077	24,112,423	55,790	24,168,213	19,922,647
Revenue:						
Investment income (loss), net	400,218	-	400,218	12,291,882	12,692,100	(4,624,496)
Publications	167,309	-	167,309	-	167,309	181,498
Other	111,396	-	111,396	-	111,396	137,510
Total revenue	678,923	-	678,923	12,291,882	12,970,805	(4,305,488)
Net assets released from restrictions and transfers:						
Expiration of time restrictions	6,475,098	(6,475,098)	-	-	-	-
Transfers	2,210,000	1,550,000	3,760,000	(3,760,000)	-	-
	8,685,098	(4,925,098)	3,760,000	(3,760,000)	-	-
Total support and revenue	22,910,367	5,640,979	28,551,346	8,587,672	37,139,018	15,617,159
Expenses:						
Program services	17,388,573	-	17,388,573	-	17,388,573	17,127,706
Supporting services:						
Management and general	1,229,569	-	1,229,569	-	1,229,569	1,125,103
Fundraising	4,424,501	-	4,424,501	-	4,424,501	4,436,528
Total supporting services	5,654,070	-	5,654,070	-	5,654,070	5,561,631
Total expenses	23,042,643	-	23,042,643	-	23,042,643	22,689,337
Change in net assets:						
Unrestricted	(132,276)	1,053,886	921,610	-	921,610	(4,152,200)
Temporarily restricted	-	4,587,093	4,587,093	9,347,672	13,934,765	(3,295,155)
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	(760,000)	(760,000)	375,177
Total change in net assets	(132,276)	5,640,979	5,508,703	8,587,672	14,096,375	(7,072,178)
Net assets, beginning of year	341,505	7,793,466	8,134,971	53,064,297	61,199,268	68,271,446
Net assets, end of year:						
Unrestricted	209,229	2,659,859	2,869,088	-	2,869,088	1,947,478
Temporarily restricted	-	10,774,586	10,774,586	61,651,969	72,426,555	58,491,790
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-	-	760,000
Total net assets, end of year	\$ 209,229	\$ 13,434,445	\$ 13,643,674	\$ 61,651,969	\$ 75,295,643	\$ 61,199,268

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

March 31,

	Program Services										Supporting Services		
	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe and Central Asia	Middle East and North Africa	Arms	Children's Rights	Women's Rights	Other Programs	Total	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salaries	1,202,002	622,745	780,828	1,164,820	633,783	592,546	544,798	446,982	2,257,563	8,246,067	445,352	1,424,187	10,115,606
Insurance and employee benefits	125,612	88,591	112,681	187,239	101,607	107,958	83,051	66,480	320,477	1,193,696	88,778	178,457	1,460,931
Retirement plans	69,571	57,393	44,168	83,636	55,128	37,826	50,070	23,257	148,676	569,725	35,695	80,972	686,392
Payroll taxes	105,228	51,721	72,400	116,895	54,821	55,076	49,741	43,417	207,993	757,292	57,913	111,114	926,319
Consultants' fees	48,748	15,634	26,943	39,757	11,056	10,424	12,836	23,506	235,929	424,833	23,856	192,503	641,192
Publications	44,174	22,704	18,055	68,037	50,887	12,372	17,127	12,329	107,004	352,689	19,654	34,915	407,258
Information Services	9,321	5,639	8,750	12,388	5,759	6,170	4,348	5,346	21,305	79,026	12,410	14,506	105,942
Travel, meals and meetings	183,667	50,543	79,253	132,180	53,006	109,316	49,511	35,326	189,034	881,836	42,854	127,310	1,052,000
Missions	182,304	7,991	148,378	32,388	462,088	5,458	25,524	28,331	57,512	949,974	-	-	949,974
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	462,638	462,638	-	-	462,638
Special Projects	(14,254)	-	36,385	77,885	-	-	-	-	174,758	274,774	-	42,361	317,135
Special Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	880,759	880,759
Direct Mail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	697,359	697,359
Rent	180,831	109,488	145,984	225,769	103,406	109,488	88,199	103,406	378,920	1,427,062	250,659	352,882	2,030,603
Office expenses	42,664	29,065	39,499	50,204	31,513	28,463	22,070	25,704	70,081	339,263	46,967	57,049	443,279
Postage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and delivery	20,468	6,768	13,767	27,187	9,961	20,084	12,556	8,398	43,655	162,844	13,527	42,870	219,241
Telephone and fax	65,216	43,082	33,226	62,533	29,543	26,546	17,010	17,957	86,475	381,588	31,985	46,376	459,949
Professional fees	19,430	12,718	16,957	24,376	12,011	12,718	10,245	12,011	43,806	164,272	29,675	26,142	220,089
Depreciation	85,279	55,819	74,425	106,986	52,718	55,819	44,965	52,718	192,265	720,994	130,244	114,739	965,977
Totals	\$ 2,370,261	\$ 1,179,901	\$ 1,651,699	\$ 2,412,280	\$ 1,667,287	\$ 1,190,264	\$ 1,032,051	\$ 905,168	\$ 4,998,091	\$ 17,388,573	\$ 1,229,569	\$ 4,424,501	\$ 23,042,643

Fiscal Year 2004 Summary Report *contd.*

(April 1, 2003—March 31, 2004)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(with comparative totals for 2003)

March 31,

	Operating funds		Total operating funds	Endowment fund	Total all funds	
	Current	Future			2004	2003
Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 400,477	\$ 5,751,940	\$ 6,152,417	\$ 7,167,424	\$ 13,319,841	\$ 12,140,638
Short-term investments, at fair value	-	1,940,638	1,940,638	53,220,328	55,160,966	39,803,709
Other investments, at fair value	-	1,696,884	1,696,884	-	1,696,884	1,504,284
Contributions receivable, net	352,408	3,999,828	4,352,236	511,139	4,863,375	7,239,899
Other receivables	19,895	17,967	37,862	492,633	530,495	178,351
Prepaid expenses	232,365	-	232,365	-	232,365	67,127
Security deposits	93,300	-	93,300	-	93,300	142,625
Fixed assets, net	3,053,366	-	3,053,366	-	3,053,366	3,596,093
	\$4,151,811	\$13,407,257	\$17,559,068	\$61,391,524	\$78,950,592	\$64,672,726
Liabilities and Net Assets						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,120,127	\$ -	\$ 1,120,127	\$ 44,961	\$ 1,165,088	\$ 1,118,998
Accrued pension expenses	696,868	-	696,868	-	696,868	621,368
Deferred rent	1,744,743	-	1,744,743	-	1,744,743	1,685,904
Deferred revenue	48,250	-	48,250	-	48,250	47,188
Due to (from) other funds	332,594	(27,188)	305,406	(305,406)	-	-
Total liabilities	3,942,582	(27,188)	3,915,394	(260,445)	3,654,949	3,473,458
Commitments and contingencies						
Net assets:						
Unrestricted	209,229	2,659,859	2,869,088	-	2,869,088	1,947,478
Temporarily restricted	-	10,774,586	10,774,586	61,651,969	72,426,555	58,491,790
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-	-	760,000
Total net assets	209,229	13,434,445	13,643,674	61,651,969	75,295,643	61,199,268
	\$ 4,151,811	\$ 13,407,257	\$ 17,559,068	\$ 61,391,524	\$ 78,950,592	\$ 64,672,726

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THE SANDLER FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION



As co-CEOs of what Forbes.com has described as one of the best run and

most profitable financial companies in the United States, Herb and Marion Sandler are known for making careful, focused, and wise business decisions. They show the same conscientiousness in their philanthropy.

The Sandlers have initiated at Human Rights Watch a five-year challenge grant of \$15 million – with the provision that we raise \$30 million in new funds to match their gift. The challenge shows both their diligence as investors and their commitment to Human Rights Watch’s mission to expose and curb abuses.

“We have supported Human Rights Watch for fifteen years,” Herb Sandler said. “For some donors, that would lead to donor fatigue. For us, the opposite has happened. We think that Human Rights Watch keeps getting better and better.”

Through The Sandler Family Supporting Foundation, the Sandlers and their two children agreed to launch a campaign to benefit Human Rights Watch because they recognized the enormous need for the organization’s work. “We wanted to enable the leadership to do now what it would otherwise have to wait five, six, or seven years for,” said Herb Sandler. “We wanted to strengthen Human Rights Watch’s research, advocacy, and communications at a critical time. It’s a great organization, and its only limitation is funding.”

The Sandlers cited Human Rights Watch’s ability to effect change as an important motivation for their giving. For example, they noted, Human Rights Watch played a pivotal role in alerting the global community to ethnic cleansing in Darfur, western Sudan. Although Human Rights Watch cannot always halt violence, they said, “early warnings and action can save lives.”

When they consider which non-profits to invest in, Marion Sandler said, “We look at the way in which the organization is able to interpose itself in policy debates and develop new information, focus attention, and galvanize governments to respond and take action.”

“Many organizations do wonderful things, but only a handful are truly great,” Herb Sandler said. Human Rights Watch is one of them.”

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Sudan—Darfur in Flames: Atrocities in Western Sudan

Southern Africa—Forgotten Schools: Right to Basic Education for Children on Farms in South Africa

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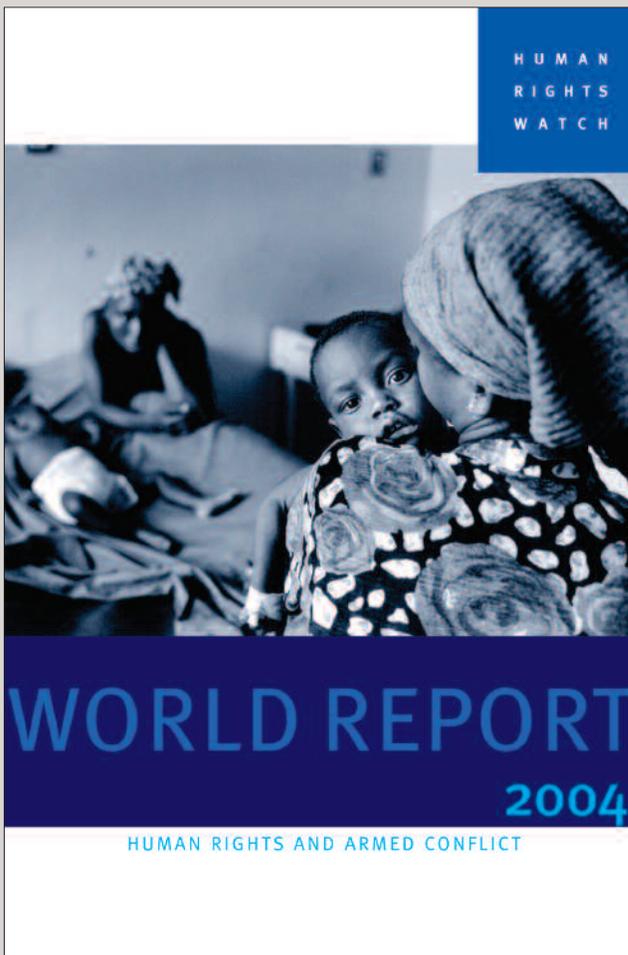
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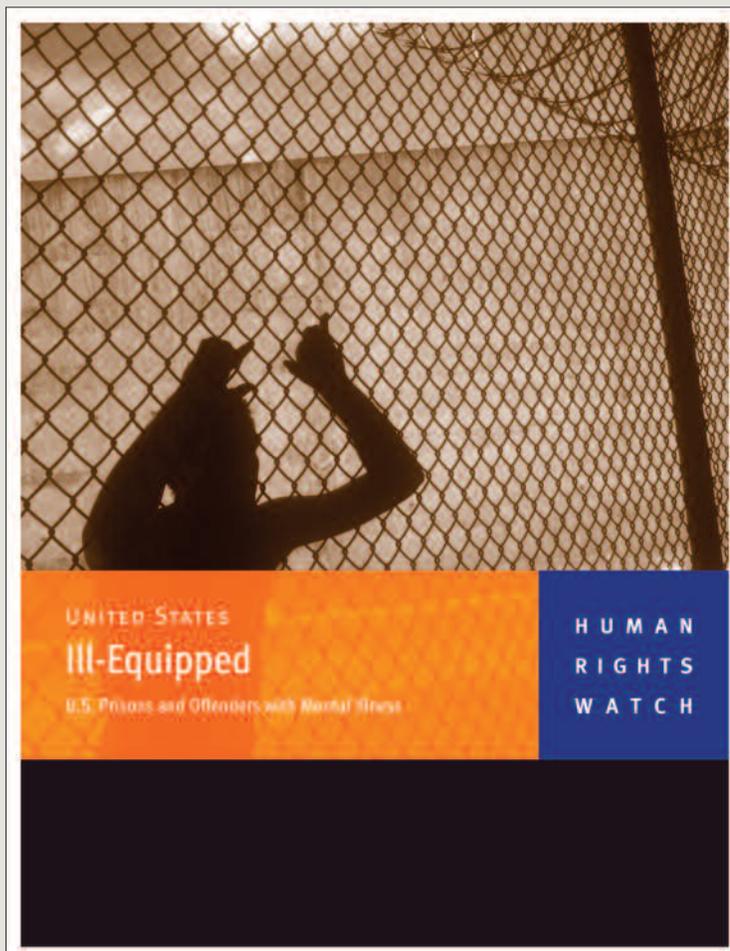
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IMPACT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S PUBLICATIONS

United States: Congress Addresses Plight of Mentally Ill Offenders

Based in large part on our advocacy, the U.S. Congress recently enacted legislation to address the growing number of people with mental illnesses who are swept into the criminal justice system. In early October 2004(?), Congress passed new federal legislation authorizing \$50 million in federal grants to keep people with mental illness out of the criminal justice system, to improve training for police in dealing with the mentally ill, and to improve the quality of mental health treatment in jails and prisons. The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 now awaits signature by the president. Our report, **Ill-Equipped: U.S. Prisons and Offenders with Mental Illness**, documented the staggering proportion of prisoners who have serious mental illnesses, and the mistreatment, neglect, and abuses they face in prison.



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Russia—Lessons Not Learned: Human Rights Abuses and HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation

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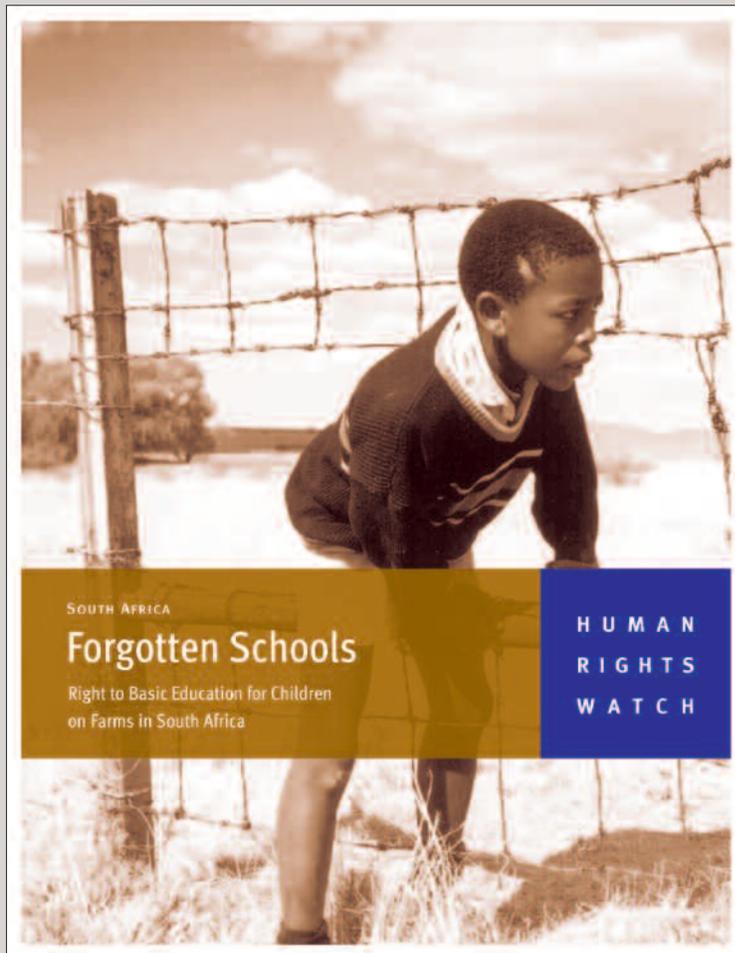
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Iraq—Climate of Fear: Sexual Violence and Abduction of Women and Girls in Baghdad

GENERAL

Human Rights Watch World Report 2004: Human Rights and Armed Conflict

Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity: Topical Digests of the Case Law of the ICTR and the ICTY



South Africa: Government Responds to Human Rights Watch Criticism of Education Policies

Our June report, **Forgotten Schools: Right to Basic Education for Children in Farms in South Africa**, spurred government action to improve the right of South African children to obtain an education. The report highlighted the government's neglect of farm schools, which provide the only educational opportunity for many of South Africa's rural children. Citing our report, and relying extensively on our research, the South African government appointed a committee to specifically examine schools on commercial farms. This issue, largely unknown before the release of our report, has motivated the press and public alike. After reading about our report in the media, one private U.S.-based company donated desks to a South African school. The same company is organizing large-scale corporate donations to farm schools in several South African provinces.

Afghanistan: Abusive Warlord Removed From Power

In late September, Afghan President Hamid Karzai dismissed Ismail Khan, the abusive governor of the western Afghan province of Herat. Human Rights Watch was one of the first organizations after the fall of the Taliban to expose the U.S. government's support of local warlords like Ismail Khan who have engaged in politically motivated arrests, intimidation, extortion, and torture, and impose severe restrictions on expression, association, and the rights of women. Human Rights Watch wrote two major reports in 2002 about abuses in Herat by Ismail

Khan's forces. It's too early to know whether Ismail Khan will remain on the sidelines, but his removal demonstrates that sustained pressure on the government can ultimately force effective international action. A series of Human Rights Watch reports and advocacy have played a significant role in building pressure on the United States and its NATO allies in Afghanistan to help President Karzai rein in warlords.

India: HIV/AIDS Report Encourages Action

The Chief Justice of India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) wrote to national and state government officials asking them to consider key recommendations from Human Rights Watch's report on children affected by HIV/AIDS. The letter used language from our report, **Future Forsaken: Abuses Against Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in India**. This report criticized the government's lack of protection for children living with HIV/AIDS and found that many doctors refuse to treat or even touch HIV-positive children; that schools expel or segregate

children because they or their parents are HIV-positive; and that orphanages and other residential institutions reject HIV-positive children or deny that they house them.

The NHRC used the report's recommendations to make its own recommendations to the Indian government. The government has since announced that it will look into introducing age-appropriate HIV/AIDS education in schools. The Prime Minister has set up a committee in his office that will oversee India's efforts in providing care and raising awareness on HIV/AIDS.

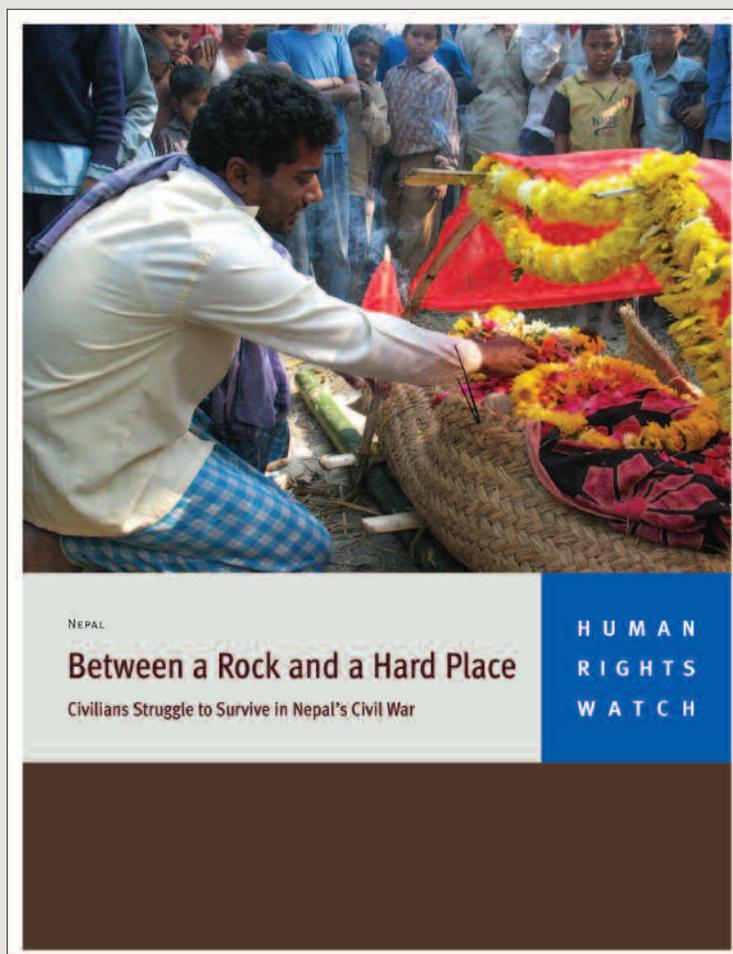
Ecuador: Workers Find a Measure of Protection

One of our biggest successes this year has been progress on workers' human rights in Ecuador. Roughly two years after we released our report on the issue, Ecuador has now hired twenty-two child labor inspectors (they had none when our report was published) and will soon issue an excellent executive decree on the use of subcontractors to circumvent workers' rights protections. We were consulted by Ecuador's labor minister regarding the drafting of the decree. Both developments fulfill some of the key recommendations of our 2002 report.

This progress is primarily the result of a decision made by USTR, due in large part to our advocacy over the past two years, to make workers' rights improvements a condition for: 1) the initiation of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with Ecuador this May 2004; and 2) renewal of Ecuador's tariff benefits under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA).

Nepal: Exposing an Escalating Human Rights Emergency

After years of silence, Nepal received quite a lot of attention from HRW in 2004. A three-week long research mission with the emergencies division in April 2004 resulted in a comprehensive report on human rights abuses related to the conflict. The report, **Between a Rock and a Hard Place**, recorded abuses by both sides of the conflict, and has been cited by local human rights groups as among the most important research papers on the conflict. We conducted extensive advocacy in Nepal, India, London and Washington on the report. One important and direct result of our advocacy was the passage of a bill – drafted by Human Rights Watch – by the US Congress placing human rights conditions on military aid to Nepal. This came after meetings with key congressional staffers in Washington D.C. The passage of this bill marks an important turn in U.S. government policy towards Nepal and has sent an important message to the Nepali government, which had, until then, relied on nearly unconditional support from the U.S. government.



HOPE RESTORED

A Human Rights Defender is Reunited with Her “Stolen” Child

In 1997, we honored Angelina Atyam, a Ugandan human rights activist.

Angelina’s daughter, Charlotte, had been abducted by rebels in Northern Uganda. They took Charlotte from her school with dozens of other children and forced them into the rebel army. Children abducted by these rebels are beaten, raped and brutalized. Angelina knew this. So after Charlotte’s abduction, Angelina formed the Concerned Parents Association to mobilize others who had lost a child. She made world leaders like Kofi Annan and Bill Clinton pay attention to these lost children—more than 20,000 of them at last count.



Photograph courtesy of Angelina Atyam

And we rejoice for all the individuals we have celebrated through the years because their lives—and perhaps ours—have made a difference to the human rights cause.

Jane Olson

Chair, Board of Directors

Angelina broadcast her story to the world through the human rights community. The rebels apparently heard her. Several years ago, the rebels offered Angelina an impossible “choice”. If she gave up her campaign, she could see Charlotte again. But Angelina couldn’t make this choice. She knew how difficult it was to get the world to pay attention. If she gave up the cause, how many other children would be killed? So she did the unthinkable—she rejected their offer. Instead, she demanded that all of the schoolchildren abducted with Charlotte be released. And she continued her work.

Then, in July of this year, after eight years of struggle and heartache, Charlotte managed to escape.

We rejoice for Angelina because, even though her personal nightmare is over, she continues her activism on behalf of Ugandan children still being held. We rejoice for Charlotte because this one child, at least, will get the chance to go back to school and reclaim the life that was so brutally interrupted.

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A thirteen-year-old child, kidnapped from her village by the Lord's Resistance Army, managed to escape her captors. She seeks assistance in a medical clinic in Uganda. May 2004.

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Back Cover:

Zaghawa militia members protect their livestock from the repeated incursions of the Janjaweed militia.

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