

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

HUMAN

RIGHTS

WATCH



ANNUAL REPORT

2005

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 its 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 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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Abusive governments bank on their ability to keep people in the dark. They try to hide their violations of human rights behind lies, denials, and cover-ups.

Human Rights Watch combats this deception with the truth. Our fact-finding is aggressive, piercing, and, above all, scrupulously honest. We know that the first step in ending abuse is exposing official misdeeds with accurate and objective reporting.

Our truth-telling this year was crucial in Darfur, Sudan, where the Sudanese government engaged in massive ethnic cleansing and then tried to pin the looting, murder, and rape on a supposedly autonomous militia known as the Janjaweed. Our investigations, often conducted clandestinely, showed instead that Khartoum formed, armed, and directed the Janjaweed. By repeatedly publishing reports and engaging the press, we helped turn an ignored crisis into a major global preoccupation.

The resulting public attention helped maximize pressure on Sudan to end the killing. After an intensive six-month campaign, we helped convince the United Nations Security Council to overcome U.S. objections and authorize the International Criminal Court to investigate those behind the Darfur atrocities—an important deterrent of further slaughter. We are also making progress in our campaign to expand an international force to protect the people of Darfur. As we write, the killing in Darfur has subsided, but much more must be done to create the secure conditions that will enable the two million people who are displaced to return home safely.

We told another unpleasant truth in exposing the U.S. government's abusive interrogation practices. Working in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Guantánamo, we demonstrated that detainees have been tortured and mistreated, not only at Abu Ghraib, but in dozens of U.S. detention facilities worldwide. Many of the victims died. This broad pattern of abuse, we showed, was not the random work of

individual soldiers, as the U.S. administration has claimed, but the predictable product of policies adopted by the highest levels of government.

In contrast to George W. Bush's promise that the "wrongdoers will be brought to justice," we have spotlighted how the governmental architects of this policy have so far evaded accountability for violating the most basic standards of law and decency. Those evasions have seriously undermined the credibility of the United States as a proponent of human rights and threaten a continuation of this abuse. We continue to call for a clear repudiation of these despicable practices and a genuinely independent investigation and prosecution, not only of low-level offenders who have been pursued so far, but of the people higher on the chain of command who bear primary responsibility for these crimes. That is the best way to bring a clear halt to this mistreatment.

Telling the truth is not always easy. Powerful authorities obviously do not want us to expose their crimes. Sometimes they lash out at us. We weather their criticism with the knowledge that our strength lies in our principles, our credibility, and the many supporters who stand with us.

We are proud to lead an organization that prizes honesty and grateful to our growing number of partners around the world who also believe in the importance of telling the truth.



JANE OLSON, *Chair*



KENNETH ROTH, *Executive Director*

DARFUR EXPOSING ETHNIC CLEANSING

When Human Rights Watch started reporting on crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in Darfur in February 2004, few people had heard of this region in western Sudan. The world's worst human rights and humanitarian crisis was unfolding with little public or government notice. In large part because of Human Rights Watch's persistence, however, Darfur is now high on the international policy agenda.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUNO STEVENS





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

DARFUR EXPOSING ETHNIC CLEANSING



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

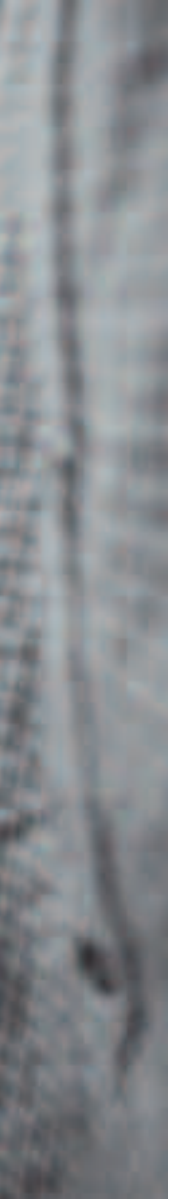
(right) A Sudanese refugee in Chad.





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

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



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

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

(below) People forced from their homes.



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



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



DARFUR EXPOSING ETHNIC CLEANSING

The human suffering in Darfur is staggering. More than two million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes by government-sponsored militia known as the Janjaweed. Tens of thousands of people have died as a result of conflict, disease, and malnutrition. Countless women have been raped, and many continue to be vulnerable to sexual violence in and around displaced persons camps. Hundreds of villages have been looted and burned to the ground. Humanitarian aid workers are under threat, with serious implications for the lives of the almost four million people of Darfur who currently depend on humanitarian relief.

Human Rights Watch helped catapult the atrocities committed in Darfur into public consciousness. We conducted numerous investigative missions to Sudan and neighboring Chad, where we interviewed hundreds of victims and witnesses about the atrocities they had encountered. In rebel-held territories in Sudan, we traveled via camel in some of the most difficult conditions we have ever encountered. We filmed the devastation that we saw. In addition to verbal testimony, we collected the drawings of displaced children who, unprompted, depicted graphically the attacks that they and their families had experienced.

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(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 EXPOSING ETHNIC CLEANSING

Human Rights Watch disseminated this evidence as widely as possible, making it impossible for the international community to claim ignorance of these abuses. We met with high-level Sudanese government officials and Janjaweed leaders in Darfur to press them to end the killings. We urged policy-makers in the United States, European Union, and African Union to act immediately to protect the people of Darfur. Human Rights Watch played a central role in persuading the U.N. Security Council to pressure Sudan to open Darfur to international relief efforts and to threaten the country's leaders with prosecution if Khartoum did not consent to the deployment of African troops to monitor a ceasefire and protect civilians.

Knowing that the leadership in Khartoum feared the prospect of war-crimes trials, we successfully pushed the United Nations to establish an international commission of inquiry to collect evidence of atrocities in Darfur. Echoing Human Rights Watch's findings, the commission, which we briefed extensively, concluded after a three-month investigation that the crimes in Darfur amounted to crimes against humanity warranting the involvement of the International Criminal Court.

In late March 2005, in a significant victory, the U.N. Security Council acted on this recommendation and authorized the Court to prosecute the killers in Darfur. Human Rights Watch played a catalytic role in that decision. We maintained pressure on diplomats, shared information about the crimes committed in Darfur with a variety of key actors, and pressed pivotal countries to take a strong stand in favor of justice as necessary to deter future crimes.

Human Rights Watch is still pressing international donors, NATO, the European Union, and the African Union to accelerate the pledged deployment of 12,300 African Union troops to Darfur, a significant increase over the few thousand there through the first half of 2005. This enhanced presence is urgently needed to protect the people of Darfur and enable them to return in safety and dignity to their homes.

Perhaps Sudan's leaders thought they could get away with murder in Sudan. But they were wrong. Human Rights Watch focused a spotlight on Darfur. And now the world is watching.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | **Programs**



Sudanese refugees from Darfur, who made their way across the border into Chad, board a United Nations 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–MARCH 2005

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
Uruguay
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

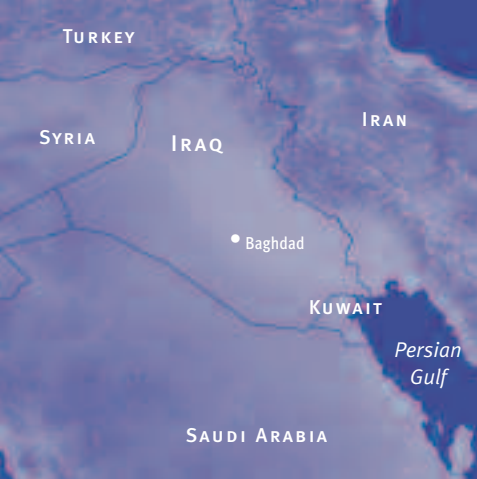
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Denmark
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Macedonia

The Netherlands
Russia
(including Chechnya)
Serbia and Montenegro
(including Kosovo)
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
Libya
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 guidance.

© 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 large amount of cash and was apprehended and detained.

© 2003 Teun Voeten

THE ROAD TO ABU GHRAIB

The only thing exceptional about the abuses of Abu Ghraib was that they were caught on camera.

Human Rights Watch's investigations, begun even before the Abu Ghraib story broke, reveal that the mistreatment of prisoners—far from being an isolated incident—was widespread in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Detainees in Afghanistan were beaten, held naked, and deprived of sleep. U.S. Army dog handlers in Iraq competed to see who could make detainees urinate on themselves the fastest out of fear. At Guantánamo, detainees were chained in painful positions and humiliated by female interrogators.

These cases of brutality, humiliation, and even torture were not merely the acts of individual soldiers who broke the rules, our research shows, but the result of a policy to cast the rules aside.

After the publication of the Abu Ghraib photos, former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told foreign leaders, “Watch America. Watch how we deal with this. Watch how America will do the right thing.” However, more than one year later, the Bush administration has prosecuted only the lowest-level offenders. Despite a flurry of self-investigations, it refuses to allow an independent investigation that might examine the culpability of senior officials.

The administration has denounced torture in theory, but it insists on the power to subject detainees to equally prohibited cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, so long as the victim is a non-American detained overseas. No other government anywhere in the world claims as a matter of official policy the power to breach the absolute prohibition against such mistreatment. That radical claim threatens to undermine one of the most fundamental human rights guarantees.



Because U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales was one of the architects of this policy, he cannot be trusted to investigate himself. Human Rights Watch has thus called for the appointment of an independent special prosecutor to ensure that the higher-level officials who approved or tolerated these crimes are fairly investigated and, where appropriate, brought to justice. That is the only way to prevent these officials from continuing to pass off all responsibility for the mistreatment of prisoners to their subordinates. Among those who should be investigated, our evidence shows, are Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former CIA Director George Tenet.

Accountability for those at the top of the chain of command is necessary to ensure that coercive interrogation practices will never be used again. Human Rights Watch, meanwhile, has secured bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for legislation that would mandate humane interrogation guidelines. Yet the Bush administration continues to resist such a requirement.

Ending abusive interrogation is important in its own right. It is also essential to redeem America's reputation as a credible proponent of human rights and to regain the moral high ground in the important effort to stop terrorism. Through sustained research, policy analysis, and targeted advocacy, Human Rights Watch is working to ensure that counter-terror efforts do not undermine the basic values of dignity and justice that are, and should be, markers of a civilized society.





A SWEET DEAL

Paramilitary Impunity in Colombia

When the U.S. government called for their extradition, some of Colombia's drug lords began to negotiate a "demobilization" deal with the Colombian government, hoping to avoid being extradited to America.

The drug lords also happen to be Colombia's top paramilitary commanders, who have been pitted in a brutal struggle against left-wing guerillas over control of the drug trade and political power in Colombia. In their negotiations, the commanders succeeded in avoiding not only extradition, but virtually any accountability for their crimes.

Over the last two decades, paramilitary commanders in Colombia have ordered countless massacres, assassinations, forced disappearances, and acts of torture and extortion. The troops they command are paid and financed through complex drug-trafficking operations and other illegal activities. Because of the groups' enormous wealth, paramilitary commanders enjoy political influence in much of the country.

Human Rights Watch researchers exposed the shallowness of the proposed demobilization. We visited Colombia repeatedly to meet with numerous government officials, including President Álvaro Uribe, to press our concerns. Our repeated press conferences on these issues routinely were

televised nationally and made major headlines in the country's—and world's—leading newspapers.

We argued that the proposed demobilization would leave the underlying structures of the paramilitary groups intact and would drastically limit time frames for investigation of paramilitaries' crimes, making it nearly impossible to hold paramilitaries accountable. Even if convicted, we said, paramilitary commanders could get away with serving as little as two years in a form of house arrest without having to confess, fully disclose their knowledge of the criminal networks they run, or even turn over all their massive illegally acquired wealth.

Because Colombia is the third-highest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, much of our advocacy focused on the U.S. government. A bipartisan group of U.S. senators and representatives relied on our reporting to craft a letter to President Uribe that expressed concern about the demobilization process and recommended, as we did, that paramilitary groups disclose basic information about the structure of their



networks and turn over their immense, illegally acquired wealth.

In addition, we presented a report about the failings of demobilization at an international donors' conference in Cartagena, where we encouraged governments to withhold political and financial support until Colombia institutes an effective legal framework for demobilization. At the conference, the administration of President Uribe unveiled a bill that began to address the concerns raised by the international community. After the meeting, however, the government scrapped that draft law and replaced it with a different proposal, one that was significantly weaker and thoroughly inconsistent with the criteria of international donors. The weakened law was approved in June 2005.

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

© 2001 Teun Voeten

Human Rights Watch was the first to identify the problems with the law and focus international attention on them. The law's approval has been widely criticized, both within and outside of Colombia. As a result, the Colombian government will probably have a difficult time obtaining international assistance to implement the demobilizations, and the legitimacy of the process will continue to be seriously questioned.



TRAPPED AND GAY IN EGYPT

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. Several Egyptian groups refuse to support you. They consider you a sinner, not a victim of a human rights abuse. To whom will you turn?

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.

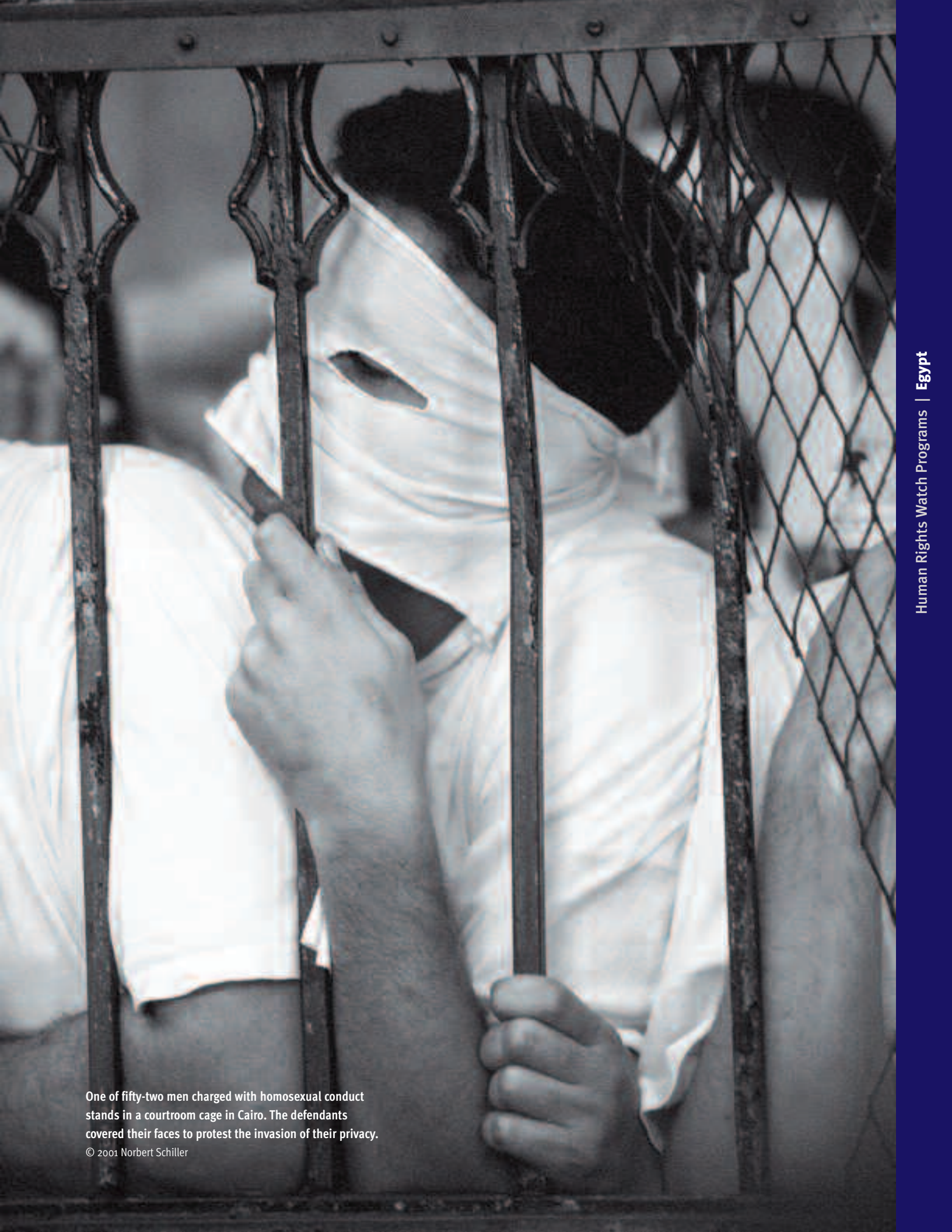
In March 2004, Human Rights Watch released a report in Cairo on this brutality. The report detailed exactly how the arrests happened, how the detainees were treated, and even the email addresses used by some of the informers.

The release of the report coincided with the launching of a new program at Human Rights Watch dedicated to defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Five Egyptian human rights organizations joined us in a press conference in Cairo to launch the report, marking an unprecedented show of support on the issue. The report was also posted on our Arabic-language website, making the information available to potential victims. We met with a senior Interior Ministry official about the report's conclusions and, in the following weeks, helped coordinate a letter from forty-four members of the U.S. 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 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 can live in far less fear. They have somewhere to turn.



One of fifty-two men charged with homosexual conduct stands 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

Angola has the second largest oil holdings in Africa. Oil-related revenue amounts to some \$4 billion per year—75 percent of the government's total annual budget. As Angola recovers from three decades of civil war, that wealth should allow the country to undertake the social and economic reconstruction desperately needed by its impoverished population.



ABUSE IN ANGOLA

Instead, Human Rights Watch found, nearly 20 percent of Angola's oil revenue from 1997 to 2002 had disappeared, much of it siphoned off into private bank accounts. The \$4 billion that is missing was roughly the equivalent to what Angola spent on health, education, and other social services during this five-year period.

Human Rights Watch blew the whistle on this corruption, noting that it 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 hiding 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 had hoped to receive over \$1 billion in aid at a long-planned donors' conference. But it hardly made sense for donors to subsidize billions of dollars of mismanagement and corruption. Facing this international outrage at their greed, Angolan authorities have had no choice but to begin accounting 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.



More than twenty years ago, when Human Rights Watch began to work in Russia, we traveled clandestinely to support Soviet dissidents. Recently, however, our efforts have taken on a much more public profile.

Human Rights Watch's Board of Directors, for example, held its quarterly meeting in Moscow in June 2005 to demonstrate our concern about human rights in Russia and to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of our Moscow office.

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 NGOs, and

A PAGE IN RUSSIA'S MODERN HISTORY

Human Rights Watch's work in Moscow



(left) 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.

© 1997 Heidi Bradner/Panos Pictures

(right) Women and children survivors take flight after a 1995 Russian massacre of Chechen civilians in Samashki.

© 1995 Stanley Greene/Agence VU

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.

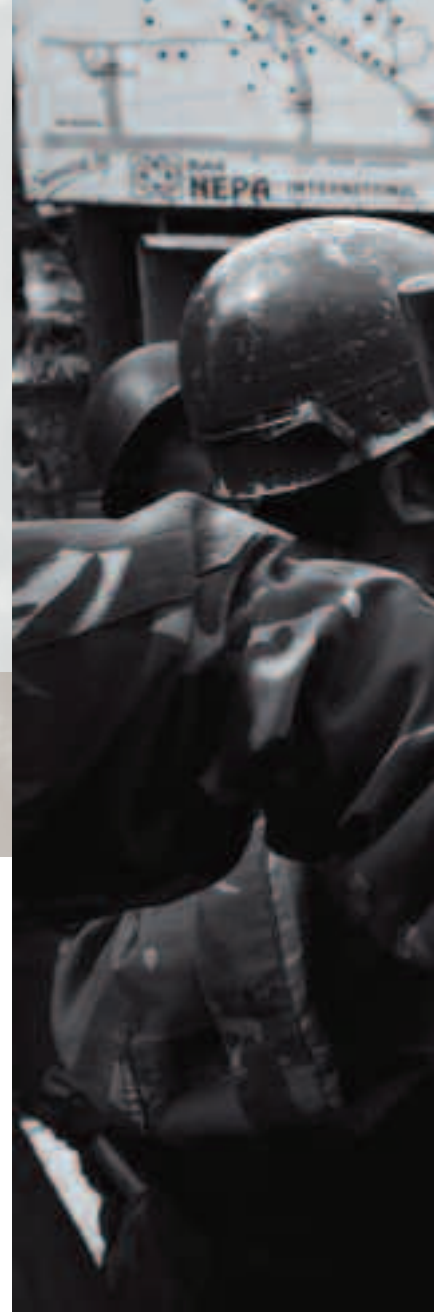
Expanding our presence in Russia was a key goal for Human Rights Watch over the last four years. The office achieved this public recognition by reaching out to the Russian media, developing a Russian-language website, and translating into Russian some of our work beyond Russia, such as press releases, briefings, and reports on Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Israel, and the European Union.

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.

This public growth and impact testifies to the resonance of our message and to the role we have played in helping the international human rights movement come of age in Russia.





MURDER IN THE MOUNTAINS

Exposing the Atrocities of Nepal's Civil War

When people think of Nepal, they often imagine a mountainous tourist destination, the gateway to Mount Everest. What is less known is that, since 1996, Nepal has been gripped by a brutal civil war that has pitted a poorly trained military and police force against a ruthless Maoist insurgency. Both sides have committed horrific abuses.

More than 10,000 Nepalis have died in the conflict. Thousands of people have been displaced. Countless families have relatives who were taken into government custody, never to be seen again. The army frequently interrogates, tortures, and kills presumed Maoists or Maoist sympathizers. The Maoists are, if anything, even more brutal. They target whoever opposes them—teachers, peaceful political activists, and civilians who refuse to pay extortion or feed them. Murder and torture are regularly meted out to those who defy Maoist rule.

Human Rights Watch this year intensified our work on Nepal to bring these abuses to light and catalyze the international community to take action. We conducted on-the-ground fact-finding, produced a comprehensive report on human rights abuses in the armed conflict and another that

shed new light on the staggering number of disappearances—the highest number of reported disappearances in the world.

We also conducted extensive and successful advocacy in Nepal, India, London, Geneva, and Washington. One important and direct result of our advocacy was the passage of a bill by the U.S. Congress that placed human rights conditions on military aid to Nepal. The bill marked an important turn in U.S. government policy, which until then, had been unconditionally supportive of Nepal.

Working with key allies, we pressured Nepal to agree to allow the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to open a field office in the country to monitor abuses. We also persuaded the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to pass a strong resolution on Nepal—an important source of international condemnation and pressure. We continue to press international donors—particularly the United States and India—to insist that Nepal live up to its human rights obligations.

On February 1, 2005, in an attempt to rein in Maoist insurgents, Nepal's king dismissed the government, assumed



direct power, and declared a state of emergency. Operating with total impunity, the monarchy intensified its crackdown on civil society. It imposed a media blackout, forced the closure of local civil society organizations, and arrested and “disappeared” civilians—especially journalists and activists.

Immediately following the royal takeover, Human Rights Watch deployed staff to report from Nepal. Although the king has since formally lifted Nepal’s state of emergency, civilians continue to face harassment and detention. Human Rights Watch is working to ensure the rapid deployment of U.N. human rights monitors in an effort to protect Nepal’s citizens from the brutality of both the government and Maoist rebels.

In Kathmandu, Nepalese government security forces apprehend a protestor at a Democracy Day demonstration, February 18, 2005.

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RESPONDING TO BREAKING EVENTS

Human Rights Watch Unmasks the Massacre in Uzbekistan



In May 2005, Uzbek President Islam Karimov mowed down hundreds of unarmed demonstrators in the city of Andijan and then closed off the region to prevent details from leaking out.

Human Rights Watch responded by mounting a clandestine investigation, producing the definitive account to date of the massacre despite government efforts to cover up the truth, and intensifying pressure for an independent international investigation.

Uzbekistan is among the most repressive of the post-Soviet states. It allows no independent media, no registered opposition political parties, and little latitude for civil society. Torture is endemic, and long-term political imprisonment commonplace. The victims tend to be anyone who shows organized independence from the government, especially pious Muslims who pray outside government-controlled mosques.

The massacre was unleashed in mid-May, as the government prosecuted 23 popular local businessmen in Andijan, allegedly for “religious extremism,” but more likely for operating businesses outside the government’s control.

As the trial neared conclusion in mid-May 2005, some of the businessmen’s supporters attacked local police and military facilities, seized weapons, and proceeded to free the businessmen from the local prison. Several guards and officers were killed in the process and government officials were taken hostage.

The dramatic events prompted thousands of supporters, the vast majority unarmed, to converge on Andijan’s main square the following day to air grievances about the Uzbek government.



The government responded with extraordinary brutality. Without warning, it surrounded the crowd in the square and opened fire. As the crowd sought to escape down one avenue, it was met with a barrage of bullets from machine guns and snipers. Row after row—hundreds of people—were shot down. Desperate survivors fled some 50 kilometers to the border of neighboring Kyrgyzstan to escape.

Human Rights Watch immediately sent a team of researchers to Kyrgyzstan to interview the survivors. We managed to get a researcher into Andijan, despite having to cross six government checkpoints. Our researchers were able to reconstruct a moment-by-moment account of the tragedy in Andijan. And by detailing the Uzbek government's efforts to cover up the massacre—from tampering with the crime scene to intimidating witnesses—we gave the lie to its claim that it could fairly investigate the killings on its own.

On June 7, 2005, we released our findings at a jam-packed press conference in Moscow. The report received extensive coverage in such outlets as the New York Times, Washington Post, Le Monde, BBC, CNN, NPR, and many others. The coverage helped to build pressure for an international

(above) Relatives bury one of the victims of the killings in Andijan.

© 2005 Reuters Ltd.

(left) Local residents surround the bodies of victims of the killings in Andijan.

© 2005 Getty Images

investigation—the first step toward justice. To urge President Karimov to agree, we pressed the U.S. government to suspend negotiations for a long-term military base in Uzbekistan and the European Union to suspend its aid agreement with the country.

President Karimov clearly hopes that the world will forget this terrible crime and that he can once again portray himself as a reliable Western ally. Human Rights Watch is determined to keep this atrocity on the world's agenda until justice is done for the victims of the Andijan massacre.



(right) A young woman in India sleeps outside the house where she is employed as a maid. Human Rights Watch has undertaken a regional campaign in Asia to expose the abuse of female domestic workers.

© 2002 Dieter Telemans/Panos Pictures

(below) Indonesian domestic workers, holding a sign entitled “pekerja” (workers), protesting violence against workers in Jakarta on International Women’s Day.

© 1999 Reuters Ltd.



WOUNDED WORKERS

Promoting the Rights of Domestic Workers in Asia



Graphic photographs of the bruised and burned body of a young Indonesian woman in Malaysia were splashed across Southeast Asian newspapers in May 2004. The woman was a domestic worker who accused her employer of brutally beating and abusing her.

Her plight is just the tip of the iceberg. Human Rights Watch has undertaken a regional investigative project in Asia to expose the myriad abuses that migrant domestic workers face and to improve these women’s treatment.



Millions of women worldwide are engaged in domestic work, an employment sector often neglected by national labor laws. Inherently private, domestic work is often rife with abuse, and female domestic workers often must suffer in silence, with little protection or redress.

In Malaysia, we found that Indonesian domestic workers are often forbidden to leave their workplace. Many suffer psychological, physical, and sexual assault by labor agents and employers. Domestic workers in Malaysia typically work grueling 16- to 18-hour days, seven days a week, and earn a pittance. Many employers hold their domestic workers' salary until the end of the standard two-year contract.

After releasing a report on these abuses, Human Rights Watch was granted unprecedented access to top officials in Malaysia's government, despite their usual wariness about discussing human rights issues. We sought legal protection for domestic workers and redress for workers who face abuse. While these meetings were an important first step, there is still much to be done. The Malaysian government continues to deny that there are rampant abuses in this industry. A cabinet official told us that if women domestic workers were allowed even one day off per week or were no longer forbidden from leaving their workplace, they would likely run away.

These attitudes may be slow to change, but rising public awareness about the exploitation of women workers may give Malaysian officials no choice but to reform their labor code. Human Rights Watch is working with migrant workers' organizations in the region to fuel public debate about women's rights. This negative publicity already has led tens of thousands of Indonesian domestic workers to choose other destinations with higher wages and better legal protection. The ensuing labor shortage in Malaysia has provided us with an important opportunity to press Malaysia to make necessary reforms.

Pressure from Indonesian and international groups, including Human Rights Watch, has contributed to the passage of a new migrant workers' protection law in Indonesia. We are partnering with local groups throughout Asia to achieve regional minimum standards for domestic workers' rights.

Human Rights Watch's goal is to prevent further abuse of domestic workers and to ensure their rights are legally protected to the same extent as those of other workers. It should not take graphic newspaper photographs of bruised women to ensure that these workers are treated with dignity.

(top right) Richard Dicker gives an interview to al-Jazeera at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Courtesy of CICC

(below right) Richard Dicker in Sierra Leone, 2005.

Courtesy of Richard Dicker

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 crimes.

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 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 helped persuade them not to be cowed by U.S. opposition.

"I remember Richard walking down a corridor in Rome, where the treaty establishing the ICC was negotiated in 1998," recalled Tayler. "He was carrying two huge bags of papers, talking intensely on a mobile phone, and he still managed to stop a diplomat in the hallway and say something that was completely cogent. That's Richard."

More recently, Richard's advocacy played an important role in building support for the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the International Criminal



Court to investigate the atrocities in Darfur. Again, his coalition-building, coupled with persuasion in Washington, helped persuade the Bush Administration not to veto the resolution despite its dislike of the ICC.

“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 get to its core in a way that the press, public, and policymakers can easily understand.”

After graduating from the University of Michigan and New York University and Columbia University Law Schools, Dicker came to Human Rights Watch in 1990 as a Fellow in the Africa division. He then worked on human rights in China and initiated our business and human rights program, before leading Human Rights Watch’s successful campaign to establish the International Criminal Court and becoming director of our 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.

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH | **Our Volunteer Community**

Berlin · Chicago · Geneva · Hamburg · London · Los Angeles · Munich

New York · San Francisco · Santa Barbara · Toronto · Zurich

The Human Rights Watch Council is a network of committees across 12 cities in Europe, Canada and the United States. Composed of more than 300 opinion leaders from a variety of backgrounds, the committees are an informed and engaged constituency that are a key part of our global defense of human rights. The Council seeks to increase awareness of local and global human rights issues and enlist the public and government to support basic freedoms for all. Committee members meet regularly to learn about human rights abuses, sponsor policy debates, and generate support for Human Rights Watch and its mission through fundraising, outreach, and advocacy.

The Human Rights Watch Council

Los Angeles / California Committee South

EXPOSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS



Members of Human Rights Watch's California Committee South and Young Advocates accompanied a Human Rights Watch researcher to investigate the treatment of juveniles in 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 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.

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. They also address the disproportionately lengthy sentences given to juveniles 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. The publicity about abuses at Men's Central led the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to declare the facility unfit for detainees under the age of eighteen. Only a few juveniles remain. 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 adopt.



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

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Los Angeles/California Committee South

Founded 1990

**Co-Chairs: Mike Farrell,
Victoria Riskin,
Sid Sheinberg,
William D. Temko**
**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

Richard Verches
Nina Walton
Ellie Wertheimer
Patricia Williams
Stanley Wolpert
Noah Wyle
Tracy Wyle

San Francisco/California Committee North

Founded 2000

**Co-Chairs:
Lore Harp McGovern,
Orville Schell**
**Vice-Chairs:
David Keller, Darian W. Swig**

Director: Sarah Palermo

Jeff Anderson
Carole Angermeir
Juliette Blecker
Jeff Bleich
Joseph & Christine Bouckaert
Rebecca Brackman
Jim Brosnahan
Stuart Burden
Janice Parker Callaghan
Maryles Casto
William K. Coblenz
Chip Conley & Dr. Donald
Graves
Peter Coyote
Kim Cranston
Stuart Davidson
Chiara DiGeronimo
Jack Edelman
Lynn Fritz
Diane Foug
Roger Gordon
Lydia Graham
Elizabeth Rice Grossman
Barbara Henry
Tom Higgins
Diane Rice & Spencer Hosie
Sara Anderson Hsiao
Bryan & Nancy Barron
Kemnitzer
Todd Koons
Martin and Pamela Krasney
Sally Lilienthal
Walter Link
Stephen Mansfield
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
Wendy Webster
Katherine J. Zoglin

New York Committee

Founded 1998

**Co-Chairs: Michael G. Fisch,
Kevin Ryan**

Director: Ritu Chattree

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
Kenneth D. Gibbs
David S. Hirsch
Joseph Hofheimer
Yves-André Istel
Robert G. James
Robert D. Joffe
Constance Kassouf
Henry McGee
Terence Meehan
Tiffany E. Moller
James Mossman
David Nachman
Bruce Rabb
Barbara Paul Robinson
David P. Wagener

Chicago Committee

Founded 2004

**Co-Chairs: Judy Gaynor,
Susan Manilow**

Director: Liba Beyer

Mirna Adjami
Javeed Akhter
Naheed Akhter
Ellen Alberding
Lois E. Altman
Lucy Ascoli
Edgar E. Bachrach
Cherif M. Bassiouni
Michael Bauer
Marjorie C. Benton
Stephen Bienen
Marshall Bouton
Timothy Breen
Doug Cassel
Marty Castro
Adela Cepeda
Judy Cottle
Allison Davis
Victoria Drake
Margaret Duncan
Jonathan F. Fanton,
Founding Member
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**

Director: Jasmine Hertl

Sally Armstrong
Khalid Awan
Saadia Awan
Lloyd Axworthy
David Baker
Suresh Bhalla
Sally Bongard
Roel Bramer
Kathryn Cottingham
Sarah Dinnick
Atom Egoyan
Jennifer Eggsgard
Suzanne Galipeault
Marc Giacomelli
Nancy Hamm
Paul Heinbecker
Wendy Keys, *Founding Member*
Merle Kriss
Ann Levitt
Elizabeth Levitt
Louise Levitt
Karin Lippert
Margaret MacMillan
Judy McLean
Andy Merchant
Noah Novogrodsky
Susan Reisler
James Ron
Clayton Ruby
Myra Sable
Allan Shiff
Helaine Shiff
Nalini Stewart

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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
Tony Elliott
Charlotte Fraser
Susan Gibson
Louis Grieg
John Howkins
Kirsty Jenkinson
Rona Kiley
Laura Malkin
Anna Massey
Margaret McCabe

Julie Meyer
Patricia Mirreles
Miki Momen
Jan Nieuwenhuys
Trevor Pears
Gerhard Plasonig
Wiet Pot
Chris Powell
Sigrid Rausing
Malcolm Smart
John Stewart
John 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,
Thomas Bechtler,
Olivier Dupraz,
Atalanti Moquette,
Neil Rimer

Director: Emmanuelle Werner

Ahmed Altuwaijri
Afsane Bassir Pour
Lorella Bertani
Camille Bonnant
Claes Cronstedt
Michael de Picciotto
Nadège Hentsch
Dinah Lee Küng
Peter Küng
Manja Kuy Gideon
Baroness Marion Lambert

Philippa Layland Vogel
Luciana Lins
Marina Manghi
John H. and Marcy
McCall MacBain
Marina Manghi
Pierre Mirabaud
Abdullah Noman
David Rimer
Gerald Rimer
Erica Salzmann
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



When Switzerland last year was the only Western country to abstain from voting on a U.N. resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iran, Human Rights Watch's Geneva International Committee took action.

Knowing of Iran's deplorable human rights record and its horrific treatment of political prisoners, the committee wrote a letter to Micheline Calmy-Rey, the Swiss foreign minister, to protest Switzerland's abstention. The committee urged the Swiss government to support future resolutions condemning Iran's human rights record.

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.

In response, Switzerland changed its position. It endorsed a critical resolution on Iran at the U.N. General Assembly. Ms. Calmy-Rey made the change possible, swayed by those within her team who urged a hardening of the Swiss position in light of Human Rights Watch's testimony on the severity of the situation on the ground and our scrutiny of Switzerland's foreign policy toward Iran. With this evidence, Switzerland publicly condemned Iran's abuses, rather than mute criticism in favor of quiet negotiations.

This exchange with the Swiss government demonstrated that its foreign policy is being scrutinized. That, we expect, will yield more consistent and outspoken support for human rights.

(left) Geneva Director Loubna Freih, Executive Director Ken Roth, and Geneva Executive Committee member Olivier Dupraz at a meeting of the Geneva Committee.

London Committee

THE POETRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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 third time “Cries from the Heart,” a powerful evening of words and music imbued with human rights themes.

Featuring such well-known actors as Judi Dench, 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 plight of the victims to whom Human Rights Watch responds each day.



(above) Joseph Fiennes rehearses for “Cries from the Heart” at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London.

(below) Sophie Okonedo, Mark Rylance and David Harewood perform works onstage for “Cries from the Heart”

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The Human Rights Watch Council

Toronto Committee

TAKING ACTION

Human Rights Watch's Toronto Committee tackled one of the most controversial human rights issues in Toronto this year. The Committee called on the city's Sri Lankan Tamil community to pressure the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels to end recruitment of children in their twenty-year civil war against the Sri Lankan government. Toronto has the largest group of Tamils living outside of Sri Lanka, and these residents provide substantial financial and political support to the Sri Lankan LTTE rebels (also known as the Tamil Tigers).

To spotlight this connection, in December 2004 the Committee organized a panel discussion for Toronto's Tamil community. The panel consisted of our Children's Rights Division's advocacy director, Jo Becker; our Toronto Committee advocacy co-chair, Noah Novogrodsky; and the former premier of Ontario, Bob Rae. The event, attended by hundreds of Sri Lankan community members and activists, openly challenged the Tamil Tigers to end child recruitment.

The meeting struck a nerve. Angry LTTE supporters jeered, interrupted the speakers, and attempted to shut down the program. The presenters persevered. Many Sri Lankan activists bravely spoke out against the Tigers, despite reason to fear retribution for their actions. Breaking a long silence, the meeting was one of the first opportunities for Toronto's Tamils to openly discuss many of the issues in their homeland that divide them. Members of the community told us that the discussion released "all the bottled up desire to talk about human rights."



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

Tamil activists in Toronto have now redoubled their advocacy efforts. Requests for Human Rights Watch's report have been overwhelming—one activist told us that the Tamil translation of our report was "the hottest commodity in the Tamil community." Toronto Committee members and Human Rights Watch staff have, since the meeting, secured feature articles in Canada's major national newspapers, collaborated with former Foreign Minister (and Human Rights Watch Board Member) Lloyd Axworthy to engage Canada's prime minister, and met with key members of Parliament.

Through the support of Human Rights Watch and our Toronto Committee, Tamil activists have been emboldened to become more deeply and publicly engaged in advocating an end to human rights abuses by the government and the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka's civil war.

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, underwritten 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 included four special receptions for more than 200 people.



Joe and Carol Reich

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. Some 800,000 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.

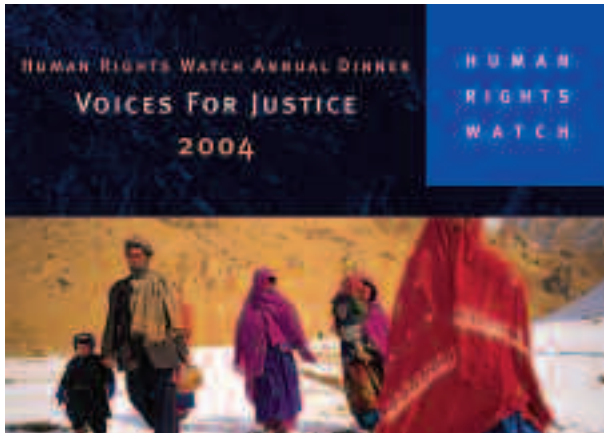
The lecture series was inspired by Townsend Friedman, Carol Reich’s brother and a career foreign service diplomat. Mr. Friedman’s last posting in Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide affected him greatly. The Reiches created the lecture series and special receptions to mark the anniversary of the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



*(left) Soldiers look on as the remains of victims of the genocide are exhumed for reburial.
© 1995 Corinne Dufka*

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.



Natalia Zhukova works with one of Russia's most extraordinary grassroots human rights organizations, the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers. Working with Human Rights Watch, the Committee has succeeded in making the mistreatment of soldiers a key domestic human rights issue in Russia. Natalia and her colleagues have secured policy changes and enhanced accountability in the Russian military, an institution known for its insularity.



Maître Honoré Musoko is a Congolese lawyer and founding member of Justice Plus, a local human rights organization based in Ituri district in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo. When documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ituri, Human Rights Watch worked closely with Justice Plus and Maître Honoré, who demonstrated extraordinary bravery in exposing atrocities in Congo that might otherwise have gone unknown.



Habib Rahiab is an exceptional Afghan human rights activist who has worked to uncover violence and insecurity in Afghanistan. He helped Human Rights Watch expose the mistreatment of detainees held by U.S. forces in Afghanistan before that issue dominated the headlines. Habib's heroic and tireless efforts to expose human rights abuses evoked the ire of Afghan warlords, who threatened to kill him, forcing him and his family into exile.



(left) Honoré Musoko speaks to California Committee South members at the home of Mary & Bob Estrin



(above) Habib Rahiab with members of All Saints Church in Pasadena



(left) Natalia Zhukova shares a smile with Human Rights Watch emergencies researcher Anna Neistat and California Committee South member Pam Bruns

all photographs © 2004 Patricia Williams

Film Festival

THE FOREMOST SHOWCASE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FILMMAKING



Born Into Brothels



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

In June 2004, we opened our festival in New York with *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, in a desperate effort 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. Its star, Catalina Sandino Moreno, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress.

We also showed *Born Into Brothels*, a deeply sympathetic look at the lives of children of prostitutes in Calcutta’s red-light district, and honored its filmmakers Zana Briski and Ross Kaufman with the Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. *Born Into Brothels* went on to receive the 2005 Academy Award for best documentary.

In London in March, we premiered *Sometimes in April*, a compelling retelling of the tragic 100 days of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Written, directed and

produced by acclaimed director Raoul Peck, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in 2001, the epic film follows a Rwandan family as it is torn apart by the genocide.

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

SOMETIMES IN APRIL

Raoul Peck, France/Rwanda, 2005

“While in Kigali, I was moved by every single conversation I had. I saw people with courage, people full of life, real people, not victims. And to these people, I wanted to give a glimmer of hope.”

RAOUL PECK

Shot on location in Rwanda, *Sometimes in April* is a compelling retelling of the tragedy of the 100 days of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Written, directed and executive produced by acclaimed director Raoul Peck, the film’s epic canvas follows a Rwandan family as it is torn apart by the genocide. It also explores the response of the international community, particularly the United States, to the atrocities and efforts to seek justice for the crimes committed.

Sometimes in April is set in two periods that unfold concurrently. In April 1994, Hutu army officer Augustin defies the Hutu army leadership’s plans to perpetrate genocide against the Tutsi and opposition Hutus. He tries to get his wife (who is Tutsi) and family to safety. When he is separated from them, Augustin is caught in a desperate struggle to survive and is haunted by questions about what happened to his loved ones. In the present day, looking for closure and hoping to start a new life with his girlfriend Martine, Augustin visits the United Nations Tribunal in Arusha, where his brother Honoré is awaiting trial for the role he and other journalists played in the genocide. In the end, Augustin discovers the fate of his family and finds a measure of hope for the future. Courtesy of HBO Films (www.hbo.com)



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 on broadcast news helped give the crisis the media exposure it desperately needed and deserved.



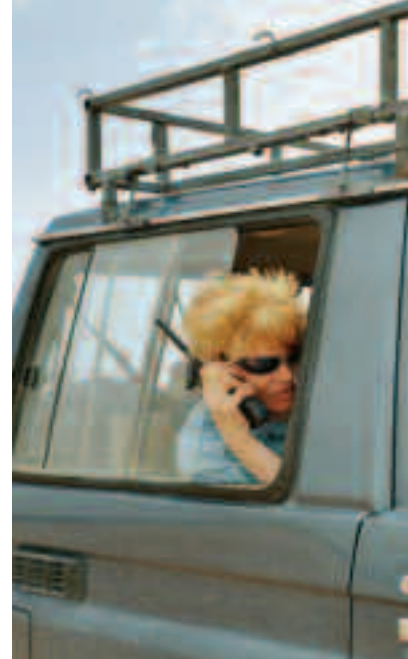
Human Rights Watch also used this video footage in a collaboration with WITNESS, a colleague organization that uses video to bring public attention to human rights abuses. Together we produced *Darfur Destroyed*, a mini-documentary that uncovers the ongoing atrocities being committed in Darfur. The video 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.

© 2004 Olivier Bercault/Human Rights Watch

(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 our 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 45,000 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 during the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival in the Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery at Lincoln Center, New York, and at Trolley Gallery, London. 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

BERLIN

Markgrafenstr.15, D-10969 Berlin
Tel: 49 (30) 259 3060 · Fax: 49 (30) 259 306 29
Email: berlin@hrw.org

BRUSSELS

15 Rue Van Campenhout, 1000 Brussels
Tel: 32 (2) 732 2009 · Fax: 32 (2) 732 0471
Email: hrwatcheu@gn.apc.org

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9 rue Cornavin, 1201 Geneva
Tel: 41 (22) 738 04 81 · Fax: 41 (22) 738 17 91

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2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9HF
Tel: 44 (020) 7713 1995 · Fax: 44 (020) 7713 1800
Email: hrwuk@hrw.org

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Los Angeles, CA 90064
Tel: 1 (310) 477 5540 · Fax: 1 (310) 477 4622
Email: hrwla@hrw.org

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U1. Chayanova 15, Korpus 5, Kwartira 505
Moscow 125267
Tel: 7 (095) 250 6852 · Fax: 7 (095) 250 6853
Email: office@hrw.ru

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350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York NY 10118-3299
Tel: 1 (212) 290 4700 · Fax: 1 (212) 736 1300
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Email: hrwdc@hrw.org

www.hrw.org

A person wearing traditional white headwear and clothing is sitting on a metal frame structure in a vast, flat, sandy landscape. The person is looking towards the right. In the background, there are some distant structures and other people. The overall scene is desolate and arid.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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Financial Information

(April 1, 2004—March 31, 2005)

These are excerpts from our audited financial statements. You may 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 2004)

Year ended March 31, 2005

| | Operating funds | | Total operating funds | Endowment fund | Total all funds | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Current | Future | | | 2005 | 2004 |
| Support and revenue: | | | | | | |
| Public support: | | | | | | |
| Contributions and grants | \$ 15,554,521 | \$ 14,888,358 | \$ 30,442,879 | \$ (87,732) | \$ 30,355,147 | \$ 21,746,005 |
| Special events | 2,935,585 | - | 2,935,585 | - | 2,935,585 | 2,422,208 |
| Total public support | 18,490,106 | 14,888,358 | 33,378,464 | (87,732) | 33,290,732 | 24,168,213 |
| Revenue: | | | | | | |
| Investment income (loss), net | 175,418 | - | 175,418 | 5,325,977 | 5,501,395 | 12,692,100 |
| Publications | 191,605 | - | 191,605 | - | 191,605 | 167,309 |
| Other | 146,603 | - | 146,603 | - | 146,603 | 111,396 |
| Total revenue | 513,626 | - | 513,626 | 5,325,977 | 5,839,603 | 12,970,805 |
| Net assets released from restrictions and transfers: | | | | | | |
| Expiration of time restrictions | 7,521,735 | (7,521,735) | - | - | - | - |
| Transfers | (531,331) | 2,531,331 | 2,000,000 | (2,000,000) | - | - |
| Total net assets released from restrictions and transfers | 6,990,404 | (4,990,404) | 2,000,000 | (2,000,000) | - | - |
| Total support and revenue | 25,994,136 | 9,897,954 | 35,892,090 | 3,238,245 | 39,130,335 | 37,139,018 |
| Expenses: | | | | | | |
| Program services: | | | | | | |
| Women's Rights | 870,100 | - | 870,100 | - | 870,100 | 905,168 |
| Arms | 988,900 | - | 988,900 | - | 988,900 | 1,190,264 |
| Americas | 1,043,508 | - | 1,043,508 | - | 1,043,508 | 1,179,901 |
| Children's Rights | 1,183,951 | - | 1,183,951 | - | 1,183,951 | 1,032,051 |
| Middle East & North Africa | 1,411,967 | - | 1,411,967 | - | 1,411,967 | 1,667,287 |
| Asia | 1,984,131 | - | 1,984,131 | - | 1,984,131 | 1,651,699 |
| Europe and Central Asia | 2,595,522 | - | 2,595,522 | - | 2,595,522 | 2,412,280 |
| Africa | 3,044,455 | - | 3,044,455 | - | 3,044,455 | 2,370,261 |
| Other Programs | 5,576,332 | - | 5,576,332 | - | 5,576,332 | 4,979,662 |
| Total program services | 18,698,866 | - | 18,698,866 | - | 18,698,866 | 17,388,573 |
| Supporting services: | | | | | | |
| Management and general | 1,274,903 | - | 1,274,903 | - | 1,274,903 | 1,229,569 |
| Fundraising | 5,858,803 | - | 5,858,803 | - | 5,858,803 | 4,424,501 |
| Total supporting services | 7,133,706 | - | 7,133,706 | - | 7,133,706 | 5,654,070 |
| Total expenses | 25,832,572 | - | 25,832,572 | - | 25,832,572 | 23,042,643 |
| Change in net assets: | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | 161,564 | 7,464,920 | 7,626,484 | - | 7,626,484 | 921,610 |
| Temporarily restricted | - | 2,433,034 | 2,433,034 | 3,238,245 | 5,671,279 | 13,934,765 |
| Permanently restricted | - | - | - | - | - | 760,000 |
| Total change in net assets | 161,564 | 9,897,954 | 10,059,518 | 3,238,245 | 13,297,763 | 14,096,375 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 209,229 | 13,434,445 | 13,643,674 | 61,651,969 | 75,295,643 | 61,199,268 |
| Net assets, end of year: | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | 370,793 | 10,124,779 | 10,495,572 | - | 10,495,572 | 2,869,088 |
| Temporarily restricted | - | 13,207,620 | 13,207,620 | 64,890,214 | 78,097,834 | 72,426,555 |
| Total net assets, end of year | \$ 370,793 | \$ 23,332,399 | \$ 23,703,192 | \$ 64,890,214 | \$ 88,593,406 | \$ 75,295,643 |

Fiscal Year 2005 Summary Report *contd.*

(April 1, 2004—March 31, 2005)

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

(with comparative totals for 2004)

Year ended March 31, 2005

| | Program Services | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Women's Rights | Arms | Americas | Children's Rights | Middle East and North Africa | Asia | Europe and Central Asia |
| Salaries and related expenses | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | \$ 466,227 | \$ 550,960 | \$ 584,785 | \$ 661,553 | \$ 770,004 | \$ 1,070,499 | \$ 1,317,031 |
| Insurance and employee benefits | 77,501 | 90,550 | 84,686 | 91,424 | 106,934 | 160,309 | 213,885 |
| Retirement plans | 25,359 | 41,037 | 48,203 | 59,125 | 49,839 | 67,960 | 97,180 |
| Payroll taxes | 42,587 | 50,305 | 45,757 | 60,033 | 61,692 | 91,138 | 130,220 |
| Total salaries and related expenses | 611,674 | 732,852 | 763,431 | 872,135 | 988,469 | 1,389,906 | 1,758,316 |
| Consultants' fees | 10,351 | 3,193 | 25,195 | 12,297 | 33,479 | 61,888 | 34,995 |
| Publications | 32,402 | 6,715 | 22,849 | 44,111 | 32,920 | 18,898 | 68,459 |
| Information Services | 4,367 | 5,886 | 4,516 | 5,623 | 6,852 | 11,689 | 15,272 |
| Travel, meals and meetings | 23 | 24,984 | 30,702 | 18,895 | 65,742 | 67,792 | 107,011 |
| Missions and advocacy | 46,888 | 55,408 | 41,706 | 56,434 | 74,785 | 117,121 | 113,533 |
| Outreach | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Special Projects | — | — | — | — | — | 39,999 | 97,875 |
| Special Events | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Direct Mail | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rent | 62,532 | 70,035 | 65,033 | 80,040 | 95,048 | 120,061 | 186,126 |
| Office expenses | 20,955 | 23,527 | 22,117 | 27,396 | 30,861 | 39,141 | 54,639 |
| Postage and delivery | 5,143 | 13,090 | 4,295 | 9,525 | 7,743 | 8,613 | 13,543 |
| Telephone and fax | 20,151 | 16,111 | 29,215 | 15,096 | 25,720 | 45,425 | 50,357 |
| Professional fees | 7,895 | 8,843 | 8,211 | 10,106 | 12,001 | 15,159 | 22,738 |
| Total expenses before depreciation and amortization | 844,871 | 960,644 | 1,017,270 | 1,151,658 | 1,373,620 | 1,935,692 | 2,522,864 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 25,229 | 28,256 | 26,238 | 32,293 | 38,347 | 48,439 | 72,658 |
| Total expenses | \$ 870,100 | \$ 988,900 | \$ 1,043,508 | \$ 1,183,951 | \$ 1,411,967 | \$ 1,984,131 | \$ 2,595,522 |

| Program Services | | | Supporting Services | | | Total | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Africa | Other Programs | Total | Management and General | Fundraising | Total | 2005 | 2004 |
| \$ 1,521,922 | \$ 2,419,838 | \$ 9,362,819 | \$ 531,642 | \$ 1,867,075 | \$ 2,398,717 | \$ 11,761,536 | \$ 10,115,606 |
| 190,741 | 353,303 | 1,369,333 | 111,162 | 249,934 | 361,096 | 1,730,429 | 1,460,931 |
| 80,507 | 160,155 | 629,365 | 43,888 | 106,404 | 150,292 | 779,657 | 686,392 |
| 117,866 | 220,002 | 819,600 | 66,376 | 158,384 | 224,760 | 1,044,360 | 926,319 |
| 1,911,036 | 3,153,298 | 12,181,117 | 753,068 | 2,381,797 | 3,134,865 | 15,315,982 | 13,189,248 |
| 112,575 | 151,731 | 445,704 | 9,922 | 364,911 | 374,833 | 820,537 | 641,192 |
| 59,810 | 102,559 | 388,723 | 21,515 | 43,182 | 64,697 | 453,420 | 407,258 |
| 10,314 | 22,294 | 86,813 | 14,175 | 18,742 | 32,917 | 119,730 | 105,942 |
| 218,458 | 129,055 | 685,152 | 43,321 | 174,946 | 218,267 | 903,419 | 779,430 |
| 318,402 | 197,721 | 1,021,998 | 602 | 685 | 1,287 | 1,023,285 | 1,221,528 |
| - | 484,897 | 484,897 | - | - | - | 484,897 | 504,371 |
| 59,205 | 734,550 | 931,629 | - | - | - | 931,629 | 274,774 |
| - | - | - | - | 990,718 | 990,718 | 990,718 | 880,759 |
| - | - | - | - | 1,189,820 | 1,189,820 | 1,189,820 | 697,359 |
| 158,393 | 270,724 | 1,107,992 | 217,610 | 359,340 | 576,950 | 1,684,942 | 2,030,603 |
| 45,213 | 79,274 | 343,123 | 62,603 | 105,323 | 167,926 | 511,049 | 444,528 |
| 33,216 | 31,108 | 126,276 | 6,909 | 38,492 | 45,401 | 171,677 | 219,345 |
| 43,636 | 76,027 | 321,738 | 29,908 | 59,677 | 89,585 | 411,323 | 460,240 |
| 17,685 | 34,107 | 136,745 | 27,475 | 31,265 | 58,740 | 195,485 | 220,089 |
| 2,987,943 | 5,467,345 | 18,261,907 | 1,187,108 | 5,758,898 | 6,946,006 | 25,207,913 | 22,076,666 |
| 56,512 | 108,987 | 436,959 | 87,795 | 99,905 | 187,700 | 624,659 | 965,977 |
| \$ 3,044,455 | \$ 5,576,332 | \$ 18,698,866 | \$ 1,274,903 | \$ 5,858,803 | \$ 7,133,706 | \$ 25,832,572 | \$ 23,042,643 |

Fiscal Year 2005 Summary Report *contd.*

(April 1, 2004—March 31, 2005)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(with comparative totals for 2004)

Year ended March 31, 2005

| | Operating funds | | Total operating funds | Endowment fund | Total all funds | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Current | Future | | | 2005 | 2004 |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 137,984 | \$ 11,965,197 | \$ 12,103,181 | \$ 4,840,725 | \$ 16,943,906 | \$ 13,319,841 |
| Short-term investments, at fair value | — | 3,693,840 | 3,693,840 | 59,350,233 | 63,044,073 | 56,857,850 |
| Contributions receivable, net | 1,115,365 | 6,755,569 | 7,870,934 | 200,000 | 8,070,934 | 4,863,375 |
| Other receivables | 39,732 | 17,967 | 57,699 | 152,159 | 209,858 | 530,495 |
| Prepaid expenses | 123,099 | — | 123,099 | — | 123,099 | 232,365 |
| Security deposits | 91,465 | — | 91,465 | — | 91,465 | 93,300 |
| Fixed assets, net | 2,727,537 | — | 2,727,537 | — | 2,727,537 | 3,053,366 |
| | \$4,235,182 | \$22,432,573 | \$26,667,755 | \$64,543,117 | \$91,210,872 | \$78,950,592 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 1,142,419 | \$ — | \$ 1,142,419 | \$ 63,167 | \$ 1,205,586 | \$ 1,165,088 |
| Accrued pension expenses | 195,741 | — | 195,741 | — | 195,741 | 696,868 |
| Deferred rent | 1,173,998 | — | 1,173,998 | — | 1,173,998 | 1,744,743 |
| Deferred revenue | 42,141 | — | 42,141 | — | 42,141 | 48,250 |
| Due to (from) other funds | 1,310,090 | (899,826) | 410,264 | (410,264) | — | — |
| Total liabilities | 3,864,389 | (899,826) | 2,964,563 | (347,097) | 2,617,466 | 3,654,949 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | | | | | |
| Net assets: | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted | 370,793 | 10,124,779 | 10,495,572 | — | 10,495,572 | 2,869,088 |
| Temporarily restricted | — | 13,207,620 | 13,207,620 | 64,890,214 | 78,097,834 | 72,426,555 |
| Total net assets | 370,793 | 23,332,399 | 23,703,192 | 64,890,214 | 88,593,406 | 75,295,643 |
| | \$ 4,235,182 | \$ 22,432,573 | \$ 26,667,755 | \$ 64,543,117 | \$ 91,210,872 | \$ 78,950,592 |

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Investing in Human Rights Watch

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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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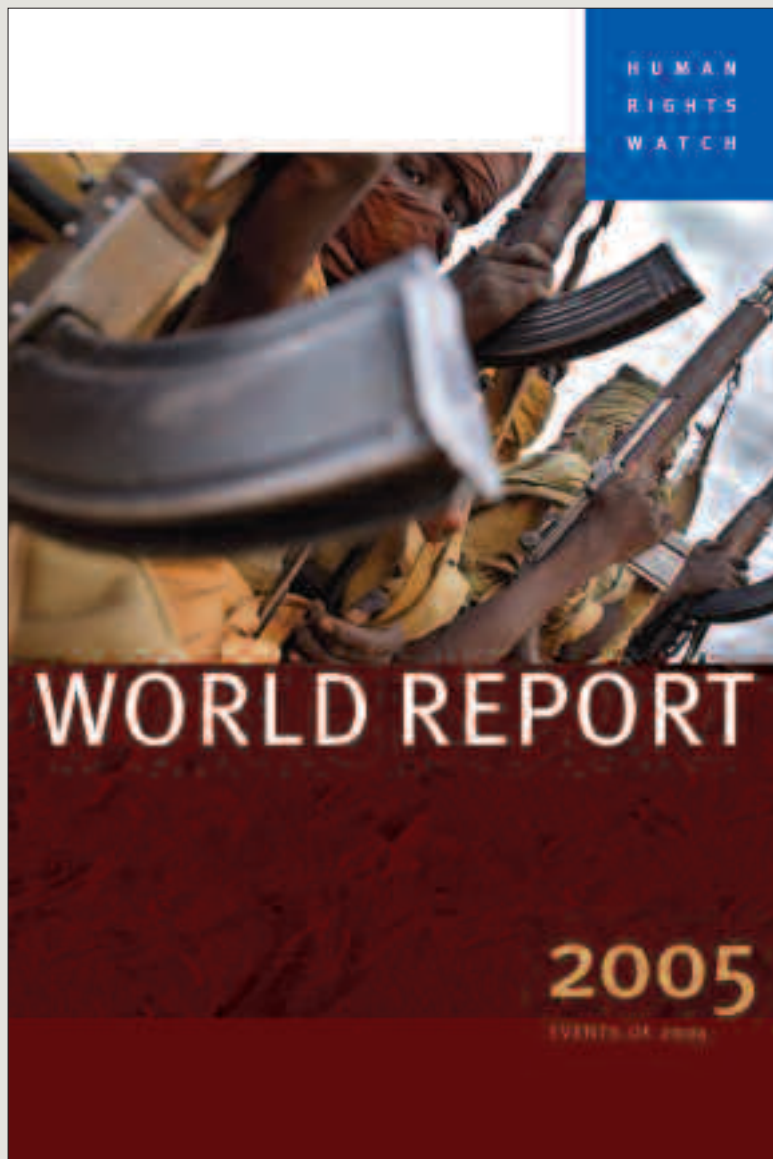
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GENERAL

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

Human Rights Watch World Report 2005

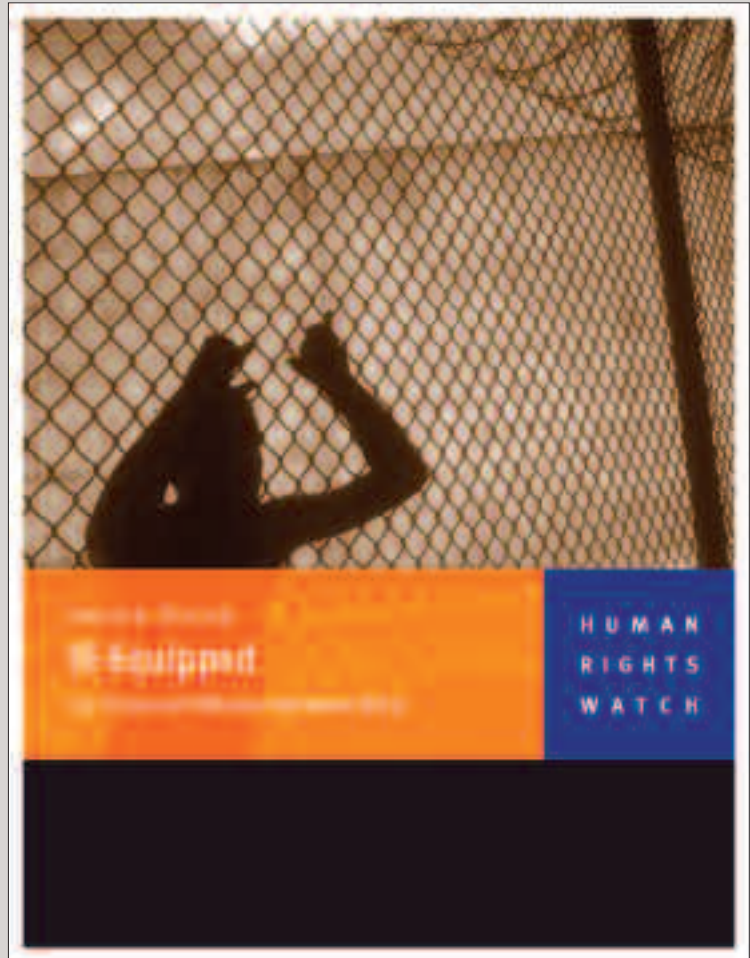
Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity: Topical Digests of the Case Law of the ICTR and the ICTY

ICTY: Justice at Risk

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 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 was signed into law 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.



Burundi/Congo: Report Praised by Congo Minister for Aiding Peace

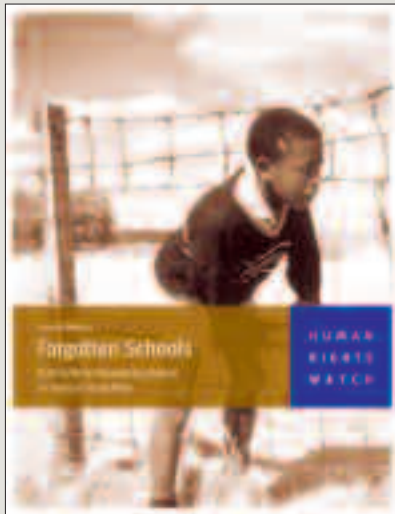
In rare praise from government officials in Africa, the human rights minister from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) commended Human Rights Watch's September 2004 report on the August 2004 slaughter of more than 150 civilians (including many Congolese) at Gatumba refugee camp in Burundi. The report called on the United Nations and the Burundian government to protect civilians and bring those responsible for these crimes to justice. The minister praised our report's neutral stance, saying that it “saved the peace process in the DRC,” and that it “had a huge impact

in decreasing tensions amongst government ministers.”

Tunisia: Report Prompts Pledge to End Solitary Confinement

In April 2005, the night before Human Rights Watch was to release a report in Tunis condemning Tunisia's use of prolonged solitary confinement, the government contacted our researchers. Instead of canceling our press conference, as we expected, the government surprisingly announced that it would move all prisoners out of solitary confinement the following day. It then invited Human Rights Watch to visit Tunisian prisons, reversing a fourteen-year policy

barring independent human rights organizations from the prisons. In recent years, Human Rights Watch has documented the government's use of solitary confinement as a means of punishing and demoralizing leaders of the banned Nahdha opposition party. Political prisoners have been held in isolation from other prisoners for as long as eleven years. Prisoners are not formally told why they are in isolation, how long it will last, or how to appeal the measure. Despite the government's pledges, Human Rights Watch will continue to closely monitor the status of prisoners to ensure its compliance with these welcome developments.



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

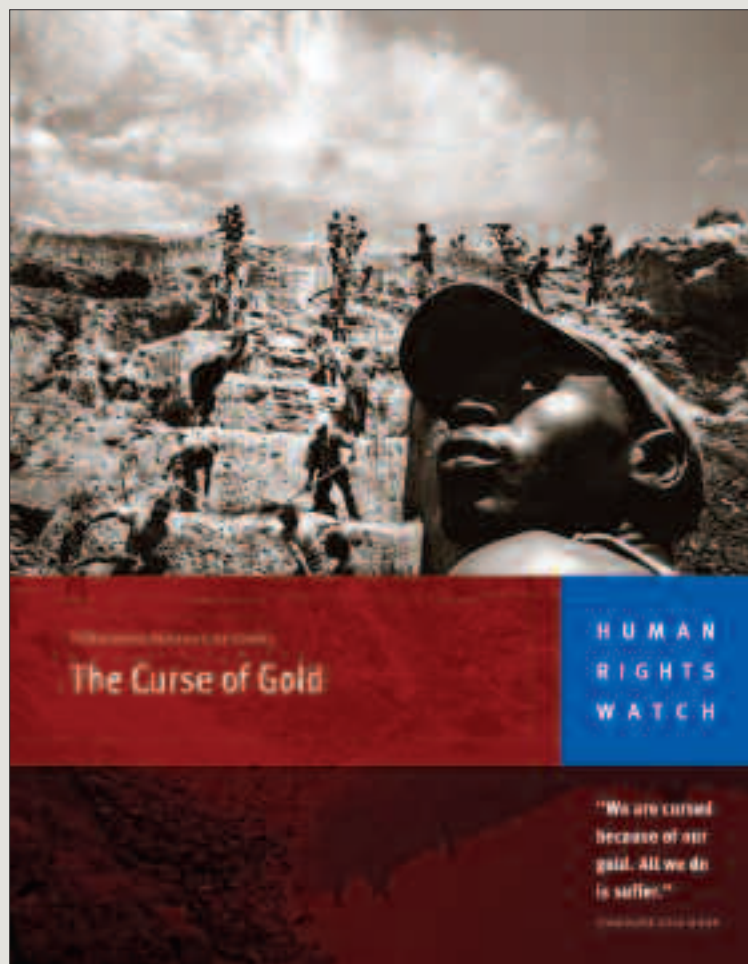
Our June 2004 report, **Forgotten Schools: Right to Basic Education for Children in Farms in South Africa**, spurred government action to improve the right of South African children to obtain an education. The report highlighted the government's neglect of farm schools, which provide the only educational 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.

D.R. Congo: Report Halts Purchase of Tainted Gold

A Human Rights Watch report highlighting two multinational gold corporations for their connection to abuses by rebel groups in northeastern Congo has prompted one company to agree to halt the purchase of "tainted gold" and the other to investigate its operations in the region. Our report, released in South Africa in June 2005, traces how Congolese gold smuggled to Uganda and then bought by international companies supports armed groups responsible for committing horrific human rights abuses against Congolese civilians. Human Rights Watch has documented the massacre, torture, rape, and mutilation of tens of thousands of civilians by rebel groups since the start of the Congolese war in 1998.

Swiss gold refinery Metalor Technologies has agreed to end its purchase of gold from Uganda "because of controversy over the origin of the supplies following investigations by U.N. experts and Human Rights Watch." AngloGold Ashanti, a South African-based company whose relationship to a murderous local rebel leader was documented in our report, has publicly committed to make no further payments to armed groups and has begun an internal investigation into its activities in the region. The company has said that it will support the development of a gold monitoring body (a key recommendation of our report) comprised of companies, civil society, governments, and multilateral institutions to ensure that gold production in the Congo is conducted in a manner that respects human rights. Since the release of Human Rights Watch's report, the primary Uganda-based traders have halted their operations for fear of facing legal suits or further investigations by the United Nations.



SMALLEST WITNESSES

Children's drawings from Darfur



On mission along the border of Chad and Darfur, Human Rights Watch researchers gave children notebooks and crayons to keep them occupied while they spoke with the children's parents. Without any instruction or guidance, the children drew scenes from their experiences of the war in Darfur: the attacks by the Janjaweed, the bombings by Sudanese government forces, the shootings, the burning of entire villages, and the flight to Chad.

The Darfur children's drawings have been featured in media worldwide, including The New York Times Magazine, NPR, CNN, ABC's World News Tonight, Slate's online gallery, The Guardian, The Scotsman, and The New York Times culture section, among many other media outlets. Thousands of websites and bloggers have linked to or featured the drawings and testimony.

The drawings were the subject of events at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, an exhibit at New York University's Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life, a panel discussion at SoHo House in New York and will travel to Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Toronto, Hamburg, Munich, and London.

AT LAST

Activist Mother and Abducted Daughter Reunited in Uganda

Angelina Atyam, a Ugandan activist honored by Human Rights Watch in 1997, was recently reunited with her daughter Charlotte, eight years after Charlotte was abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in Northern Uganda.

After Charlotte's abduction, Angelina, as a leader of the Concerned Parents Association, began to mobilize other parents to speak out about this abuse. Human Rights Watch invited Angelina to visit the United States and Europe and made it possible for her to speak to representatives of the U.S. government, the United Nations, the European Union, the European Parliament and other policy-makers.

We nominated Angelina for a prestigious U.N. human rights award, which she received, enabling her to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Angelina also raised the plight of the abducted children with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

At one point, the LRA rebels offered to release Charlotte, if Angelina agreed to give up her activism and struggle on behalf of the thousands of children abducted by the LRA in Uganda. Angelina rejected their offer and instead demanded that the rebels release all of the schoolchildren they held.

After Angelina's years of work on behalf of abducted children, Human Rights Watch rejoices that she and Charlotte have finally been reunited. Charlotte now plans to return to school; Angelina will continue her activism on behalf of the thousands of children who remain in captivity by the Lord's Resistance Army.



Photograph courtesy of Angelina Atyam

Back Cover:

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

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ANNUAL REPORT

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