

H U M A N  
R I G H T S  
W A T C H  
A N N U A L  
R E P O R T



2003

# A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 0 3

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:

**MOUSSAYIB, MAY 2003**

*A woman searches among the dead for the body of her son, missing since 1991. Hundreds of bodies were found in a mass grave near Moussayib, Iraq, and were brought to a theater hall to permit identification by their families.*

# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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### BAGHDAD, MARCH 2003

*A Shi'a Muslim prays in front of the al-Kadhemein mosque in Baghdad, an important Shi'a shrine. Shi'as, who constitute a majority of Iraq's population, faced severe oppression during the Ba'th Party's rule.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUNO STEVENS

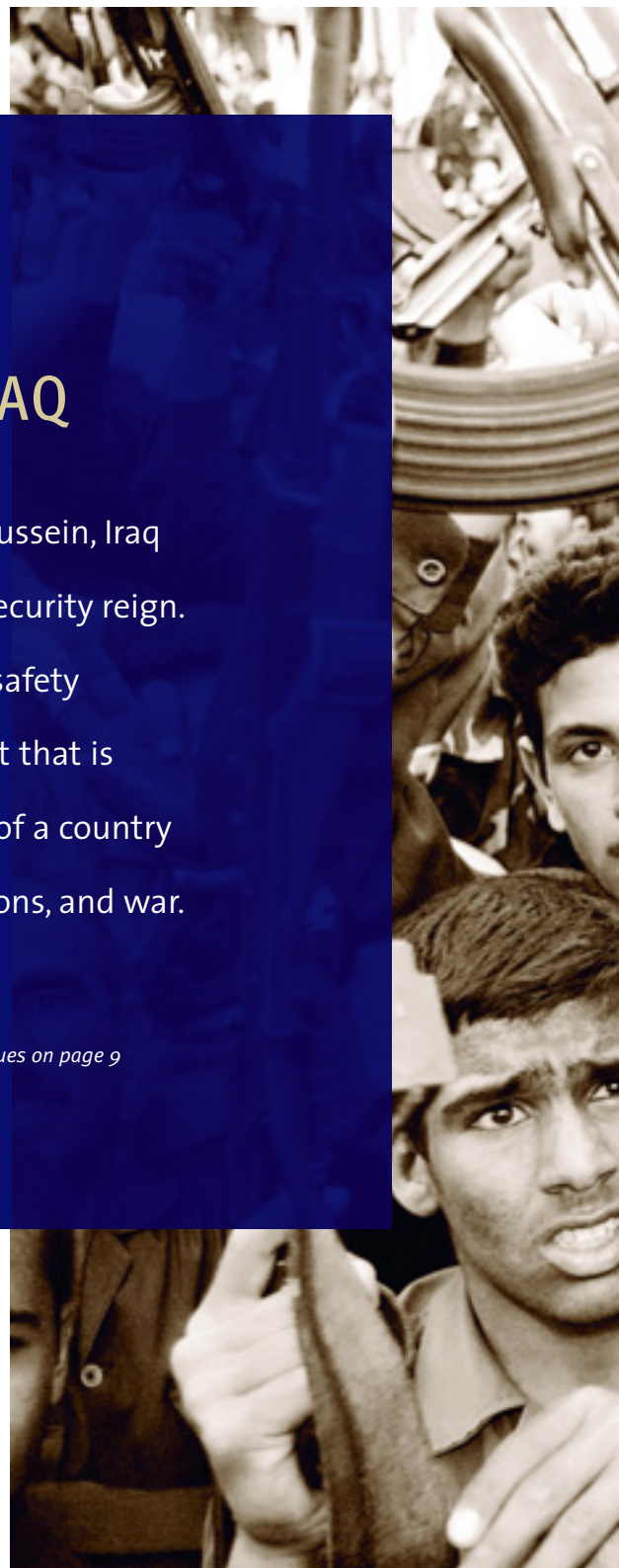
## THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY IN IRAQ

Having been freed from the murderous tyrant Saddam Hussein, Iraq now faces a power vacuum in which lawlessness and insecurity reign. The failure of coalition forces to ensure public order and safety following the invasion has contributed to an environment that is hostile to human rights and has impeded the rebuilding of a country that has been ravaged by repression, international sanctions, and war.

*Text continues on page 9*

### **BAGHDAD, MARCH 2003**

*Armed Ba'th Party supporters take to the streets in March 2003. At the beginning of the war, thousands of Iraqi troops abandoned their posts, leaving ammunition depots unguarded and contributing to the rise in insecurity.*





## THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY IN IRAQ



### HILLA, APRIL 2003

*A father holds his son, who was wounded and lost his right foot during the invasion by coalition forces. The family lost four members, including the child's mother, grandmother, brother, and sister.*



**BAGHDAD, APRIL 2003**

*A woman collapses into the arms of her neighbors, fearing for the life of her grandson, after a hidden artillery depot exploded, leveling some houses and setting fire to others.*

## THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY IN IRAQ



### BAGHDAD, MARCH 2003

*Members of the Fedayeen Saddam, irregular forces created by Saddam Hussein in 2000, were trained in small-arms tactics and fought coalition forces in Nasariyah and an-Najaf. They dressed as civilians while engaging in battle, fired weapons from civilian structures, and used stolen ambulances to attack opposing forces.*





**MOUSSAYIB, MAY 2003**

*Hundreds of bodies found in a mass grave near Moussayib were brought to a theater hall to permit identification by family members.*



BAGHDAD, MARCH 2003

*Shi'a Muslims gather before a mosque in Baghdad.*

## THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY IN IRAQ | *continued*

Human Rights Watch knows all too well the danger and insecurity that so many Iraqis now face. Our researchers have spent months canvassing the country, interviewing distraught Iraqis, reporting on inadequate security arrangements, and calling on the occupying powers to deploy the forces needed to restore public order and protect civilians, as international law requires.

In numerous public interventions and high-level official meetings prior to the war, we pressed the U.S. government to avoid creating a security vacuum. We stressed the importance of large numbers of military police following closely on the heels of combat troops to avoid looting and summary revenge killings. But the Pentagon, eager to move quickly with a relatively small invasion force and too prone to believe best-case scenarios, failed to heed this advice. That failure led to much of the post-war lawlessness we feared.

As the formal war ended, our long history of documenting Saddam Hussein's atrocities helped us play a key role in alerting the international community to the existence of mass graves and publicizing the Pentagon's failure to protect these burial sites. Families desperate for information about the fate of their loved ones began randomly unearthing the graves, even using bulldozers, as we documented in Hilla, in southern Iraq. In widely publicized statements, we stressed the need for more orderly exhumations – to preserve evidence for future trials and to maximize the chance that families will be able to identify their relatives. Coalition forces later took up the issue, and, in some cases, deployed personnel to guard the sites.

Much of our work in post-war Iraq focused on trying to relieve the plight of individual Iraqis. We urged British forces to provide basic security to Iraqi citizens who, in the southern city of Basra, lived in fear of homicides, carjackings, and organized looting, as our research showed.

*Text continues on page 10*



## THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY IN IRAQ | *continued*

In Baghdad, we exposed a disturbing pattern of sexual violence against Iraqi women and girls who feared leaving their homes amid the lawlessness and insecurity that followed the invasion. Our report made an important contribution to the growing awareness of the problem.

Having too few soldiers in place has meant that those who were trying to maintain order have relied excessively on lethal force, as we documented in the western city of Falluja, where U.S. forces responded violently to Iraqis protesting the U.S. occupation. After we exposed this abuse, the office of the U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq requested our report to ascertain the need for an internal inquiry.

Over the past two decades, the government of Saddam Hussein “disappeared” or murdered more than a quarter million people. To move forward, Iraqis will need to grapple meaningfully with their country’s brutal past and develop confidence in the institutions that can anchor a fair and just society. Human Rights Watch is currently working in Baghdad to encourage Iraqi authorities to create a commission of experts to study and recommend how to bring to justice those most responsible for past crimes. We are also promoting the establishment of a special tribunal composed of Iraqi and international jurists to try these cases.

No one claims that putting Iraq on a promising footing will be easy. Iraqis must remain committed to the long and difficult process of securing justice. Occupying forces will need to provide Iraqis the security that can make possible the construction of a more democratic country. And Human Rights Watch will need to remind both of the centrality of human rights principles to these struggles. ■





**BAGHDAD, JUNE 2003**

*Children swim in sewage-tainted water used for irrigation. Years of sanctions and repressive rule damaged the infrastructure of Iraq and contributed to economic, social, and medical crises.*

**KARBALA, FEBRUARY 2003**

*The insecurity plaguing many Iraqi cities has a distinct and debilitating impact on the daily lives of women and girls. The failure of U.S.-led occupation authorities to provide public security has fanned a widespread fear of rape and abduction among women and their families.*



**BAGHDAD, APRIL 2003**

*In a highly publicized event, U.S. marines help Iraqis topple a statue of Saddam Hussein.*

**The war on terrorism was launched to make the world more secure, but, in many places, people are less safe.** Iraq, once ruled by a repressive dictator, is increasingly a tinderbox of lawlessness and violence. Afghanistan, formerly governed by a fundamentalist regime, is in the grip of regional warlords whose reign is also highly repressive. Efforts in the United States to combat terrorism have led to lengthy detentions without trials. These abuses, in turn, are breeding ill-will and resentment in countries where cooperation in fighting terrorism is needed most.

Human Rights Watch works to overcome these and many other abuses worldwide. As this Annual Report shows, we were on the front lines of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, where by highlighting the consequences of continuing insecurity we built public and diplomatic pressure to enhance police protection, establish the rule of law, and move toward a democratic future. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than three million people have died from conflict over the past five years, we helped put this crisis on the international agenda, bolster the peacekeeping presence, and build the possible first case for the new International Criminal Court. In the face of the quiet plague of AIDS, we highlighted the persecution of women and other marginalized groups that helps fuel the epidemic.

In often highly contentious environments, Human Rights Watch serves as a source of objective, accurate information. Knowing that we are independent of all governments and partisan causes, the press, officials, activists, and the public depend on our unbiased research. One indication is that the use of our website and email “listservs” has skyrocketed.

Some 20,000 people visit our website every day (a quarter for material in languages other than English), while more than 45,000 subscribe to our listservs. The demand for our information has never been greater.

But we are not content only to be a trusted source of information. We are also a catalyst for change. Every day, we enlist governments and institutions to protect those who are vulnerable to human rights abuse. As these advocacy efforts become increasingly global, the possibilities for making a difference have expanded.

The commitment of our growing number of supporters makes this work possible. Over the past year, the Human Rights Watch Council has added committees in Chicago, Geneva, and Toronto to our already-thriving committees in London, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Human Rights Watch’s success is testament to the willingness of our backers to band together in defense of the principles that should guide us always – and especially in stressful times like these.



JONATHAN FANTON, CHAIR



KENNETH ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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CHECHNYA, 2002

*An elderly woman now lives in her basement after her house was destroyed in Grozny. Russia has used the “war on terrorism” to justify its brutal campaign in Chechnya.*

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH  
COUNTRIES  
MONITORED



Countries monitored

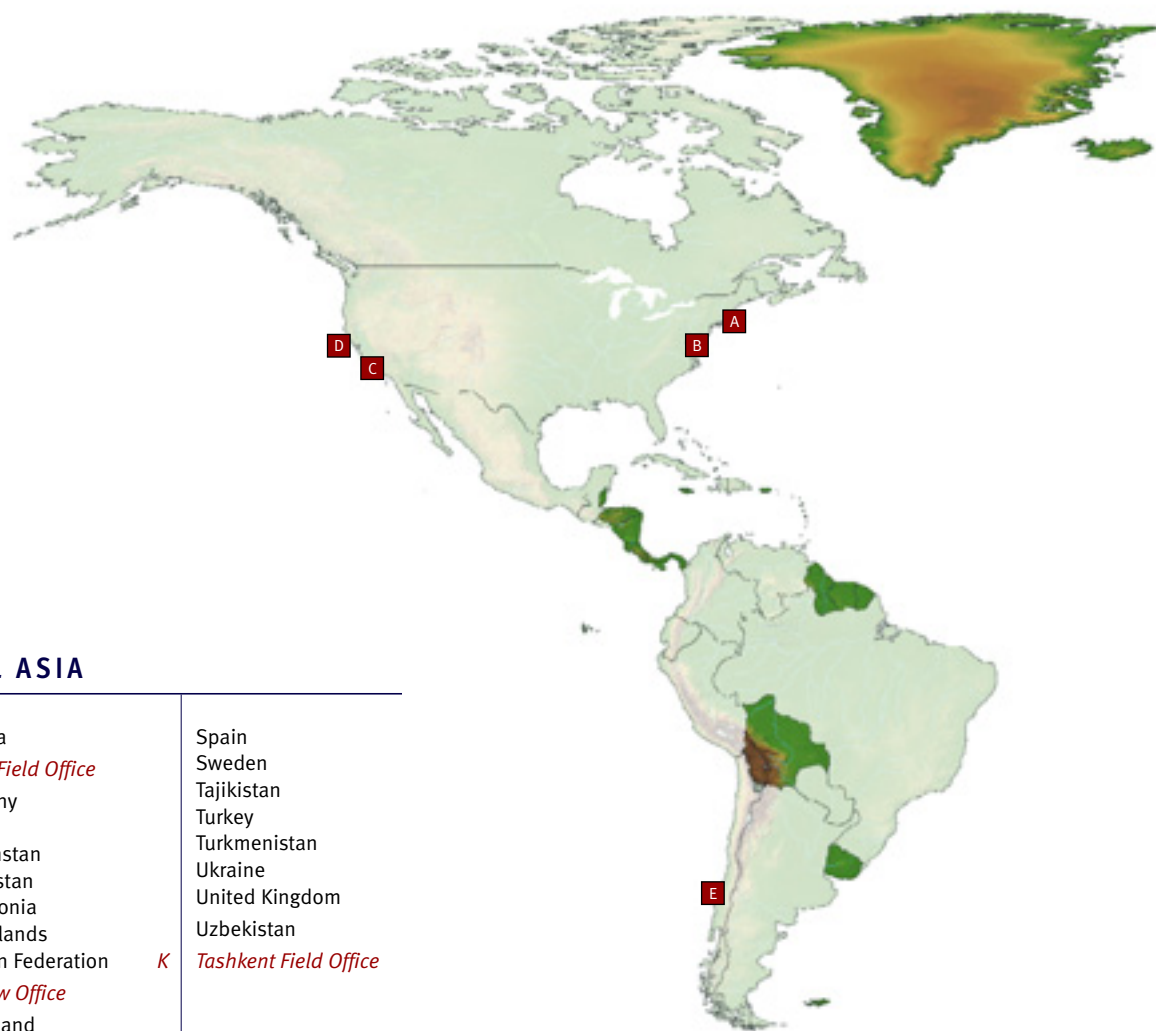


Human Rights Watch Office

AMERICAS

- A *New York Office*
- B *Washington Office*
- C *Los Angeles Office*
- D *San Francisco Office*

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- E *Santiago Field Office*
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Paraguay
- Peru
- United States
- Venezuela



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

- F *Brussels Office*
- G *Geneva Office*
- H *London Office*

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Denmark

I

J

- Georgia
- Tbilisi Field Office*
- Germany
- Greece
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Macedonia
- Netherlands
- Russian Federation
- Moscow Office*
- Serbia and Montenegro

K

- Spain
- Sweden
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
- Tashkent Field Office*



## AFRICA

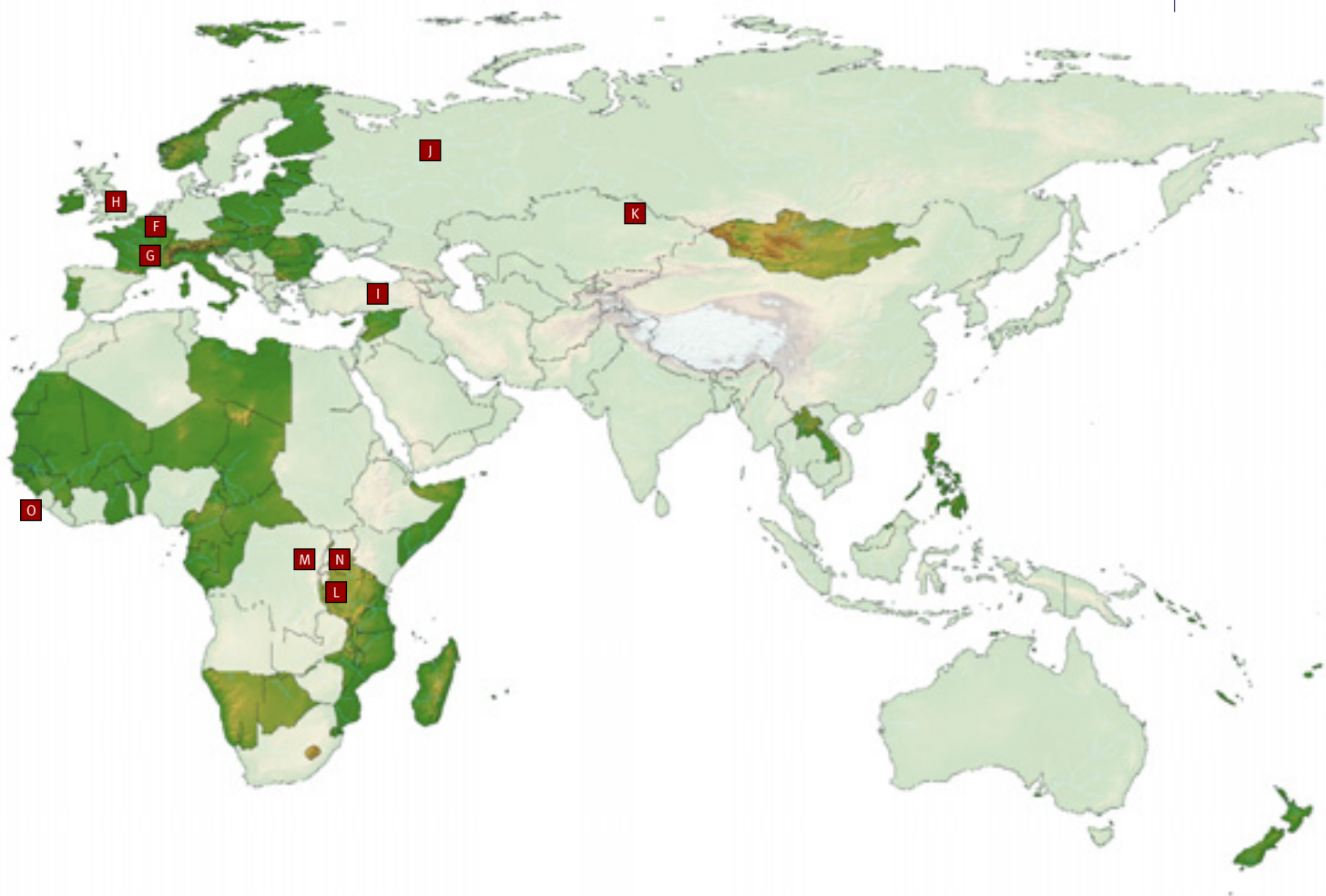
	Angola		Nigeria
	Burundi		Rwanda
<i>L</i>	<i>Bujumbura Field Office</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Kigali Field Office</i>
	D. R. of Congo		Sierra Leone
<i>M</i>	<i>Goma Field Office</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>Freetown Field Office</i>
	Djibouti		South Africa
	Eritrea		Sudan
	Ethiopia		Togo
	Ivory Coast		Uganda
	Kenya		Zambia
	Liberia		Zimbabwe

## MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Algeria  
 Bahrain  
 Egypt  
 Iran  
 Iraq  
 Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Palestinian Authority territories  
 Jordan  
 Kuwait  
 Lebanon  
 Morocco  
 Oman  
 Qatar  
 Saudi Arabia  
 Tunisia  
 United Arab Emirates  
 Yemen

## ASIA

Afghanistan  
 Australia  
 Bangladesh  
 Bhutan  
 Burma  
 Cambodia  
 China and Tibet  
 East Timor  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Japan  
 Malaysia  
 Nepal  
 North Korea  
 Pakistan  
 Papua New Guinea  
 South Korea  
 Sri Lanka  
 Thailand





## EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN WROTE RECENTLY THAT, IN AFRICA, “AIDS HAS A WOMAN’S FACE.” HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH’S WORK SHOWS WHY.

OUR RESEARCH HAS FOUND THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS PUTS THEM AT GREATER RISK OF INFECTION. WE INTERVIEWED MARRIED WOMEN IN UGANDA WHO WERE RAPED BY THEIR HUSBANDS, WIDOWS IN KENYA WHO WERE “INHERITED” BY MALE IN-LAWS, AND AIDS ORPHANS IN ZAMBIA WHO WERE ABUSED BY THEIR CAREGIVERS – ALL WITHOUT PROTECTION FROM THE STATE.

In the past twenty years, an estimated 20 million Africans have died of HIV/AIDS. Of the approximately 30 million who are currently infected, 58 percent are women and girls. In some of the hardest-hit countries, young women aged 15 to 19 are five to six times more likely than boys their age to be living with HIV.

To address this crisis, the international community must grapple with the abuses underlying the epidemic’s growing reach. As our research has shown, violence and discrimination against African women and girls fuel the HIV/AIDS crisis. Living in economically underdeveloped communities, denied suitable education and jobs, subject to harmful traditional practices, and unable to hold, inherit, or pass on property, women are economically dependent on boyfriends, spouses, and male relatives. As a result, women and girls have little leverage to negotiate the terms of sexual relationships. They have difficulty demanding condom use by their partners or rejecting unwanted advances, and thus are at higher risk of HIV infection. A particular hazard is older men who pursue younger women presumed to be free of the disease.

When faced with abuse in these relationships, women have few means of redress. Despite the prevalence of domestic violence, for example, perpetrators are rarely prosecuted for the crime. And there are few social services – much less treatment – for women and girls who are raped and potentially infected with HIV.

Human Rights Watch’s research and advocacy on AIDS in Africa have focused on exposing, and pressing governments to address,

the role that human rights abuse, particularly the subordination of women, plays in spreading the disease. For example, after we issued a report on the vulnerability of girls to HIV infection in Zambia and recommended a vigorous government response, the president of Zambia wrote to inform us that he had established an inter-ministerial program on sexual abuse of girls. After we exposed the prevalence of sexual violence against women and resultant HIV/AIDS transmission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Belgian Foreign Ministry, following a meeting with our staff, allocated funds for the care of rape victims living in the midst of this horrific conflict. Upon hearing about our work, several military factions in the DRC requested training on preventing rape and sexually transmitted diseases.

These are important initiatives, but governments and donors need to focus more concertedly on the ways in which human rights violations, particularly those against women and girls, propel the AIDS epidemic. These institutions should back up their rhetoric on the importance of women’s empowerment with concrete action. Through research and advocacy, Human Rights Watch is working to promote equal property rights, equality in marriage, equal protection from violence, and equal access to legal and judicial services. These are important in their own right. They are also essential for sparing women from the mounting toll of AIDS.



UGANDA

*A 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.*

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■ GUATEMALA

*A man holds a photograph of his father who was massacred in the 1980s.*



## PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN GUATEMALA

IN GUATEMALA, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, JUSTICE OFFICIALS, AND JOURNALISTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN UNDER ATTACK.

Several have been killed, allegedly by organized crime members with links to government agents – a powerful and deadly combination. In this dangerous context, Human Rights Watch worked with Guatemalan government officials and local human rights groups to develop a new mechanism for investigating and prosecuting the attackers.

Human Rights Watch has a long history of documenting and combating Guatemala's state-sponsored political violence. As part of these efforts, we met with Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo in August 2002 and pressed him to set up a special commission of inquiry to address the mounting violence. To curb the attacks, we argued, the Guatemalan government should sever the links between the clandestine groups and state agents and strengthen the ability of police to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

In January 2003, Guatemala's human rights ombudsman submitted a formal proposal to the government for the creation of such a commission. At the government's request, Human Rights Watch went to Guatemala City to help the government and local human rights groups hammer out the details, including the mandate, composition, legal basis, and investigative powers of the proposed commission.

Our ability to work constructively with both government officials and local activists helped to produce a commission of inquiry that

will be stronger than originally contemplated. At our urging, for example, the commission will be made up of people with demonstrated experience in prosecuting organized crime figures and serious human rights abusers.

The next step lies with the United Nations, which is considering what role it will play in the commission. As violence in Guatemala continues to mount, we are pressing the United Nations to activate this important new tool quickly.

The commission is important not only for Guatemala but as a model for other countries in the region. Throughout much of Latin America, clandestine groups with ties to state agents and organized crime represent an increasingly common form of political violence. Guatemala's progress in curbing this violence could inspire similar efforts elsewhere.

In the meantime, the lives of journalists, human rights defenders, and other independent voices in Guatemala are still at risk.



### GUATEMALA

*A reburial ceremony takes place after forensic experts exhumed the bodies of over one hundred people massacred in the 1980s.*

*Accountability for past abuses is one of the highest priorities for the human rights movement in Guatemala. Those seeking justice for these abuses have recently been under attack.*



## ENHANCING SECURITY IN AFGHANISTAN

AFTER THE U.S.-LED INVASION AND THE DEMISE OF THE TALIBAN, MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT AFGHANISTAN'S SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS HAD ENDED. BUT HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH RESEARCHERS TRAVELING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOUND THAT U.S.-BACKED WARLORDS WHO REPLACED THE TALIBAN CONTINUED A REIGN OF SEVERE REPRESSION. OUR HIGHLY PUBLICIZED REPORTS ON THEIR ABUSES EXPLODED THE MYTH THAT CONDITIONS HAD NORMALIZED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S BELATED WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS SECURITY CONCERNS.

Human Rights Watch was one of the few international human rights organizations to publicly report on the warlords' dominance in Afghanistan. At first, policymakers tried to dismiss or minimize our findings. The U.S. government, in particular, relied on the warlords to help hunt down the remnants of al-Qaeda and the Taliban. But after Human Rights Watch exposed the warlords' torture, looting, and jailing of journalists and opponents, the international community was compelled to act.

In the western city of Herat, for example, Human Rights Watch found that the local autocrat, Ismail Khan, was responsible for politically motivated arrests, intimidation, extortion, and torture, as well as severe restrictions of the rights to free expression and association. Khan also imposed strict separation of boys and girls in school, demanded that women wear the confining *burqa*, interrogated girls and women if they

ventured outside with male non-relatives, and forced suspect girls to undergo virginity tests.



### WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Human Rights Watch Researcher John Sifton (center) testifies before the Committee on International Relations, U.S. House of Representatives on insecurity in Afghanistan.*

We documented similar concerns in rural areas nearer to Kabul: former military commanders who committed arbitrary arrests, beatings, robbery, extortion, and rape. Some Afghans were so fearful that family members stayed up all night in shifts to protect their property from marauding troops and police, and prevented women and girls from leaving the house, attending school, or working. Journalists who exposed the machinations of the warlords were threatened, beaten, or arrested.

U.S. military and political support for the warlords, coupled with the failure of the international community to deploy peacekeepers outside of Kabul, contributed to this rampant insecurity. Using the evidence we collected in our research, Human Rights Watch pressed hard for peacekeepers to be deployed throughout Afghanistan to fill this



vacuum. In October 2003, the U.N. Security Council finally authorized this deployment, and NATO – the organization running the peacekeeping effort – agreed in principle to commit troops.

Human Rights Watch will continue to press the Security Council and NATO to translate this important rhetorical commitment into an effective peacekeeping presence across the country. Only then will Afghan citizens feel free to participate fully in the rebuilding of their war-torn nation.

#### AFGHANISTAN

*Ismail Khan, a warlord in Afghanistan's western province of Herat, walks with his bodyguards, May 2003. Over the last year, Human Rights Watch has documented how warlords throughout Afghanistan have engaged in widespread abuses against civilians.*



## INVESTING IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

WHEN THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD) DECIDED TO HOST ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN, IT PROBABLY EXPECTED A DISCREET FORUM FILLED WITH INVESTORS TALKING ABOUT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA. INSTEAD, IT ENCOUNTERED A FIRESTORM OF DEBATE ABOUT UZBEKISTAN'S DEPLORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. THE DIFFERENCE WAS DUE LARGELY TO HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH'S YEAR-LONG CAMPAIGN URGING THE BANK TO CONDITION THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING ON THE UZBEK GOVERNMENT'S FULFILLMENT OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES.

### UZBEKISTAN

*Family members wait outside the Akmal Ikramov Courthouse in Tashkent for a glimpse of their male relatives who are on trial for anti-state activities related to their religious beliefs and affiliation. Ordinary citizens are jailed, tortured, and harassed for peaceful expression and religious practice.*





Uzbekistan has one of the most repressive governments of any former Soviet republic. Torture is endemic. People who practice their religion outside the confines of state controls are thrown in jail and forced to endure beatings and solitary confinement. Imprisonment frequently lasts for many years. Local human rights defenders are harassed, threatened, and intimidated. Trials flagrantly violate basic due-process protections. No independent press is permitted, nor is space allowed for any political opposition.

The EBRD was created in 1991 to promote market economies, democracy, and the rule of law in the post-communist region, yet, until recently, the bank seemed to be ignoring the political aspects of its mandate. It continued to invest in Central Asia while ordinary citizens were being jailed, tortured, and harassed for peaceful expression and religious practice. We used the opportunity of the EBRD meeting in Tashkent to form a coalition with over fifty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to end this indifference. We highlighted the bank's responsibility to address the serious abuses we had uncovered in Uzbekistan and urged the bank to compel the Uzbek government to adopt specific reforms in exchange for the political prestige and financial benefits attached to hosting the annual meeting.

The result of our advocacy campaign was a meeting that had a surprising opening plenary forum: rather than highlighting Uzbekistan's investment opportunities, it treated the hundreds of assembled business and political leaders to an intensive discussion of the country's abysmal human rights performance. In one highlight, local activists were given an extraordinary opportunity to quiz a high-ranking Uzbek official, directly and publicly, about the government's human rights policies. One woman asked, for example: "My son was sentenced to death and tortured. Why did this happen?"

A later segment of the conference was televised live in Uzbekistan. Uzbek viewers, accustomed to fulsome praise of their government by state-run television, saw President Islam Karimov,

embarrassed by critical statements of his human rights record, remove his headphones and bury his head, as if hoping the shameful debacle would just stop. Widespread European press coverage of the event highlighted Uzbekistan's human rights problems as a serious impediment to international investment and engagement.

The EBRD meeting demonstrated that civil-society groups can force multilateral financial institutions to address human rights as a part of their development policy. In its new country strategy for Uzbekistan, issued on the eve of the meeting, the bank took the unprecedented step of identifying specific human rights benchmarks for the government to fulfill and setting a one-year deadline for compliance. The benchmarks focus on freedom of expression, the free operation of civil society and political opposition, and measures to combat torture.

Not surprisingly, the Uzbek government has already begun to retaliate against those activists who spoke openly and critically at the meeting. Rights defenders in the

country face intensified harassment, threats, and intimidation. Since the meeting, two people have been tortured to death, and two human rights defenders have been arrested on dubious charges. We are again pressing the bank to respond firmly and publicly to these abuses, reiterating that political reform is a prerequisite to successful economic engagement. That provides perhaps the best hope that Uzbek activists have of ending repression in their country.



#### UZBEKISTAN

*Veronika Szente Goldston, Human Rights Watch's advocacy director for Europe and Central Asia, strategizes with campaign partner Yuri Urbanski of Central and East European Bankwatch Network, before a meeting with the EBRD board of directors.*



## PROMPTING PEACEKEEPERS TO EASTERN CONGO

HOW MANY DEATHS DOES IT TAKE FOR THE WORLD TO NOTICE AND RESPOND TO A HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS?

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WAR-RELATED VIOLENCE, DISEASE, AND DISPLACEMENT HAVE KILLED 3.3 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, THE HIGHEST DEATH TOLL OF ANY CONFLICT SINCE WORLD WAR II. YET THE WORLD SEEMS BARELY TO HAVE NOTICED. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAS WORKED INTENSIVELY TO END THIS INDIFFERENCE. WE ARE PRESSING INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTORS TO HALT VIOLENT ABUSES, END THE FLOW OF ARMS, AND PROSECUTE THE MOST EGREGIOUS OFFENDERS.

Our most recent focus has been Ituri province, in northeastern Congo, where some of the most horrific abuses have taken place. Some 50,000 people have died there as a result of fighting among local militias serving as proxies for the Rwandan, Ugandan, and Congolese governments. The Ugandan and Rwandan armies, in particular, provide weapons to small rebel groups, exacerbate ethnic tensions, compete for lucrative natural resources, and play out their own hostilities at the expense of local residents.

Initially, there were only ten peacekeepers to protect the civilian population in Ituri. When Human Rights Watch, with colleague groups, first raised the need for expanded U.N. peacekeeping in the region, “people laughed at us,” said Anneke van Woudenberg, Human Rights Watch’s Congo researcher. Despite the catastrophic loss of life, Congo “was not considered urgent. We were told not to push for things that were impossible.”

We did not accept that answer. We exposed massacres, torture, child abduction, rape, even cannibalism, to force Congo onto the international agenda. Our persistent advocacy helped push the United Nations to deploy some 3,800 U.N. peacekeepers to Ituri, backed by a French force capable of standing up to the militia. As we strongly recommended, the peacekeepers will have a mandate to

use force to protect civilians. Praising our work, U.N. officials told us that the deployment and the new mandate would not have happened without us.

Human Rights Watch’s work on Ituri also resonated with the new prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the permanent war crimes tribunal we helped to create. Thanks to our previous work with the Congolese government and civil-society leaders to promote ratification of the court’s treaty, Congo is a party to the ICC. After we personally briefed the ICC prosecutor and submitted first-hand evidence of atrocities, he announced that he was monitoring Ituri closely, suggesting that it might become the court’s first investigation. The announcement already seems to be influencing the conduct of rebel leaders.

Ending the culture of impunity that currently reigns in Congo will be essential to curbing hostilities and providing victims and witnesses of atrocities the hope and redress they need to rebuild their families, their communities, and their nation. The Congolese have told us what they want – an end to fighting, the punishment of abusive rebel leaders, and lives of security and dignity. Human Rights Watch is working on their behalf to achieve these ends and to ensure that the world listens.



■ DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

*Rebecca Kwekinai and fellow villagers fled their homes in Ituri province in 2002. “We ran with our children and took nothing with us.”*

*She is holding her two-year old child, Baraka (left), and an eighteen-month old named Dieumercy, whose mother died in a displaced persons camp.*

The logo for the Human Rights Watch Council is displayed in a dark blue vertical bar on the left side of the page. The text is arranged in four lines, with each word in a separate line. The letters are white and spaced out. The background of the entire page is a light beige color with a faint, large-scale grid pattern representing a globe.

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C O U N C I L

## **Our Volunteer Community**

**WE ENLIST THE PUBLIC AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY  
TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL.**

**The Human Rights Watch Council is an international membership group that seeks to increase awareness of human rights issues and build financial support for Human Rights Watch. The Council includes more than 200 opinion leaders and activists from a variety of backgrounds. We launched the Council because an informed and engaged constituency is essential for the defense of human rights.**

**Membership in the Human Rights Watch Council provides an inside perspective on our in-depth research, targeted recommendations, and effective advocacy. Council members have access to regular briefings by Human Rights Watch researchers, senior government officials, and regional experts.**

**Council members strengthen Human Rights Watch and the human rights movement by contributing financially, attracting potential supporters, participating in the organization's advocacy campaigns, and helping in the many tangible and intangible ways that an expanded network permits.**

## FUNDRAISING

Council members support Human Rights Watch through an annual contribution of US \$5000 or more, either personally or through introductions and recruitment of others. Contribution strategies are flexible and encompass different kinds of participation: privately hosting an event, making an in-kind donation of services, naming Human Rights Watch as a planned gift beneficiary, or purchasing or selling tickets to annual Human Rights Watch dinners.

■ (right) Samuel L. Jackson (second from left) and Human Rights Watch Defenders Souleymane Guengueng (left), Meena Seshu (second from right), and Sanar Yardatapan (right), Annual Dinner, Los Angeles



## OUTREACH

Human Rights Watch's capacity to change government policy depends on our ability to inform and shape public opinion. Council members help Human Rights Watch reach new and wider audiences around the world. In coordination with Human Rights Watch staff, members are encouraged to



■ (above) Barbara Hendricks and Micheline Calmy-Rey, Film Festival, Geneva

(left) Wendy Keys, Kenneth Roth, and Toronto Committee Co-Chair Helga Stephenson, Canadian Club Luncheon, Toronto

develop and participate in a variety of outreach activities. These include hosting briefings with Human Rights Watch speakers, introducing the work of Human Rights Watch to friends, family, and colleagues, and promoting the Human Rights Watch Film Festival.



Human Rights Watch Americas Division Director José Miguel Vivanco, Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos, Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco, and California Committee South Co-Chair Sid Sheinberg at a lunch in the vice presidential residence in Bogotá, Colombia.

(below) Jenny Dearden and Trudie Styler, "Cries From The Heart" Poetry Reading, London



## ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

Participating in human rights advocacy and helping with networking are the most important and rewarding aspects of Council membership. Because Council members are highly regarded individuals in their own communities, the

weight of their voice behind any given issue can be decisive. Through their social and professional relationships, members can facilitate access to decision-makers and arrange introductions for Human Rights Watch.

## YOUNG ADVOCATES

The Human Rights Watch Young Advocates are groups of young professionals who work with Human Rights Watch to provide vital public outreach. With thriving chapters in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Toronto, the Young Advocates increase awareness of human rights issues by organizing local forums and helping with advocacy campaigns. The Young Advocates also support Council activities in their regions.



Kenneth Roth and a group of Young Advocates, Living Room Series, Los Angeles

# BUILDING A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNITY: THE HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH COUNCIL

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The Human Rights Watch Council  
is continually seeking new members.

We also welcome suggestions for  
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be identified.

To receive more information on  
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H U M A N  
R I G H T S  
W A T C H

A N N U A L  
C E L E B R A T I O N

COURAGE IN ACTION:  
HONORING THE WORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS





Since 1988, Human Rights Watch has honored more than 160 human rights activists for their heroic defense of human rights. Often they risk their own lives, the lives of their families, and their livelihoods to end the suffering of others. We work closely with these defenders to expose and end human rights abuses in the 70 countries where we conduct research and advocacy.

In 2002-2003, at Human Rights Watch's Annual Dinners in London, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, we honored three human rights activists from Turkey, India, and Chad. The defenders, who focused on issues of freedom of expression, HIV/AIDS and human rights, and international justice, had opportunities to meet with other activists, speak with the press, engage supporters, and conduct advocacy with policymakers to advance their concerns. Human Rights Watch was proud to give these activists a platform from which to speak.

Sanar Yurdatapan (Turkey) bravely and ingeniously mocks Turkey's harsh restrictions on freedom of expression. In Turkey, it can be dangerous to question the official state line on the role of Islam in politics, the plight of the Kurdish ethnic minority, and the power of the military. Mr. Yurdatapan has republished banned materials, investigated human rights massacres against the Kurdish minority, and publicly condemned the laws that restrict freedom of expression. He has worked with Human Rights Watch to focus public attention on the unjust imprisonment of Kurdish parliamentarians and to defend indicted publishers, writers, and politicians. Mr. Yurdatapan, who has been imprisoned three times and often subjected to harassment,

unabashedly and creatively defends a principle – the right to disagree vocally and protest peacefully – which is a touchstone of the human rights movement.

Meena Seshu (India) is one of India's most compelling and creative human rights and AIDS activists. The success of her organisation in fighting AIDS comes from approaching the HIV/AIDS crisis as a human rights issue. Ms. Seshu is the general secretary of SANGRAM, an organization in Sangli, India, that has helped stem HIV/AIDS by empowering women in prostitution to protect their rights and become agents for HIV prevention. Human Rights Watch worked with SANGRAM to document how the Indian police and local thugs obstructed the group's life-saving work through harassment and abuse of its AIDS outreach workers. Ms. Seshu, who has endured personal attacks by local authorities, has not let that stop her from working on behalf of some of India's most marginalized people.

Souleymane Guengueng (Chad) is the founder and vice president of the Chadian Association of Victims of Political Repression and Crime (AVCRP) and a main force behind the case against former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré, who was arrested in Senegal and may soon face extradition to Belgium. Mr. Guengueng almost died during two years of mistreatment in Habré's prisons, and he watched hundreds of people succumb to malaria, starvation, and torture. When Habré fell, Mr. Guengueng founded the AVCRP, which gathered files on 792 victims to bring Habré to justice. Mr. Guengueng hid the files underneath his mud-brick home, where they stayed for eight

years until he handed them to a Human Rights Watch researcher. These files formed the core of the case against Habré in Senegal, where he was charged with crimes against humanity and torture.



(opposite) Sanar Yurdatapan, Meena Seshu, and Souleymane Guengueng

H U M A N  
R I G H T S  
W A T C H  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL



The New York Times has called the HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

“the cinematic conscience of the world.”

■ *IN THIS WORLD* Director Michael Winterbottom, Human Rights Watch Film Festival Director Bruni Burres, and *IN THIS WORLD* Script Writer Tony Grisoni



■ Filmmaker Eugene Jarecki, Human Rights Watch Counsel Reed Brody, and filmmaker Fabrice Gardel, Geneva Film Festival

It’s a label we’re proud to embody. Now in its fourteenth year, the film festival puts a human face on Human Rights Watch’s work. The films we screen depict the most daunting challenges and the most inspiring triumphs of hope and will over adversity.

The film festival is one of Human Rights Watch’s most important tools for engaging the public in our work. We sponsor two major festivals in New York and London each year. We organize a traveling festival, involving a smaller number of films, for more than thirty sites in the United States. And we frequently co-present films at other festivals worldwide.

We were proud this year to premiere, in New York and London, Michael Winterbottom’s acclaimed film, *In This World*. Mr. Winterbottom spoke to packed audiences in both cities, detailing how he constructed this brilliant *vérité* drama about an Afghan boy’s journey to the West. Both festivals broke previous attendance records, and in New York, the film festival achieved





Human Rights Watch Associate Director Carroll Bogert, Billie Szaggars, Robert Redford, and Sundance Channel President Larry Aidem at the Sundance premiere of *IN THIS WORLD* in Washington, D.C.

the single-day, box-office sales record at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center.

The New York festival also honored two talented filmmakers. Hany Abu-Assad won the Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. He brought two films to the festival, *Ford Transit*, which candidly and humorously follows a cab driver and his passengers through Ramallah and Jerusalem, and *Rana's Wedding*, a finely crafted drama of a Palestinian woman running against the clock to find and marry her love before her father forces her to marry a man of his choosing. Filmmaker and producer Deborah Shaffer received the festival's 2003 Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding body of work on human rights subjects, including such milestone films as *Nicaragua: Report from the Front*, *Witness to War* (which won an Academy Award), *Fire from the Mountain*, and *Dance of Hope*.

The traveling festival ran in high-profile venues in Boston, San Francisco, Denver, Philadelphia, Houston, and elsewhere. We also reached out in other ways, particularly through co-presenting human rights films at other festivals, such as in New York, Geneva, and Washington, D.C. We were proud to co-present with the New York Film Festival a two-week retrospective of the film work of acclaimed Indian actress and activist Shabana Azmi.



The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival dares to remind us what it means to be human. It demonstrates visually the importance of the human rights movement, where words alone do not suffice.

# HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## FISCAL YEAR 2003 (April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003)

### OPERATING REVENUES:

Foundations	\$ 7,941,000
Individuals	11,790,000
Endowment	935,000
Investment Income	200,000
Publications	319,000
Transfer from Reserves	530,000

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES:** \$ 21,715,000

### OPERATING EXPENSES:

#### PROGRAM EXPENSES

##### REGIONAL/THEMATIC

Africa	\$2,069,000
Americas	990,000
Asia	1,473,000
Europe and Central Asia	2,350,000
Middle East and North Africa	1,303,000
United States	522,000
Arms	1,178,000
Children's Rights	837,000
Women's Rights	791,000
Fellowships	401,000
International Justice	1,139,000
Academic Freedom	160,000
Business & Human Rights	285,000
Refugees	248,000
HIV/AIDS	328,000
Emergencies	222,000
Grants to Others	163,000

**TOTAL REGIONAL/THEMATIC EXPENSES** 14,459,000

##### CENTRAL (UNALLOCATED)

Advocacy	267,000
Communications	297,000
General Counsel	123,000
Program Office	245,000
Executive	93,000

**TOTAL CENTRAL PROGRAM EXPENSES** 1,025,000

**OUTREACH AND FILM FESTIVAL** \$ 812,000

**DEVELOPMENT** \$ 3,309,000

**ADMINISTRATION (UNALLOCATED)** \$ 2,110,000

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES** \$ 21,715,000

Human Rights Watch is an independent, nongovernmental organization, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly.

An audited financial statement, which includes an accounting of net assets, is available upon request.

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(left) Elliot Schrag, Jane Olson and Sally Lillienthal, Annual Dinner, San Francisco

(right) Photographer Sebastião Salgado, California Committee North member Darian Swig and her husband Rick at a reception they hosted for Kenneth Roth



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(below) John Studzinski with Boris and Anna Zenic, Film Festival, London



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(top left) Eric Abraham and Sigrid Rausing,  
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IN MEMORIAM

**MIKE JENDRZEJCZYK**

Human Rights Watch lost a beloved colleague, Mike Jendrzejczyk, the Washington Director for our Asia division, who died of natural causes in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 2003. He was 53.

Mike left a void that simply cannot be filled – not only as a powerful advocate for human rights, but also as a colleague and friend whose infectious energy and passion for social justice inspired us all.

In his thirteen years with Human Rights Watch, Mike was the leading advocate in the United States on human rights in Asia. His depth and breadth of knowledge were astounding. He was widely respected for his expertise on China, Japan's emerging global role, the World Bank and human rights, trade policy and worker's rights, and U.S. foreign policy in Asia. He was particularly engaged in seeking accountability for the 1989 Chinese military crackdown in Tiananmen Square; getting assistance to North Korean refugees; denying funding to abusive security forces across Asia, including Burma and Indonesia; and defending religious freedom for minorities, from Tibetans in China to Montagnards in Vietnam. In the past several years, Mike was also increasingly engaged in South Asian affairs: the humanitarian consequences of the war in Afghanistan, the human rights conse-



quences of the military coup in Pakistan, and the rise of religious intolerance in India.

Colleagues joked that if you could harness Mike's energy, it would power a small city. He was very well known in Washington and widely regarded as effective and knowledgeable. Mike was much beloved by Asian human rights advocates, who relied on him for access to high-level policymakers in Washington and elsewhere. In his efforts to end repression and abuse, Mike improved the lives of countless people.

Mike first became involved in the human rights movement as a Vietnam war protester in the 1970s and an anti-nuclear demonstrator in the 1980s. He began working at Amnesty International USA in the mid-1980s, then went on to work on the staff of the Amnesty International Secretariat in London in 1988. In 1990, he became Washington Director for the Asia division of Human Rights Watch. Once a pre-school teacher, he continued to teach us all.

Though most of us are still unable to correctly spell his last name, it is difficult to go through each day without him.

## IRENE DIAMOND

The human rights movement lost one of its greatest supporters and most generous benefactors this year with the death of Irene Diamond. Ms. Diamond passed away at her home in New York on January 21, 2003 at the age of 92.

In 1988, Ms. Diamond gave the single largest gift ever to the human rights movement. She made a \$30 million pledge to Human Rights Watch at a time when the organization's entire annual budget totaled approximately one-tenth of that figure.

"Nobody had ever invested that amount of money in the human rights movement before," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "Her contribution transformed the cause of human rights in the United States."

Ms. Diamond had been a board member of Human Rights Watch for fifteen years. She was an active critic of U.S. involvement in the wars in Central America in the 1980s and strongly supported Human Rights Watch's work to expose human rights abuse by U.S. allies in the region. Subsequent contributions enabled Human Rights Watch to fortify its research and writing, and to broaden the global reach of its advocacy.

In 1995, in recognition of her generosity, Human Rights Watch's International Film Festival established the Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement award, presented annually to a director

whose life's work demonstrates an outstanding commitment to human rights and film. Recipients include Frederick Wiseman, Costa Gavras, Ousmane Sembene, Barbara Kopple, Alan J. Pakula, and Ken Loach.

"Irene Diamond was an extraordinary friend. She will be sorely missed," said Roth. "She leaves a legacy that is unparalleled in the history of our movement."





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■ *Iraqi families gather under a centuries-old arch.*

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## BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

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

## GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

8 rue des Vieux Grenadiers, 1205 Geneva  
Tel: 41 (22) 320 55 90 · Fax: 41 (22) 320 55 11

## LONDON, U.K.

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

## LOS ANGELES, USA

11500 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 441  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
Tel: 1 (310) 477 5540 · Fax: 1 (310) 477 4622  
Email: hrwla@hrw.org

## MOSCOW, RUSSIA

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

## NEW YORK, USA

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

## SAN FRANCISCO, USA

312 Sutter Street, Suite 407  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Tel: 1 (415) 362 3250 · Fax: 1 (415) 362 3255  
Email: hrwsf@hrw.org

## WASHINGTON, DC, USA

1630 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 500  
Washington, DC, 20009-1053  
Tel: 1 (202) 612 4321 · Fax: 1 (202) 612 4333  
Email: hrwdc@hrw.org

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