Dear Friends,

Conflicts and repression have forced record numbers of people to flee their homes and seek safe haven in other countries. They arrive in countries already facing growing discontent from people who feel left behind by technological change and the global economy. Beyond the major humanitarian challenge posed, this movement of people into this volatile context has sparked a pernicious reaction.

Political discourse across Europe, the United States, and elsewhere now regularly demonizes Muslims and scapegoats refugees. Polarizing “us-versus-them” rhetoric no longer resides on only the fringe but has moved dangerously close to the center. Leaders have now come to power spouting a shocking disregard for basic human rights.

In partnership with those who share its values, Human Rights Watch is combatting these profound new challenges. We are fighting the explosion of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance that is threatening the very fabric of democratic government. We are standing up for human rights and the rule of law when some political leaders seek to impose their vision of the majority will.

Human Rights Watch has the tools to meet these threats. We have proven expertise investigating human rights violations reliably and credibly even in circumstances that are deeply contested. We have extensive experience communicating our message widely to the public through traditional and social media, injecting sober facts and principles even when incendiary rhetoric is dominating discourse. And we have a long record of achieving concrete change by generating intense pressure on those in power. These are the tools we use to protect the rights of those most vulnerable to abuse—refugees, women, children, people with disabilities, sexual minorities—and everyone else.

As we reflect on 2016, we extend our warmest appreciation to Joel Motley, who served as Human Rights Watch’s Board Co-Chair for the past three years. With his leadership, we remain a principled voice in a tumultuous time.

Thank you for joining us to promote respect for human rights around the globe.

Hassan Elmasry
Board Co-Chair

Bob Kissane
Board Co-Chair

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
For nearly 40 years, Human Rights Watch has been a fierce defender of people at risk of abuse.

We practice an innovative and aggressive methodology: investigate abuses scrupulously, expose the facts widely, and relentlessly press those in power for change that respects rights.
We are expert investigators.

Deep and careful research lies at the core of our ability to influence public debate and champion human rights. We stake our credibility on the facts we report, devoting great effort to ensuring the accuracy and fairness of every word we publish.

Our researchers go to the site of human rights violations to interview victims and witnesses, to examine physical evidence, to identify those responsible, and to develop the most effective interventions.

We are innovative communicators.

Human Rights Watch exposes wrongdoing through all available media, often as events unfold. We empower victims to tell their stories and be heard. Personal accounts of suffering, infused with humanity and urgency, are often the key to overcome complacency and compel positive action.

We are staunch and transformational advocates.

Our ability to access policymakers and influence the public, while offering concrete ways to stem violations, often secures results. Regularly backed by strong media coverage, we meet face-to-face with those who have the power to act on the realistic steps we recommend. Combining our watertight facts with human stories of the consequence of abuse is a proven formula to secure improvements.

Our Methodology

From left to right: Belkis Wille, Senior Researcher, interviewing witnesses of a July 12, 2015 Saudi-led coalition airstrike in Sanaa, Yemen, which killed 23. © 2015 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch; Kanae Doi, Japan Director, describes Human Rights Watch’s investigation into Japan’s orphanages and foster parent system at a news conference in Tokyo, Japan. © 2014 YOSHIKAZU TSUNO/AFP/Getty Images; German Chancellor Angela Merkel shakes hands with Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Deputy Executive Director of Advocacy, at the Four Freedoms Awards in Middelburg, Netherlands. Human Rights Watch received the Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award for Freedom from Fear. © 2016 Michel Porro/Getty Images.
What Our People Do

Frontline investigations by expert researchers lie at the heart of Human Rights Watch’s work.

Our researchers examine situations in some 90 countries around the world. They function as investigators, journalists, and advocates. They respond credibly and quickly to violations by:

**Being on the front line**

Our researchers go to the scene of atrocities to interview victims, witnesses, local activists, and government officials. They gather credible, first-hand information, whether in war zones, sites of repression, or other hostile environments.

**Checking and cross-checking facts**

Our researchers visit victims and witnesses wherever they can be reached, including refugee camps and prisons. They examine records and data from hospitals, morgues, courts, and the military. They use photos, video, forensic tools, statistical analysis, and satellite imagery—everything possible to piece together as complete and accurate a picture as possible.

**Partnering with community groups and local activists.**

Our researchers immerse themselves in the communities where they work. They often live in-country, speak local languages, and partner with domestic organizations. They build networks of trust that can be relied on in a crisis to guide us in safely gathering reliable facts. They help to ensure that the concerns of local groups are heard by those with the power to make a difference.

**Exposing evidence of abuses.**

Our researchers shine a spotlight on wrongdoing by writing reports, news releases, and opinion pieces, supplemented by original photographs and video. We distribute these materials through both traditional and social media to shape public debate and to ensure that policymakers learn of our findings and recommendations for change.

**Convincing key decision-makers to act.**

Our researchers share their findings with governments, international institutions, and others with clout. We ask (and sometimes demand) that they use their influence to help curb human rights abuses.

**Providing expertise.**

Our researchers respond to growing demands for on-the-ground, credible information from journalists, political leaders, and policymakers. Sometimes we share our work quietly, other times through the media, at government hearings, even as expert witnesses in criminal trials.

**Staying the course.**

Our researchers stay with an issue until they get results. They recognize that some problems are entrenched, and their solution requires long-term resolve.

“Domestic workers in Morocco are now protected by law. Their employers are required to offer written contracts, limit their working hours, provide a weekly day off, and pay a minimum wage.”

Since 2005, Human Rights Watch has published two reports on child domestic workers in Morocco and conducted extensive advocacy to curb abuses against them. In 2016, in part as a result, the government passed a law to protect domestic workers from abuse, and phase out employment of children in the sector. We will now monitor the new law to ensure it is implemented.

“We helped First Nations peoples in Canada in their struggle to get clean water.”

Despite vast water resources, Canada has failed to provide clean water to many indigenous people, including children, elderly, and sick. Human Rights Watch found that water is unsafe to drink in more than 100 First Nations communities, due to high levels of contaminants like uranium and bacteria. Our reporting on Canada informed our advocacy with the UN General Assembly that resulted in its adoption of a landmark resolution in December 2015 on the rights to water and sanitation.

“The right to marry and to form a family are fundamental rights. Limiting marriage to heterosexual couples violates the right to nondiscrimination and equality.”

— in testimony before the Colombian Constitutional Court in July 2015. In a landmark ruling nine months later, the court upheld the validity of same-sex marriage. In its decision, the court adopted key arguments presented by Human Rights Watch.
Our Global Impact

Human Rights Watch amplifies the voices of the world’s most marginalized people.

We document the experiences of political prisoners, war victims, children in institutions, people affected by climate change, and many others. We bring their plight to the attention of those who can make a difference.

Here are some recent examples of how we changed lives.
The path to safety and dignity for refugees

1. Stop atrocities that drive refugee flight.
2. Make life bearable for refugees in countries where they first arrive, so more will choose to stay there voluntarily.
3. For those who still want refuge elsewhere, provide opportunities for asylum claims to be heard without the need to board a rickety boat.

Investigate

In 2016, we fought European Union efforts to forcibly return refugees and asylum seekers to Turkey on the pretext that it was safe. We showed how in fact Turkey had closed its borders to Syrians and was repeatedly pushing them back into the war zone. We also highlighted how Turkey left Afghan, Iraqi, and Syrian refugees with inadequate legal protection and limited access to jobs, housing, medical care, and schools.

Expose

When the EU-Turkey deal was announced in March 2016, it looked like mass expulsions from Greece were imminent. Using refugee testimonies gathered by our researchers showing how unsafe Turkey really was, we shaped EU policy debates and media coverage.

Change

Greek courts agreed with us and repeatedly blocked deportations, regularly citing our research and analysis. As a result, no asylum seeker has been forcibly returned to Turkey since the deal under the claim that it is “safe.”

“\nWe fled death, but have come to a place where we have no life.\n”

Mahmoud (pseudonym), 29, a former journalist from Hama, Syria, living in Turkey
Investigate

During Hissène Habré’s brutal eight-year rule in Chad in the 1980s, his government carried out the collective arrest and mass murder of political opponents. Government agents tortured people with electric shocks, burns, and bindings so severe they caused paralysis. Starting in 1999, Human Rights Watch began investigating these atrocities, collecting victim testimonies, and building a record of reliable, independent evidence.

Expose

Victims waged a 17-year campaign with Human Rights Watch’s intensive assistance to expose Habré’s crimes. In 2001, we uncovered the files of Habré’s political police, the “DDS,” which provided the backbone for the case against Habré.

Change

In May 2016 a special court in Senegal convicted the former dictator. In a landmark ruling, Habré was found guilty of rape, war crimes, torture, and crimes against humanity. He was sentenced to life in prison. The trial marks the first time an African court has convicted a former African leader of another country of international crimes. It took many years of perseverance, but Habré’s victims have finally seen justice done.

“During two and a half years in prison, I saw my friends, my fellow inmates, die from hunger, die from despair, die from torture, and die from disease. From the depths of my cell, I swore to God to fight for justice, if I got out alive.”

Souleymane Guengueng, founder of the victims’ association, testifying at Habré’s trial in Senegal in 2016

“Many African countries have endured abusive dictators, warlords and large-scale bloodshed that has gone unpunished. But the Habré case has stood out because of determined victims who were advised and supported by Human Rights Watch and other advocates.”


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Percentage of children needing protection who are placed in foster care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Japan: Children in Institutions Denied Family Life
HRW.org/2016#3

Stopping the Institutionalization of Children

“...I wanted to have parents as well.”

Masaki, 15, who lives in an institution, Tohoku, December 2011

Investigate

Japan relies on orphanages and other institutions to house nearly 32,000 children taken from or abandoned by their parents. Most developed countries place children whose families cannot care for them with other families through foster care or adoption. Japan rarely does. Human Rights Watch visited two dozen institutions in Japan, where we found neglected and assaulted children deprived of the opportunity to develop trusting relationships and life skills.

Expose

Working closely with foster parents and children’s rights groups, we raised awareness in an online campaign and public discussions of the plight of children in institutions. We met with key high-level Japanese officials and dozens of legislative members, urging them to redirect the child welfare system toward family-based care. These steps built support for giving orphaned children a better chance at being raised in a home with love.

Change

In May 2016, the Japanese government adopted many of our recommendations when it revised the country’s child welfare laws. In a groundbreaking shift, the new law opens the possibility of a future in which all children in Japan can live with families, not in institutions.

Compared to other developed countries, the rate of foster placement is extremely low in Japan. Instead, its alternative-care system depends significantly on keeping children in institutions. Studies have shown that family-based care is important for the development and wellbeing of children.

Investigate

Our research in a remote region of northern Kenya showed how increasing temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns were further reducing the water supply in an already drought-stricken area. Without access to clean water for drinking and hygiene, indigenous people were getting sick more often. They were also going hungry, unable to make their traditional living by herding livestock or fishing.

Expose

We shared our research on climate change in Kenya—including access to health, water, food, and livelihoods—in the lead-up to historic international negotiations on a new climate-change treaty. We injected the voices of Kenyan communities into these debates. They served as a powerful reminder to governments of the pressing need to address the human rights of people placed at risk by climate change.

Change

At the Paris conference attended by 195 governments in December 2015, Human Rights Watch, together with other groups, successfully secured human rights language in the global climate change treaty. This marks the first time in history a global agreement on climate change has integrated human rights. It also signifies a critical shift in the world’s understanding of climate change and the way it needs to be confronted. Whether through the suppression of environmental activists or the activities of businesses operating above the law, human rights violations can contribute to climate change. A human rights lens also keeps remedial efforts focused on the people who are most affected.
Exposé

Human Rights Watch exposed the Saudi-led coalition’s use of cluster munitions supplied by the United States, despite Saudi official denial. Indeed, we showed that the United States had failed to meet its own reliability standards by transferring the cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia. Too many of the bombs’ unexploded submunitions were being found on the ground in Yemen where they endanger civilians.

Change

In March 2016, we called for an international arms embargo against Saudi Arabia because of widespread Saudi-led attacks in Yemen that were killing civilians in violation of the laws of war. The Netherlands banned all arms exports to Saudi Arabia. Switzerland blocked $19.5 million in military exports to Middle Eastern countries that it suspected could fuel the war in Yemen. In May 2016, the United States halted sales of cluster munitions to Saudi Arabia.

In September 2016, Textron, the last US manufacturer of cluster munitions, stopped production in response to international pressure—including monthly protests outside its headquarters triggered by our Yemen research.

Sparing Civilians from the Horrors of War

Investigate

Since March 2015 a nine-country coalition led by Saudi Arabia has conducted an aerial bombing campaign in Yemen against Houthi forces—an armed group that ousted the government. With many Yemeni activists either in hiding or flight, we quickly deployed our researchers to the scene. We uncovered many attacks on civilians that amounted to war crimes including the unlawful use of cluster munitions.

To corroborate our on-the-ground findings, we analyzed satellite imagery and video evidence of coalition airstrikes. That enabled us to pinpoint the specific type of munition used. For example, we found remnants of CBU-105 Sensor Fuzed Weapons—a cluster bomb manufactured by a US company, Textron Systems Corporation, and sold to Saudi Arabia by the United States.

“Here is my house... It was peaceful in here. Peace was in the whole atmosphere. Joy and smiles prevailed. There were children’s smiles here. They died. They’re gone. Gone, due to the war.”

Resident of the Yemeni port city of Mokha, where Saudi-led coalition airstrikes killed at least 65 civilians, including 10 children, on July 24, 2015.

“...These weapons cannot distinguish military targets from civilians, and their unexploded submunitions threaten civilians, especially children, even long after the fighting has ended.”

Ole Solvang
Director, Emergencies Program

Expose

Human Rights Watch exposed the Saudi-led coalition’s use of cluster munitions supplied by the United States, despite Saudi official denial. Indeed, we showed that the United States had failed to meet its own reliability standards by transferring the cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia. Too many of the bombs’ unexploded submunitions were being found on the ground in Yemen where they endanger civilians.

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Countries Impacted

The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United States, Yemen

Yemen: Saudi-led Coalition Strikes Market With US-Made Bombs

HRW.org/2016#5
Children in the United States must be 18 to buy a pack of cigarettes, yet they are allowed to pick tobacco at age 12 or younger. Starting in 2013, Human Rights Watch researchers showed how inadequate federal laws left these child laborers at risk. Many of the children had symptoms of poisoning from absorbing nicotine through their skin and being exposed to toxic pesticides. They worked in extreme heat and suffered pain and injuries from repetitive motions. Despite these dangers, some tobacco companies had no policy against child labor, relying on the weak standards of US law.

Human Rights Watch brought the hazards for children working on US tobacco farms to the attention of policymakers and business people with the power and responsibility to protect them. We met with executives of 10 of the world’s largest companies purchasing tobacco from US farms. They were willing to take corrective steps, but when some tobacco companies sought to safeguard from hazardous work only children under age 16, we launched new research to show why all children under age 18 need protection.

Eight tobacco companies we engaged with now explicitly ban hazardous work for children under 18. They all have clear lists of tasks they consider hazardous for kids. The two largest tobacco manufacturers in the United States—Altria Group and Reynolds American—now prohibit any child under 16 from being hired to work on tobacco farms in their supply chains. We are still pressing them to bring the age limit up to 18.

For the first time, in September 2015 the United States banned all children under 18 from handling agricultural pesticides, as we had recommended.
“Millions of lives hang in the balance. We must shore up human rights principles—the values of dignity and tolerance—that are under threat as never before.”

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
The past year has brought immense challenges for the global human rights movement. But it has not been without hope. In this trying time, Human Rights Watch and the global network of activists with whom we collaborate have worked around the clock to refocus attention on the facts, give voice to the people whose lives are being crushed, and press for respect for their rights.

Human Rights Watch relies on the generosity and investments of a global community of informed, dedicated supporters to carry forward its life-saving work. We do not accept any government funding. Each contributor listed in the following pages has joined us in the global fight for human rights and we are deeply grateful.

We could not do it without you.
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Former President, American University in Cairo

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Senior Consultant, General American Investors Company, Inc.

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Vice Chairman, Blackstone

As of 1 November 2016

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Steve Shapiro
Donna Stanton
### Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

**Supporting Services**

**Program Services**

For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets, End of Year</td>
<td>190,238,840</td>
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

For the year ended 30 June 2016

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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets, End of Year</td>
<td>190,238,840</td>
<td>215,791,849</td>
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**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

For the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015

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<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>38,660,336</td>
<td>40,211,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>38,660,336</td>
<td>40,211,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>24,413,060</td>
<td>26,758,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>24,413,060</td>
<td>26,758,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>14,247,276</td>
<td>13,453,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>14,247,276</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets, End of Year</td>
<td>190,238,840</td>
<td>193,293,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>20,670,873</td>
<td>22,227,903</td>
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<td>Special events</td>
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<td>17,983,397</td>
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<td>Total Public Support</td>
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<td>40,211,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>193,293,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXCHANGE RATES**

For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Currency</th>
<th>USD (1/1/16)</th>
<th>EUR (1/1/16)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Auditor**

Youssef Zbib
Agnes Tkotz
Nesrin Thomsen
Lama Sioufi
Ezzeddine Saidi
Hiroko Ogita
Wietske Nijman
Valerie Lombard
Sophie Hilal
Tetz Hakoda
Jungmi Cho
Caroline Ceska
Translation Team:
Carolyn Cheng
 underscores charities that boast the 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. New York, NY, 10118-3299

**Financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, are available at:** HRW.org/financials

**Cover Photo:**
A refugee boy flashes peace signs during a demonstration by refugees and refugee support groups in Athens, Greece. © 2016 LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/Getty Images

**Michele Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Development & Global Initiatives**

**Zoe Maddox, Senior Writer**

**Donor Recognition Team:**

Wald Howdah
Howard Marmonten
Bri...