Dear Friends,

In 2018, Human Rights Watch celebrates 40 years as an organization, while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70. But this year of anniversaries is hardly a moment for complacency. Hard-won progress is being eroded as populist leaders demonize vulnerable minorities, promote discrimination and hate, and once in power, seek to undermine the checks and balances on their power.

Yet we have found time and again that with your help we can resist and turn back these anti-democratic forces. Human Rights Watch is proud to play a leading role in a strong and emboldened global movement that is fighting to protect human rights and defend the principles that underpin them.

Our success today requires that we enlist innovative tools to expose abuse and engage the public and policymakers. When governments try to hide their atrocities by barring access for our researchers, we can deploy satellite imagery and other remote sensing tools, alongside our traditional refugee testimony, to overcome their obstructionism.

For example, when the Burmese military ethnically cleansed the Rohingya population, forcing 700,000 refugees to Bangladesh, and denied their accounts of murder, rape and arson, we corroborated their testimony with satellite imagery to show the burning of some 350 Rohingya villages. Our evidence was broadcast worldwide. We rallied a powerful response, including targeted sanctions against Burmese military commanders and the initiation of a new United Nations mechanism to collect evidence and build cases for future prosecutions.

It is critically important in the current climate that we expand public support for human rights values. We must reach not just audiences already committed to our cause, but those that can be persuaded by our message. New digital tools are helping us to be heard, and to make a persuasive case, amid the clamor of competition for attention.

In these difficult times, we need your partnership. Our movement depends on like-minded people who value a world built on truth, justice, and equality. Together, we can overcome our adversaries and safeguard our shared values.

Thank you for standing with us to confront today’s challenges.

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People gather outside the Eloy Detention Center in Arizona to defend immigrant rights. In December 2017, Human Rights Watch reported on the devastating impact of new US deportation policies. Advocacy by rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, contributed to Congress passing new measures to increase public information about immigration detention operations.

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ANNUAL REPORT
2018
We practice a powerful, proven methodology: investigate abuses scrupulously, expose the facts widely, and relentlessly press those in power for change that respects rights.

For 40 years, Human Rights Watch has defended people at risk of abuse.

Yulia Gorbunova, Europe and Central Asia researcher, inspect the remains of a destroyed school in eastern Ukraine. In October 2017, following years of research and advocacy in Ukraine to protect children’s education and schools from attack and military use, Ukrainian officials announced support for the International Safe Schools Declaration. © 2015 Human Rights Watch
Abdul Joynal Haoulader from Bangladesh’s Balia village has been suffering from arsenic-related health conditions for some 20 years. Human Rights Watch’s investigations of polluted drinking water in Bangladesh helped to highlight the importance of the government committing to fixing some 5,000 arsenic-contaminated wells. © 2016 Atish Saha for Human Rights Watch

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.
Protesters in Manila hold candles as they call for an end to drug-related summary executions in the Philippines. Human Rights Watch found that President Rodrigo Duterte’s murderous “war on drugs” against suspected users and dealers is effectively a war on the poor that could amount to crimes against humanity. © 2017 Jes Aznar/Getty Images

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 effective communicators.
Determined 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 investigations with human stories of the consequence of abuse is a proven formula to secure improvements.
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.

Mausi Segun (right), Africa advocacy director, interviews a witness to abuses in a camp for displaced persons in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Our research revealed that women and girls displaced by Boko Haram conflict suffer sexual abuse and exploitation by security forces and other government officials. © 2015 Human Rights Watch
Defending our Values | What our People Do

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 they can to piece together as complete and accurate a picture as possible.

Being on the front line

Leidy Cordova, 37, with four of her five children at their home in Cumana, Venezuela, June 16, 2016. Their broken refrigerator held the only food in the house: a bag of corn flour and a bottle of vinegar. © 2016 Meridith Kohut

Top: A satellite image shows digging activity near Bardiya, Iraq. Through video and satellite imagery analysis, Human Rights Watch discovered a mass grave and evidence of mass executions in Iraq. © CNES 2018 - Airbus DS 2018

Bottom: “Standing here, I can actually smell the stench of bodies underneath the ground.” Senior Iraq researcher, Belkis Wille, at the site of a mass grave in Iraq that Human Rights Watch located through satellite imagery analysis. © 2018 Human Rights Watch
Partnering with local activists and human rights groups

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 videos. We distribute these materials through traditional and social media to shape public debate and to ensure that policymakers learn of our findings and feel pressure to heed our recommendations for change.

Wangu Kanja, who launched a foundation to support survivors of sexual violence in Kenya. In partnership with her foundation and other local groups, Human Rights Watch raised the alarm about widespread sexual violence during Kenya’s 2017 elections. © 2017 YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/Getty Images

Top: La Win, a 66-year old farmer from Myanmar, said a company seized his 35 acres of land in 2004. He received no compensation and had numerous claims to no avail. The impact of land confiscation on farmers in Myanmar rarely makes headlines. In reports in 2017 and 2018, Human Rights Watch exposed this issue and pushed for reforms to protect the rights of small landowners like La Win. © 2017 Patrick Brown for Human Rights Watch

Bottom: Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, discusses the impact of land confiscation on small farmers. © 2018 AP Photo/Thwin Zaw
Our researchers share their findings not only with the target government but also with other governments and international institutions 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, or even as expert witnesses in criminal trials.

Convincing key decision-makers to act

Top: Joined by Human Rights Watch researcher Margaret Wurth (left), two former child farm workers (right) recount their experiences harvesting tobacco in North Carolina at a congressional briefing in Washington, DC. Following Human Rights Watch’s groundbreaking report highlighting the risks of child labor in US tobacco fields, most of the world’s largest tobacco companies explicitly banned children under 18 from handling green tobacco. © 2014 Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Bottom: A woman picks cotton during the 2015 cotton harvest in Uzbekistan. Three months after Human Rights Watch reported on forced labor in Uzbekistan’s cotton sector, the World Bank president, citing our data, met with the Uzbek president. The president then instructed his government to act, and within days, an estimated 200,000 people were released from forced labor. © 2015 Simon Buxton/噼噼啪啪 International

Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine director, in his office in the occupied West Bank. An Israeli court upheld in April 2019 a government order to deport Shakir over our human rights advocacy. International and local voices spoke out against Israel’s measure to muzzle Human Rights Watch. We have appealed the decision to Israel’s Supreme Court. © 2018 ABBAS MOMANI/AFP/Getty Images
Our researchers stay with an issue until they get results. They recognize that some problems are entrenched, and their solution requires long-term resolve.
In dangerous times, in times of fear, we must speak up for one another.

Mausi Segun
Executive Director
Africa Division
Our organization and the human rights movement face immense challenges. Extremists demonize marginalized communities, reject women’s rights, and return refugees to grave danger. But in this trying time, Human Rights Watch is determined to defend the fundamental values of justice, dignity, and equality on which human rights are based. Together with global partners, courageous activists, and donors, we continue to build on our 40 years of expertise to combat injustice worldwide.

Human Rights Watch is an independent, nongovernmental organization that does not accept any government funding. To conduct our work, we rely entirely on the generous contributions of our committed community of supporters, listed in the following pages.

Thank you for being a part of our cause.

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Deputy Executive Director
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Legacies for Justice Society recognizes and thanks supporters who have made estate plans or established life-income gifts to benefit Human Rights Watch. Membership in the Legacies for Justice Society is bestowed without regard to gift level, as each commitment represents a lifetime pledge to Human Rights Watch that expresses both the desire for a world that is just and the future of what is possible through philanthropy.

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Siri Stolte-Nielsen  
John J. Studzinski CBE/The Genesis Foundation  
Swedish Postcode Lottery  
Makoto Takano  
Jeffrey and Amy Towers  
Trellis Fund  
Julie-Anne Ugglia  
**Stiftung Usine**  
Vital Projects Fund, Inc.  
Joe Walkush  
Marva Warnock  
**Lucinda Watson**  
Wieltschbach Foundation  
Zennström Philanthropies  
**Bolded names represent new supporters who contributed a gift of 100,000+ USD in FY18**
Defending our Values

Gifts Received Between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Mari Okada
Off Piste AS
Elisabeth Nothmann
Barbara and Rolf
Daniel Nir and Jill
Amer Nimr
Kristiaan Nieuwenburg
The Niemeyer Family
Andreas Nidecker
James W. Nickel
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Robert Kohl
Paterson
Simes
and Andy Silver
Eric and Esme Sarasin
Shabnum and
Sybille Sabet
Shana Ward Ryzowy
Manuel Rybach
Nancy and Miles Rubin
Steven Rothenberg
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Ann Rosewater
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Sakiko Yamada
Laure L. Woods
Ed and January Woods
The Woods and Gil
Amanzali
Liz and David Ondaatje
O’Melveny & Myers LLP
The Dorothy and
Jonathan Rintels
Christian Ulise Foundation
Rica Sand
Ravi Pillay
Nancy Rosenfeld
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Weidmann
Olivier de Langhe
Frederick R. Weisman
Leigha and Eli Weinberg
Véronique Weill
Philippe and Marie-Claude
Stichting Zwiep
Roxane Ziegler
### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>€ (1.19)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support</strong></td>
<td>33,206,752</td>
<td>35,743,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions and grants</strong></td>
<td>16,207,689</td>
<td>17,348,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special events</strong></td>
<td>19,221,935</td>
<td>20,394,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less: direct costs of special events</strong></td>
<td>(2,522,618)</td>
<td>(2,754,832)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support</strong></td>
<td>33,206,752</td>
<td>35,743,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td>178,836,775</td>
<td>186,513,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net investment income (loss)</strong></td>
<td>3,637,643</td>
<td>3,944,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publications</strong></td>
<td>26,794</td>
<td>28,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>323,352</td>
<td>350,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>185,858,792</td>
<td>192,189,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets released from restrictions</strong></td>
<td>44,612,269</td>
<td>48,159,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>221,471,061</td>
<td>234,348,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>6,608,531</td>
<td>7,021,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>2,876,085</td>
<td>3,090,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>3,415,696</td>
<td>3,626,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>5,354,319</td>
<td>5,739,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>6,320,774</td>
<td>6,676,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,789,403</td>
<td>2,995,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Rights</td>
<td>3,010,293</td>
<td>3,248,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>1,051,738</td>
<td>1,128,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Justice</td>
<td>1,798,232</td>
<td>1,948,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Rights</td>
<td>3,541,676</td>
<td>3,798,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Programs</td>
<td>16,379,789</td>
<td>17,450,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td>57,738,369</td>
<td>60,766,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>7,506,313</td>
<td>7,851,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>16,649,625</td>
<td>17,376,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
<td>24,155,938</td>
<td>25,227,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>203,916,737</td>
<td>214,044,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets before</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign currency translation (loss) gain</td>
<td>(2,054,256)</td>
<td>(2,175,315)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cumulative Translation Adjustment</strong></td>
<td>(658,880)</td>
<td>(696,824)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>179,761,851</td>
<td>181,867,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>211,636,616</td>
<td>214,393,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End of Year</strong></td>
<td>191,925,499</td>
<td>194,457,809</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the fiscal year ended 30 June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>€ (1.19)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>291,397</td>
<td>319,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investments</strong></td>
<td>377,339,860</td>
<td>404,723,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred expenses</strong></td>
<td>285,541,260</td>
<td>301,790,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred expenses</strong></td>
<td>285,541,260</td>
<td>301,790,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prepaid expenses and other assets</strong></td>
<td>2,651,988</td>
<td>2,835,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred assets, net</strong></td>
<td>3,409,329</td>
<td>3,624,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>324,839,629</td>
<td>341,253,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</strong></td>
<td>7,356,520</td>
<td>7,970,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,965,329</td>
<td>2,164,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>9,321,849</td>
<td>10,134,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissions and contingencies</strong></td>
<td>2,397,248</td>
<td>2,651,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>18,903,490</td>
<td>20,456,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporarily restricted</strong></td>
<td>204,729,830</td>
<td>216,611,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>223,633,320</td>
<td>237,068,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>324,839,629</td>
<td>341,253,166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Human Rights Watch Annual Report 2018 is inclusive of the organization’s work and reflective of its supporters from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.
Human Rights Watch earned a reputation as a leading human rights organization because of our ability to respond quickly and effectively to a broad spectrum of rights concerns—from discrimination to crimes against humanity. Our researchers and advocates act as sentinels for rights abuses in more than 90 countries. Informed by the priorities of our local partners, we investigate rights violations and publish our findings through our unrivaled media networks. To build pressure for change, we forge strategic coalitions to maximize our impact and leverage the collective might of our voices.

This methodology yields significant impact. Examples of accomplishments from July 2017 through June 2018 include the following:

- When 700,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar to escape ethnic cleansing, the Myanmar government tried to dismiss as untrustworthy their accounts of atrocities. We corroborated refugees’ testimony in neighboring Bangladesh with satellite imagery to show the burning and subsequent bulldozing of some 350 Rohingya villages. Largely as a result of this work by Human Rights Watch and our partners, the United Nations launched an investigation and Western governments imposed targeted sanctions on some of the army generals responsible. In September 2018, our sustained advocacy persuaded the UN Human Rights Council to create an investigative mechanism to collect evidence and build cases for future prosecutions.

- In September 2017, we built decisive momentum for the creation of an international inquiry into all sides’ abuses in the war that has produced a grave humanitarian crisis in Yemen. We organized support and published a joint letter with 67 global, regional, and Yemeni organizations, which ultimately led the UN Human Rights Council to authorize an independent investigation, in the face of fierce opposition from Saudi Arabia, which led the coalition that has carried out scores of unlawful airstrikes in Yemen. In September 2018, the Saudi-led coalition sought to block the renewal of the investigation’s mandate. As the Council debated the renewal, we worked closely with our partners to brief governments and coordinate the release of relevant materials. This joint effort helped ensure the Council stood up to Saudi pressure and renewed the international investigation’s mandate.

- In Uzbekistan, our report on forced labor in the cotton sector helped prompt the release of some 200,000 workers throughout the country. A day after the president of the World Bank cited our research in a meeting with the president of Uzbekistan, the Uzbek government ordered officials to end the practice of forcing students, educators, and medical workers to pick cotton.

- Our December 2017 report and January 2018 digital campaign—aided by our first-ever use of a drone—focused on the health impacts of burning garbage dumps in Lebanon. We helped move Lebanon’s parliament to adopt a national solid waste management law banning open burning. Lebanon’s cabinet also released US$20 million to support the closing or rehabilitation of open dumps.