Annual Report
2011

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights
The ultimate objective of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) is the full implementation and respect worldwide of all human rights proclaimed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by 167 States.

The CCPR-Centre was established in June 2008 with the objective of improving the monitoring of the implementation of the ICCPR by States parties through better interaction between the Human Rights Committee and NGOs.

To this end, the CCPR-Centre works to facilitate NGO access to the Human Rights Committee and strengthen the role of NGOs in the State reporting process, which requires States parties to submit, on a regular basis, reports to the Committee on the measures taken to implement the obligations enshrined in the ICCPR.

The CCPR-Centre promotes the participation of NGOs in the work of the Human Rights Committee by raising awareness, strengthening the capacity of NGOs and providing technical and legal support at all stages of the reporting process. One of the Centre’s priorities is promoting the use of the Human Rights Committee’s follow-up procedure. The Centre also aims to ensure that the work of the Committee is fully taken into account in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) established by the Human Rights Council.

The CCPR-Centre targets national and regional NGOs, as well as thematic NGOs whose mandates relate to the ICCPR. Its activities are intended to complement and support those carried out by other international NGOs working with the Human Rights Committee.

The CCPR-Centre is based in Geneva (Switzerland) and has focal points in the different regions of the world. The Centre’s General Assembly meets once a year and elects the Bureau members for two years. The Board is composed of renowned Human Rights Defenders from the different regions of the world. Each region has a focal point, which is committed to linking the CCPR-Centre with national civil society organisations, and therefore ensures that key partners are properly identified at the national level.
The Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) successfully completed its third year of activities and is now considered a key actor in facilitating the monitoring of the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) all around the world.

The Centre facilitated the work of several dozen NGOs participating in the Human Rights Committee’s (HR Committee’s) reporting process. This was especially rewarding this year because the Human Rights Committee improved its working methods, granting a significant role to NGOs which are now able to brief the Committee formally on each country under review. The Centre is responsible for coordinating these NGO briefings, providing help to all NGOs. The development of webcasting activities has been another significant achievement. Since July 2011 all the Human Rights Committee’s public meetings have been webcast by the Centre and can be watched live on the internet, or downloaded.

The work of the CCPR-Centre is not limited to the Committee sessions in Geneva or New York. Indeed, most of the activities are carried out at the domestic level in close partnership with national NGOs. This includes training (in Mongolia and Togo) on the ICCPR and the Human Rights Committee, as well as legal and technical support to the partner NGOs to draft their reports.

2011 also saw the successful development of follow-up activities. Follow-up missions in Mongolia and Cameroon were organised by the Centre to continue the dialogue initiated with the authorities. In order to raise the profile of such missions, a Committee Member participated in each. The CCPR-Centre also published several follow-up reports to facilitate assessment of the actual implementation of the Committee’s recommendations.

Finally, the CCPR-Centre developed a new project on the individual complaints procedure. This project aims to provide a better knowledge of the Committee’s jurisprudence as well as to closely monitor the implementation of the remedy requested by the Committee. To that end, the Centre regularly issues follow-up reports, in partnership with lawyers and NGOs, to assess the State compliance with the Committee’s views.

All this work would not have been possible without the support of our different donors, in particular, the support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) for the Centre’s core activities. In all its achievements the Centre expresses its most sincere thanks to all those who supported its mission. Milestones for 2012 will include the strengthening of the follow-up activities and the development of the project on the individual complaints procedure.

It is with sadness that the Centre has to announce the death of its founding President and former Human Rights Committee member, Ahmed Khalil, whose support and encouragement for the Centre and its work during its formative stage made a significant contribution to its success.

Rachel Brett, Board Member of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights
Effective participation in the Human Rights Committee’s State reporting procedure requires national NGOs to have a detailed knowledge of the ICCPR and of the Human Rights Committee’s working methods. It is critical that NGOs are able to interact with the Human Rights Committee at all stages of the reporting procedure, including during the follow-up to the Concluding Observations. The CCPR-Centre has therefore developed a comprehensive approach in order to facilitate national NGO interaction with the Human Rights Committee throughout the reporting process.

In phase 1 the CCPR-Centre provides legal and technical advice on the drafting of the reports. During this phase the Centre organises a training workshop for the national NGOs on the Human Rights Committee’s State reporting process and the opportunities for NGO engagement. As a result the national NGOs will be better prepared to take part in all stages of the reporting process.

During phase 2 the CCPR-Centre enables representatives of the national NGOs to be present during the dialogue between the Committee and the State representatives. During the session the Centre organises briefings with the Committee members. These briefings are an opportunity for the NGOs to present their concerns and respond to questions from the Committee.

In phase 3 the CCPR-Centre and the national NGO partners organise follow-up missions to the State with a member of the Human Rights Committee. The objective of these missions is to raise awareness about the Human Rights Committee’s Concluding Observations and to engage in a constructive dialogue with the authorities on the implementation of their human rights obligations. The missions also include a workshop for the national NGOs on ways of using the Concluding Observations in their advocacy and on the Human Rights Committee’s Follow-up Procedure.
In 2011, the CCPR-Centre was in contact with more than **140 NGOs from the 32 States involved in the reporting process**. In the course of the year the CCPR-Centre developed its outreach strategy and increased the number of Newsletters sent by email. By the end of 2011, the CCPR-Centre’s email Newsletters were being sent to **1700 contacts**. The number of people, who have chosen to subscribe to this service, as well as the positive feedback received from time to time, strongly suggests that civil society at large sees this as a useful tool.

In addition, the Centre supported coalitions of NGOs from two key countries, **Togo and Mongolia**.

A workshop was organised from **January 2011**, in Lomé, Togo. This workshop was jointly organised with the local partners, the **West African Human Rights Defenders Network** and the **Collectif des Associations contre l’Impunité au Togo (CACIT)**. More than 30 participants were invited to this event, which was opened by the Representative of the Ministry of Human Rights. Following this workshop, an NGO report on the implementation of the ICCPR in Togo, endorsed by all the participants, was submitted to the HR Committee at the 101st Session in March 2011. A second training workshop took place in **February 2011 in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia**. Both national partners, namely the **Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD)** and **Globe International (GI)**, were involved in the organisation of this workshop, which gathered more than 25 human rights activists.

Both workshops included practical modules on the work of the UN Treaty Bodies and the role of NGOs in the reporting process. The second part of the workshop focused on the specific national situation, including reviewing the recommendations adopted the last time the State was reviewed and the issues contained in the List of Issues adopted by the HR Committee.
Coordination of the NGO Briefings

In the course of 2011, the HR Committee changed its practice and allocated 30 minutes for the NGOs of each country under review to formally brief the Committee. This significant improvement in the cooperation between the HR Committee and the NGOs was made possible thanks to the coordinated efforts of the CCPR-Centre and other international NGOs.

In consequence, the CCPR-Centre took over responsibility for coordinating all NGO formal briefings during the HR Committee sessions, allocating time slots to the participating NGOs and coordinating the topics to avoid overlap during the briefing. Informal NGO briefings were also organised by the CCPR-Centre on each State reviewed by the Committee, in order to continue the dialogue initiated during the formal briefings.

Five informal briefings were carried out by videoconference. Such videoconferences were extremely useful, allowing national NGOs from Mozambique and Turkmenistan to interact with the HR Committee at a very early stage of the review procedure, prior to the adoption of the List of Issues. In total the Centre organised 17 informal briefings in the course of 2011.

Webcasting

In July 2011, the CCPR-Centre started the live webcasting of the Human Rights Committee sessions. It is estimated that more than 8,000 viewers followed the July session. Since October 2011, a new project has been initiated, that allows for the broadcasting of 15 State reviews per year, that is, approximately 90 hours recording. The live recordings are subsequently archived on the Centre’s website.

The Human Rights Committee officially acknowledged the pioneering role of the CCPR-Centre: “A good practice example of raising awareness and publicity of the Committee’s activities is the webcasting of the Committee’s sessions by the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre)”. 

Supporting the Participation of NGOs in the Committee’s Sessions
Supporting NGO participation during the Human Rights Committee Sessions

During 2011, the CCPR-Centre supported the participation in the HR Committee’s sessions of human rights defenders from Togo, Mongolia and Jamaica.

The CCPR-Centre enabled NGO representatives from these States to attend the relevant Committee sessions and participate in the NGO briefings. All the points raised by the NGOs in these briefings were addressed specifically by the Committee in the dialogue with the State and were reflected in the Concluding Observations and the recommendations selected for follow-up.

It should be highlighted that for each country, the National NGOs supported by the CCPR-Centre were the only ones present during the examination of the State report, and therefore the information they were able to provide was crucial for the Committee.

National NGO Partners:

Togo:

- West African Human Rights Defenders Network
- Collectif des Associations contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT)

Mongolia:

- Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD)
- Globe International (GI)

Jamaica:

- Jamaicans For Justice (JFJ)

“We read the recommendations on Jamaica and we're so excited to see many of our comments and statements adopted as recommendations! It's been a surreal experience, and yes we are definitely 'happy'! Thanks for all your assistance!”

Tamara Muhammad
Jamaicans for Justice - Jamaica
In 2011, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights carried out two follow-up missions in Mongolia and Cameroon in close cooperation with its national partners. Each time, a HR Committee Member participated in these missions.

Follow-up mission in Mongolia

From the 5th to the 8th of December 2011, a follow-up mission composed of Krister THELIN, Member of the HR Committee, and one Representative of the CCPR-Centre, was carried out in Ulaan Baatar. Several bilateral meetings were organised with the national authorities, the National Human Rights Institution and the United Nations Country Team.

At each of these meetings the Concluding Observations were presented and the ways in which the HR Committee’s recommendations could be addressed bilaterally were discussed. The meetings were extremely useful in raising awareness of the Concluding Observations.

A roundtable with representatives from various ministries was hosted by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA) and was chaired by the Head of the Foreign Relations and Cooperation Division of the MOJHA. The objective of the roundtable was to give a brief overview of the work of the HR Committee as well as to introduce the Concluding Observations on Mongolia. The MOJHA also gave a presentation on the recently adopted Plan of action for implementing selected Concluding Observations.

Finally, a one-day workshop was also organised for Civil Society Organisations (CSO), which was attended by more than 40 participants from 31 organisations. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the Concluding Observations, with a particular emphasis on those selected for the follow-up process.

“The workshop on the follow-up helped the NGOs to strategise their action to better monitor the implementation of the Concluding Observations”

Urantsooj Gombsuren Chairperson of the Centre for Human Rights and Development - Mongolia
Follow-up mission in Cameroon

A follow-up mission was carried out in **Douala and Yaoundé from the 14th to 17th December 2011**. The mission was composed of the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, **Zonke MAJODINA** and a Representative of the CCPR-Centre.

A series of meetings were organised in the district of Douala on 14th December 2011 and in Yaoundé on the 15th and 16th December 2011. Several **bilateral meetings** were organised with the national authorities, Embassies, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms in Cameroon (NCHRL) and the OHCHR Regional Office.

In the framework of the follow-up mission, a one-day **workshop** was organised in Douala for Civil Society Organisations (CSO) on 17th December 2011. This workshop was attended by 15 participants from different regions of Cameroon, including Bafoussam, Baganté, Bamenda, Douala, Sangmélima and Yaoundé.

In addition, a **roundtable with several UN Agencies was organised by the OHCHR Regional office in Yaoundé**, on the 16th December 2011. This meeting was a unique opportunity to present the HR Committee’s work on follow-up and discuss the implementation of the Concluding Observations selected for the follow-up procedure.
Submission of NGO Follow-up reports

In addition to the work on follow-up in Mongolia and Cameroon, the Centre contacted national NGOs in the States that were reviewed in 2010 to inform them about the follow-up procedure and assisted national NGOs to produce follow-up reports on:

- Argentina
- Israel
- New Zealand
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Colombia
- Switzerland
- Azerbaijan
- Moldova

Follow-up reports assess the measures the State party has taken to implement the Concluding Observations selected for the follow-up procedure. They also include a new grading system which allows a better and more consistent assessment of the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations.

Linking the follow-up with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The CCPR-Centre developed a special project to support the National NGOs from Rwanda to engage with the UPR process. To that end, the CCPR-Centre facilitated an advocacy mission of three human rights defenders to Geneva, in January 2011, to ensure that key recommendations adopted by the HR Committee in March 2009, were taken into consideration during the UPR process.

“The CACIT would like to thank warmly the CCPR-Centre for its support through all the reporting process. Thanks to this partnership, we learned a lot and will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the recommendations”.

André Afanou,
Executive Director,
CACIT-Togo
Disseminating the latest Decisions

In response to difficulties with accessibility and the resulting lack of use of the HR Committee decisions, the CCPR-Centre started summarising each of the HR Committee decisions from October 2010 onwards. The summaries, which are drafted in English, Spanish or French depending on the working language of the case, contain the essence of the facts and law of the case, as well as the articles infringed and keywords.

At the end of 2011, also in response to the difficulty of accessing the HR Committee’s decisions on individual cases, the CCPR-Centre launched a new periodic on-line publication, the Human Rights Committee Case-Law Digest.

Assessing the implementation of Decisions at the domestic level

At the same time, the CCPR-Centre started tracking the implementation of the HR Committee decisions at the domestic level, by contacting the victims’ legal representatives and requesting information about the degree of implementation. A one-page follow-up report is drafted on each case, and the implementation is rated according to a grading system that mirrors the one adopted by the HR Committee Special Rapporteur on Individual Communications. These follow-up reports are then posted on-line and updated as and when progress is made. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness about the implementation (or lack of implementation) of the individual communications. Ultimately this should help with advocacy efforts to improve compliance with the HR Committee’s decisions on individual cases.

“I have to tell you all that this Digest is extremely helpful, and I look forward to reading it each time it comes out.

I tell you this because usually I sign up for these things but then don't have the time to read them.

This one I will definitely read!”

Lisa Davis, Advocacy Director, MADRE
Training on the UN complaints mechanisms

In July 2011, the CCPR-Centre organised a workshop for national human rights defenders from Uzbekistan, which looked at the different United Nations complaints mechanisms and the procedure for submitting individual cases. The aim of the training was twofold:

1) To ensure that the participants have a comprehensive knowledge of the different United Nations complaints mechanisms to which individual complaints can be submitted.

2) To take the opportunity of this workshop to initiate and develop close links with key Geneva-based partners, including Human Rights Officers from the OHCHR Petition Team.

The Centre organised this 5-day workshop, from 25th to 29th of July 2011, for six human rights defenders. The participants were selected according to their background and their willingness to submit concrete individual cases before the various complaint mechanisms. Each participant presented one or two cases in detail. A first screening was made with all the participants. Each case was discussed at length; a prima facie analysis of the possible human rights violations was made, as well as a review of its admissibility. A list of the documents needed, in case of submission, was also drafted for each case.

“I would like to thank you for the organization of such substantial training and the opportunity to feel the working rhythm of the UN organs in the field of human rights. Now I have more motivation and a new impetus because I realize that here are more opportunities within the system to promote and defend human rights using the UN procedures.”

Nadejda Atayeva, President of the Association Human Rights in Central Asia
In 2012, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights will continue working with national NGO partners to ensure that the HR Committee receives alternative reports on all the States reviewed. The Centre will also explore new opportunities and strategies to improve NGO engagement with the HR Committee and hopes to expand its work to include a project on Individual Communications.

In 2012-2013, the CCPR-Centre will provide comprehensive training and support to NGOs from eleven key countries. The identification of key countries is subject to the HR Committee agenda and the interest of national NGOs as well as their needs in terms of capacity building. The key countries selected for 2012–2013 are:

- Guatemala (Review in March 2012)
- Cape Verde (Review in March 2012)
- Rwanda (Review by Ctte Against Torture in May 2012)
- Kenya (Review July 2012)
- Philippines (Review in October 2012)
- Ivory Coast (Review in October 2012)
- Paraguay (Review in March 2013)
- Angola (Review in March 2013)
- Peru (Review in March 2013)
- Haiti (Review in March 2013)
- Burundi (Review in 2013)

In addition, the CCPR-Centre will work closely with national NGOs who have engaged with the reporting process to submit follow-up reports, after the one-year deadline. Several follow-up missions are also scheduled in Togo (January 2012), Jordan (January 2012), Cape Verde (June 2012), Colombia (June 2012) and Rwanda (June 2012). In the second half of 2012 missions will be carried out in Jamaica, Guatemala and Philippines.
Donors

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights is very grateful to all the donors who support our work.

In 2011, the Centre received support from the following Governments and Institutions:

- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- The Open Society Institute Foundation
- La Loterie Romande
- The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- La République et Canton de Genève
- The Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs
- Individuals Members of the CCPR-Centre

Budget and accounts

The CCPR-Centre carried out its activities thanks to its generous and regular donors. The support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), which is funding the Centre’s core activities for three years was an essential income for the CCPR-Centre and allowed the Centre to carry out its day-to-day activities. The Swiss MFA also significantly increased its support to the CCPR-Centre on a project aiming at supporting the NGO from the Great Lakes region for activities scheduled mainly in 2012. Finally, thanks to the support of the Open Society Institute, the CCPR-Centre was able to carry out its first activities related to the project on individual complaints. Similarly, thanks to the Loterie Romande, the CCPR-Centre was able to webcast the HR Committee’s sessions for the first time.

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Contributions received in 2009 for activities in 2010 | 95'175.78

Total | **283'748.88**

Net loss | **695.63**
Staff

- Patrick Mutzenberg, Director (100%)
- Peggy Brett, Programme Officer (40%, on study leave since September 2011)
- Liliana Trillo Diaz, Programme Officer (60%, since September 2011)
- Hamdi Addow, Fellow Researcher (from July – November 2011)

Interns and pro bono

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights has benefited from the voluntary work of a number of interns:

- Hamdi Addow
- Kai Kan
- Leontiy Korolev
- Jordan Shepherd

These interns helped to develop the website and organise briefings, worked with NGOs on follow up reports, and participated in all areas of the Centre’s activities. Their contribution was crucial to the success of the Centre during this year and we would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment.
**Board**

**Mr. Ahmed Tawfik Khalil (President)†** Former Member of the Human Rights Committee (Vice-President). Member of the Sub-committee on Protection of Minorities.

**Ms. Sihem Bensedrine (MENA Region)** Journalist, Human Rights Activist and President of the “Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie”, Tunisian NGO.

**Ms. Rachel Brett** Representative at the Quaker UN Office in Geneva.

**Mr. Rafendi Djamin (Asian Region)** Coordinator of HRWG, and currently Convener of SAPA (Solidarity for Asian People Advocacy) Task-Force on ASEAN and Human Rights.

**Mr. Diallo Abdoul Gadiry (West Africa Region)** Chairman and Coordinator of West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, based in Guinea-Conakry.

**Mr. Florian Irminger** Head of the Geneva office, Human Rights House Foundation.

**Pr. Sarah Joseph (Oceanic Region)** Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law - Faculty of Law of Melbourne – Australia.

**Mr. Asger Kjaerum** Lawyer, Head of IRCT Geneva Office - International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

**Ms. Victoria Kuhn (Central America Region)** Lawyer, Human Rights Officer at UN OHCHR Office in Geneva

**Mr. Jakob Th. Moller (Judge)** Former Chief of the Communications Branch of the OHCHR and Former Judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Ms. Chantal Mutamuriza** Lawyer, Human Rights Officer at the International Service for Human Rights.

**Ms. Lucia Nader (Latin America Region)** Political scientist, Director at Conectas Direitos Humanos based in Sao Paolo – Brazil.


**Mr. Hassan Shire (East and Horn of Africa Region)** Chairperson of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), a regional Human Rights Defenders Network based in Uganda.

**Mr. Philippe Tremblay** Lawyer, Programme Manager at "Avocats sans frontières-Canada".