

2015 Annual Report

Centre for Civil
and Political
Rights



Making civil and political
rights a reality

Our Vision & Mission

The CCPR-Centre envisions the full and universal realisation of the rights proclaimed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its two Optional Protocols. The CCPR-Centre aims to fulfil that vision by facilitating the application of the ICCPR and promoting the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations, mainly through engaging with national NGOs and strengthening the Committee itself. We believe that making the most of the reporting, review and follow-up cycle of the Human Rights Committee is one of the best ways to achieve our vision.

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A word from the Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee

Fabian Salvioli

As a Committee member since March 2009, I have seen the fundamental role of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights in supporting the Committee's work, in particular in relation to the NGO participation and the dissemination of the Concluding Observations. Indeed, in 2015, the impact of the Centre was evident in the review of countries such as Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti and Cambodia, for which the Committee was provided with high-quality reports from civil society coalitions as well as direct interaction during the Committee's sessions. However, I am concerned by the fact that, for some countries reviewed by the Committee in 2015 (particularly those from Europe), the representation from civil society was either poor or completely non-existent. I strongly encourage NGOs from all regions to engage with the Committee's reporting process, as the information provided by them is key for ensuring an effective review.

I thank the Centre for its support in webcasting the public sessions of the Committee, which allows national stakeholders to closely follow our work. I am confident that this task will be taken over by the OHCHR as promised for 2016. The new webcast system will imply that the sessions will be available online in two languages and there will be new possibilities for videoconferences with civil society representatives who cannot attend the sessions in Geneva.

Finally, I would like to highlight the growing role of the Centre in the follow-up phase of the reporting process. The in-country follow-up missions with Committee members, accompanied by an increasing range of activities towards the implementation of the Committee's recommendations at a national level, are key to achieve the ultimate objective of our existence, which envisions full compliance with the ICCPR in every country worldwide.

Fabian Salvioli

Chairperson of the UN Human Rights Committee

Message from the President & the Director



Rafael Rivas Posada
President of the Centre for
Civil and Political Rights



Patrick Mutzenberg
Director of the Centre for
Civil and Political Rights

2015 was an important year for the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) as – in addition to our regular activities several initiatives were carried out successfully to reinforce the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) at the national level.

The Centre continues to work hard to ensure that the voice of civil society is heard at the Human Rights Committee. In 2015, we worked closely with human rights defenders from eight countries – Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Uzbekistan and Venezuela – to successfully raise civil society concerns regarding the implementation of the ICCPR. To that end, the Centre organised national consultations that were attended by a total of 140 human rights defenders who also actively contributed to NGO reports. For the first time, in four countries – Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Rwanda – the Centre and its partners were able to initiate the national consultation process well in advance and were ready to submit their information before the adoption of the List of Issues. The impact of the NGO work was tremendous as most of the NGO concerns were duly reflected in the Lists of issues and subsequently addressed at length in the dialogue with the Human Rights Committee.

The Centre is also committed to promoting the work of the Human Rights Committee and increasing its outreach. To that end, we webcasted all the 2015 public sessions of the Committee and will continue to do so until mid 2016, when the OHCHR will take over this responsibility. The Centre also completely revamped its website, in particular the section dedicated to the individual communications adopted under the first Optional Protocol. We have now included all of the cases adopted by the Committee and they are fully searchable by date, session, country and keywords.

The follow-up to the Concluding Observations and the measures taken to implement them are at the heart of the Centre's strategy. To that end, we are engaged in a long-term process with our national partners to ensure that the Committee's recommendations are fully implemented. However, our engagement is not merely limited to monitoring the measures taken by States to implement recommendations; we also engage with Governments to encourage them to cooperate with the Human Rights Committee and submit their follow-up report in due time. The follow-up missions organised with Committee members have proven to be very useful, strengthening the cooperation between the Committee and the States. Visits carried out in 2015 to six countries (Indonesia, Cambodia, Armenia, Chad, Ivory Coast, and Haiti) were taken very seriously by the national authorities, all of whom sent their follow-up reports (with the notable exception of Chad) and provided useful information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations.

In addition to the follow-up missions, the Centre worked closely with national NGOs in Ivory Coast to adopt a plan of action regarding the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. This will not only help NGOs to plan their lobbying activities better at the national level, but will also assist them in preparing for the upcoming reviews before the other United Nations Treaty Bodies, or in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This first plan of action was welcomed by the NGOs and similar exercises will be realised in 2016.

In 2015, the Centre also organised its first regional consultation for the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations. This consultation was held in Pretoria (South Africa) and was attended by representatives from NHRIs, NGOs and the Governments of six countries (Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Tanzania). This meant that, for the first time, Government officials, NHRIs and NGOs were able to exchange ideas and methods regarding the best practices as well as on the challenges faced with regards to the implementation process. It also served to open up a space in which these actors could discuss their different ideas and perspectives frankly. More regional conferences are planned to take place in the future, including one for West Africa, which is scheduled for September 2016.

Our actions for improving NGO role in the implementation of the ICCPR



We undertake workshops, advocacy activities and consultations with NGOs and other relevant national stakeholders such as, inter alia, national authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, judicial institutions and bar associations.

These activities are organised both in Geneva and in target countries. In those State parties that have ratified the ICCPR, they take place at all stages of the treaty implementation cycle.

Phase 1:

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL PROCESS TO IDENTIFY THE KEY ISSUES OF THE ICCPR

Preparation of country reviews in target countries, notably through direct support to NGO contributions to the review. This includes preparation of civil society contributions both before the adoption of a List of Issues (LOI) or List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR) to provide suggestions on their content, and after its adoption to provide information in response to the issues raised. Phase 1 activities normally take place within a year prior to the review of a State party.

Phase 2:

ENSURING THE CONCERNS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ARE HIGH ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA

Support to the reviews during Human Rights Committee sessions, notably by facilitating the participation of civil society representatives. This includes the organization of both formal and informal briefings by CCPR-Centre between NGO representatives and Human Rights Committee members.

Phase 3:

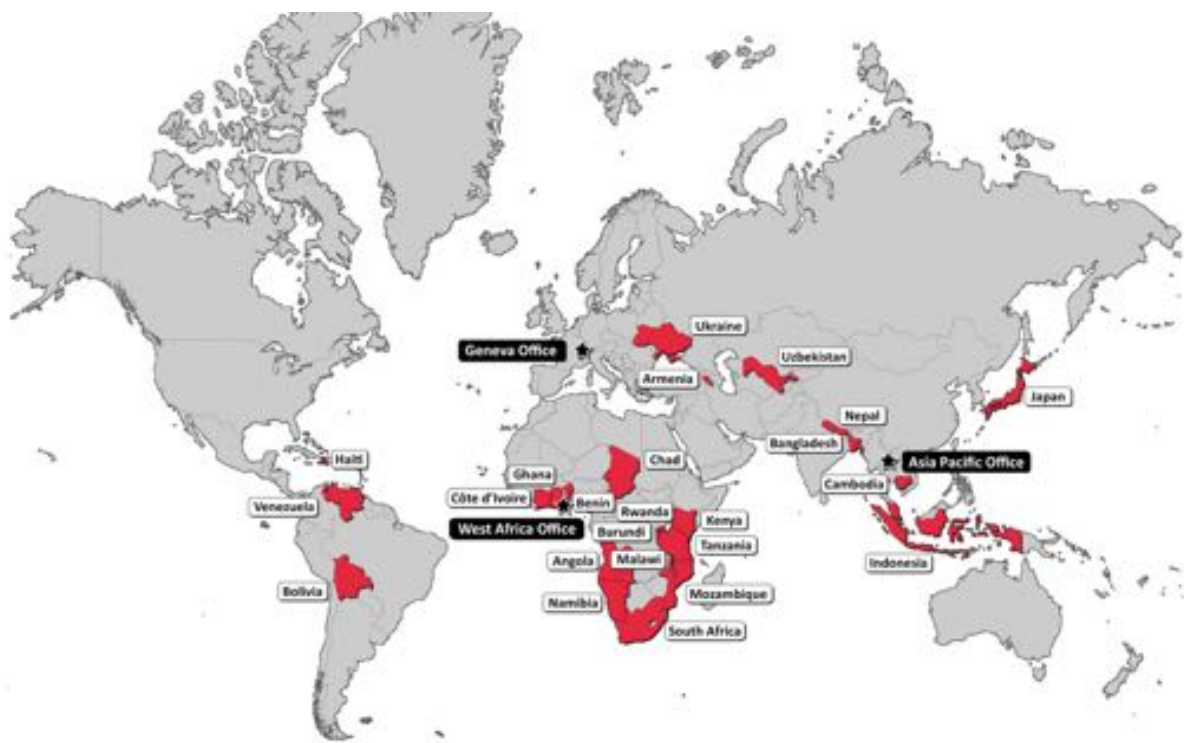
TURNING THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS INTO REALITY WITH THE STONG INVOLVEMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

Contribute to the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations through follow-up activities, including country visits with Human Rights Committee members. This includes supporting NGOs to produce assessment notes and evaluations on the level of implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations, as well as meeting with high-level authorities to encourage them to take steps on implementation. Phase 3 activities normally take place within a year after the review.

In addition to the activities in the 3 above-mentioned phases, we also undertake research on related topics, litigation, review of jurisprudence, and follow-up of individual cases. In this regard, the CCPR-Centre maintains the largest online database of summary records of Human Rights Committee views on individual communications.



Priority countries



Our work in 2015

1 PHASE

BUILDING COALITIONS AND PREPARING COUNTRY REVIEWS

In 2015, the CCPR-Centre together with its local partners organised five national NGO consultations in which were attended by 141 human rights defenders. The participating NGOs collaborated and prepared coalition reports for the HR Committee to provide inputs regarding the implementation of the ICCPR in their countries.

The consultations also served as a platform for discussions on the main human rights challenges at a national level, and the ways in which the NGOs could work together in order to tackle them.

A New Strategy: **Using the List of Issues as a tool for raising the concerns of NGOs**

For the first time, in 2015, the CCPR-Centre organised national NGO consultations prior to the adoption of the List of Issues. This was the case for Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Rwanda. This new strategy allows for the formation of NGO coalitions in the early stages of the process (one year before the review of the State report). The inputs of NGOs submitted at this early stage were clearly reflected in the List of Issues adopted by the Committee.

Key figures:

- 5 Five National Consultations in Rwanda, Venezuela, Ghana, Benin and Bangladesh
- 141 Human Rights Defenders participating



STRENGTHENING NATIONAL COALITION

A Key Role for our partner in Ghana

“Most of the NGOs who attended the Consultation saw for the first time the State Report of Ghana submitted to the Human Rights Committee. There is a need to continue the dialogue with these NGOs most especially in raising awareness on the ICCPR and building their capacity to progress on the implementation of the Covenant.”

**Wendy
Abbey**

Human Rights
Advocacy Centre
Ghana



2 PHASE

ENSURING EFFECTIVE NGO ENGAGEMENT AT THE COMMITTEE'S SESSION

During each Committee session, the CCPR-Centre coordinates formal and informal briefings between the Human Rights Committee members and human rights defenders for all countries under review. The Centre plays an important role in preparing NGOs for these briefings and coordinating their participation to ensure optimal use of the available time. This process serves to streamline NGO concerns and clearly raise the key human rights issues for each country under review.

These briefings constitute a unique opportunity for a direct dialogue to take place between civil society and Human Rights Committee members. Effective NGO engagement with the Committee members at this stage of the reporting process is immediately reflected during the review of the State and has a remarkable impact on the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

In 2015, the CCPR Centre worked with more than 170 human rights defenders who attended the Human Rights Committee sessions in Geneva in relation to the 20 States reviewed. The Centre also facilitated the participation of human rights defenders from Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan and Benin.

Spreading the word for a better implementation of the Human Rights Committee findings

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights is committed to ensuring that the work of the Human Rights Committee reaches as wide an audience as possible. Indeed, webcasting of the majority of the Committee's sessions reviewing the States' reports was carried out by the CCPR-Centre.



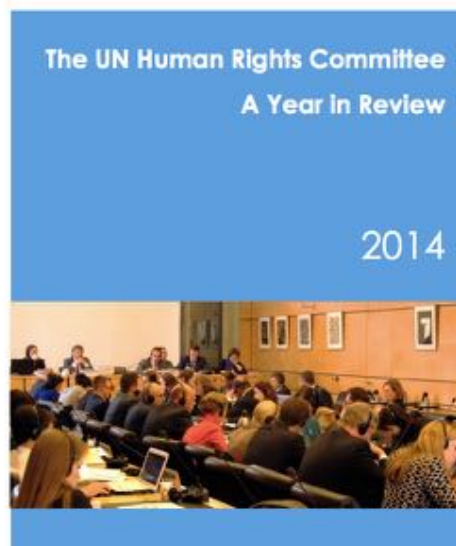
The Centre is also actively present on social media, including Twitter, where 2'500 followers are registered. Newsletters are also released following each session highlighting the main developments and providing an overview of the dialogue between Government delegations and the Human Rights Committee, including the main points of concerns.

In 2015, the Centre launched a renovated online database on cases adopted by the Human Rights Committee. This database can be searched by States, articles of the ICCPR, keywords and year of decision. The database includes also hundreds Case Law Summaries which provide in depth analysis of Committee's jurisprudence.

In addition, the Centre published for the first time a report jointly with the Geneva Graduate Institute reviewing the main developments which took place in the Human Rights Committee in 2014. This publication analyses the latest jurisprudence and the proceedings of country reviews. The review of jurisprudence was discussed during a litigators workshop organised in September 2015 in partnership with Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI).

Key figures:

- 170 Human Rights Defenders attending the Committee's sessions
- 8 Human Rights Defenders supported by the Centre
- 1606 cases included in our case-law database



THE NECESSITY OF WORKING IN A NGO COALITION

The involvement of Canadian NGOs

“Over the years, the benefits of close coordination and collaboration among groups and activists contributing to UN reviews of Canada have become abundantly clear. At the end of the day this is not about competing with each other for attention; it is about working closely together to make sure we are strategic, effective and push ahead with the human rights reforms that concern us all.”

Alex Neve

Director
Amnesty International Canada





BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS HOME

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights is convinced that the NGO engagement should go beyond just reporting on the situation in States. CCPR-Centre is therefore committed to engaging constructively with the national authorities with regards to the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations.

In order to fulfil this objective, the Centre embarked on a long-term engagement with national NGOs of six countries recently reviewed by the Human Rights Committee, namely Indonesia, Cambodia, Armenia, Chad, Ivory Coast, and Haiti.

Our activities included in-country follow-up missions with a Committee member in order to raise awareness on the Committee's recommendations. During these missions, our delegations met with high-level national authorities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Parliamentarians, as well as the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and civil society representatives.

These missions also include workshops and public events to ensure extensive media coverage of the findings of the Human Rights Committee.

Follow-up constitute long-term engagement whereby national NGOs work closely with the Centre in order to monitor the efforts made by the authorities to implement the recommendations of the HR Committee. In 2015 the first plan of action, which aimed to coordinate civil society efforts to lobby for the full implementation of the recommendations made to the State, was adopted in Ivory Coast. Long-term, this plan of action will also help the NGOs to better monitor the implementation of the recommendations and report back to the Committee in the context of the follow-up process.

The Centre is also committed to ensure that the Human Rights Committee's recommendations are taken seriously in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). To that end, the Centre and its national partners issued monitoring implementation reports prior to the review of Croatia, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritania and Nepal on the implementation of the recommendations selected by the Human Rights Committee for the follow-up procedure.

In addition, we produced various summary reports on the implementation of decisions of the Committee. The objective is to provide a clear overview of the major issues of concern and highlight developments, positive or negative, regarding the remedies provided to the victims.

Key figures:

- Six follow-up missions in Indonesia, Cambodia, Armenia, Chad, Ivory Coast, and Haiti.
- 100% of the countries visited submitted their follow-up report to the Human Right Committee



THE IMPORTANCE OF NGO'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

The experience from our partners in Cambodia

"The follow-up mission was a success in terms of raising national awareness on the recently adopted Concluding Observations by the Human Rights Committee on Cambodia. Ms Waterval was able to meet and have constructive dialogues with different state actors within the Cambodian Government."

Billy Chia - Lung Tai

Human Rights Adviser
Cambodian Human Rights
Action Committee



INDONESIA



**NGO Partner:
Human Rights Working Group**

OUR PRIORITIES IN ASIA

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights has been engaged with the national NGO Human Rights Working Group since 2013. After the 2014 review, the Centre carried out a high-level follow-up visit in January 2015 in Jakarta. This was the first ever follow-up visit to a country on the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations which involved two members of the Committee. The visit received substantial media coverage on the four main issues selected for the follow-up procedure, namely:

- 1) Grave human rights violations in the past**
- 2) Death penalty**
- 3) Female genital mutilation (FGM)**
- 4) Freedom of religion**

The outcome of the follow-up visit is a mixed bag. Despite the efforts undertaken by the delegation and the positive outcomes of the visit, the Indonesian authorities decided nonetheless to execute six death-row inmates, just as the delegation was leaving the country. This first round of executions sparked an international and diplomatic outcry. Our reaction at CCPR-Centre included statements which condemned this blatant violation of the Committee recommendation.

During the follow-up visit, State representatives expressed commitment to the submission of a State follow-up report and indeed they did so in March 2015. In its assessment, the Human Rights Committee severely condemned the execution of the convicted, whilst noting some progress on the issues of past violations and FGM.



BANGLADESH



NGO Partner:
Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB)

OUR PRIORITIES IN ASIA

Bangladesh acceded to the ICCPR in September 2000, but submitted its initial report after 14-year delay, in 2015. Upon this submission, the Committee scheduled to adopt the List of Issues to Bangladesh at its 116th session in March 2016

Being the initial review of Bangladesh, it was significantly important for national NGOs to highlight their main points of concern in relation to implementation of the ICCPR in the country and to raise their issues at the beginning of the reporting process of the HR Committee. In this context, CCPR Centre contacted NGOs in Bangladesh well in advance and organised a national workshop in October 2015, together with its national partner Human Rights Forum Bangladesh, a coalition of 19 NGOs.

The consultation strengthened the NGOs capacity to engage with the HR Committee and was a unique opportunity to discuss the main concerns to be raised at the review of the Bangladesh.

The consultation ended successfully and was followed by the submission of a joint NGO report in December 2015. The Centre will continue to work closely with national NGOs for the following stages of the reporting process.

Some of the main issues raised by the NGOs at the consultation are:

- Discrimination against women in law and practice including discriminatory laws based on religion or customary laws, domestic violence, acid attacks, and harmful practices such as early marriages
- Right to life including extra-judicial killings, deaths in custody and enforced disappearances
- Attacks and killings of atheist, religious minority, bloggers, journalists as well as strong restriction on NGOs



CAMBODIA



NGO Partner:
Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee
(CHRAC)

OUR PRIORITIES IN ASIA

Despite a difficult review of Cambodia in March 2015, within which the attitude of the State delegation came across rather hostile, the follow-up visit undertaken by the CCPR-Centre in August was well received by national authorities. The Centre's Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific undertook the visit alongside HR Committee Member Margo Waterwal in order to encourage State actors and interact with civil society actors on the implementation of the following three recommendations of the Committee:

- Extrajudicial killings, allegedly mainly perpetrated by the army, police and gendarmerie, in Cambodia since the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements
- Torture and ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement personnel, especially in the context of police custody and for the purpose of obtaining confessions
- Killings and intimidation of journalists, human rights defenders, trade union workers, land and environmental activists as well as members of the political opposition

The follow-up visit was organised in consultation with the State authorities as well as in cooperation with our national partner, Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) and the OHCHR country office in Cambodia.

As the visit was conducted six months after the review, it was neither possible nor appropriate to assess any progress in this regard. Instead, focus was on raising awareness and encouraging State actors to take action, ensure the timely submission of their follow-up report and assist civil society in their monitoring efforts.

During the meeting, the Secretary of State from the Ministry of Interior, H.E. Pol Lim, assured those present of the timely submission of the State's follow-up as well as the next periodic report.



BENIN



NGO Partner:
Changement Social Benin

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

The Centre was involved in the review process of Benin throughout 2015. A national consultation involving 15 human rights defenders was organised in September 2015. This consultation - which echoed an initial NGO consultation held in June 2015 - allowed the establishment of a strong coalition composed of 20 NGOs, led by our national partner "Changement Social Benin" (CSB).

The NGO report submitted to the Human Rights Committee focused particularly on discrimination against women, the ill-treatment of children vidomégon and detention conditions, including problems of overcrowding and the detention conditions of those sentenced to death.

In October 2015, a delegation of NGOs participated in the review of Benin and briefed the Human Rights Committee. Thanks to the civil society representatives, the review was well covered by the national media. It revealed several shortcomings also discussed at length in the reports of NGOs, including the delay in the establishment of the "Commission Béninoise des droits de l'homme", the non-criminalisation of torture in domestic law and the lack of effort made towards abolishing the death penalty.

All of these concerns will be at the core of the activities scheduled in the follow-up phase in 2016. In particular, the Centre, alongside CSB, intends to organise a national consultation in January 2016 to adopt a plan of action, by means of which NGOs will be able to advocate for concrete action to be taken regarding the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. This advocacy work will be done simultaneously at the UPR level, as Benin is due to be reviewed under the UPR in 2017.



CHAD



NGO Partner:
**Association Tchadienne pour la Promotion et
la Défense des Droits Humains**

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

Four Human Rights Committee recommendations were high on the agenda after the 2014 review, namely:

- Independence of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRI)
- Abolition of the death penalty
- Eradication of torture
- The case of Khadidja Ousmane Mahamat, a minor who had been the arbitrarily detained and allegedly tortured.

Our main NGO partner, Association Tchadienne pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits Humains, organised a consultation with civil society actors in the context of the follow-up visit carried out in February 2015. Some progress was noted with regards to the increasing independence of the NHRI.

National NGOs also shared the good news that Khadidja Ousmane Mahamat was freed soon after the review of the Human Rights Committee, thanks to the support of her lawyer who actually participated in the review of Chad.

Regarding the death penalty, the execution of nine persons in September 2015 represent an significant step backwards after a moratorium of several years. These executions which were carried out in the absence of even the most basic judicial guarantees signified several violations of the ICCPR.

The Government of Chad did not submit its follow-up report and the Human Rights Committee issued several reminders. On their side, NGOs prepared a document monitoring the implementation of the recommendations which is due to be submitted in 2016.



GHANA



**Partner NGO:
Human Rights Advocacy Centre**

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

Ghana will be reviewed for the first time ever by the Human Rights Committee in 2016. Given the importance of working as a coalition from the early stages of the process, CCPR-Centre, together with its partner the Human Rights Advocacy Centre, organised a national consultation of NGOs in April 2015.

The participating NGOs discussed their main concerns regarding the implementation of the ICCPR in Ghana, such as:

- The lack of effective protection against acts of discrimination against (a) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; (b) sex workers; and (c) people living with HIV and AIDS
- The pending implementation of the recommendations issued by the Constitutional Review Commission
- The measures taken by the State to prevent police abuses and to investigate allegations
- The improvement of prison conditions, and
- The need to criminalize of torture in domestic legislation according to international standards.

These and other concerns were raised in a civil society coalition report submitted to the Human Rights Committee and reflected in the List of Issues.

A second national consultation and the submission of a report in reply to the List of Issues is expected to take place in 2016, in preparation for the review of Ghana by the Committee.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Partner NGO:
**Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale
Internationale (CI-CPI)**

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

The engagement of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights in Ivory Coast dates back to 2012. The long-overdue report (20 years) was finally reviewed by the Human Rights Committee in 2015. National NGOs – with the support of the Centre – provided extensive research to the Committee, who then went on to adopt 25 recommendations. The following four recommendations were considered as urgent:

- Extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances carried out by the security forces, militias and groups that have not been disarmed
- Numerous cases of torture by the police, defence and security forces
- Disproportionate use of pretrial detention, which results in excessive and abusive periods of detention, exceeding the legal limit by as much as several years, for a very large number of people

The Centre invited Yadh Ben Achour, member of the Human Rights Committee, to participate in the follow-up mission in Abidjan in August 2015. The delegation was able to meet with various government officials. Extensive discussions were also held with the National Human Rights Commission regarding the Committee's recommendations and the role that the Commission could play.

For the first time in our regular activities with NGOs, we developed new strategies to better monitor the implementation of the recommendations, by adopting a plan of action enumerating all the actions envisaged by civil society actors in the medium term. This plan of action should prompt specific actions to promote the implementation of the recommendations.

In addition, the NGO consultation allowed for the initiation of the drafting process of the follow-up report.

The follow-up mission received high coverage from the media (TV, press and radio), ensuring wide exposure of the Human Rights Committee's concerns.



RWANDA



Partner NGO:
Ligue des Droits de la Personne dans la
Région des Grands Lacs

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

The CCPR-Centre has a longstanding history of collaboration with the Rwandan NGOs, given that the State has previously been reviewed by the Human Rights Committee on several occasions. As the Committee scheduled the adoption of the List of Issues in 2015, the CCPR-Centre, together with its partner the Ligue des Droits de la Personne dans la Région des Grands Lacs, organised a national consultation of NGOs ahead of the LOI, the main purpose of which was to evaluate the implementation of the previous recommendations issued by the Committee in 2009. The consultation was also carried out in view of submitting an updated civil society report on the implementation of the ICCPR in Rwanda.

The evaluation concluded, inter alia, that the State has not yet amended the discriminatory provisions in the Civil Code and the Family Code and has not taken enough measures to eradicate traditional patriarchal stereotypes on the role of women and men, particularly regarding access to property.

NGOs also evaluated that the investigations or prosecutions in connection with allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity, reportedly committed in Rwanda from 1994 onwards by the Rwandan Patriotic Army, are still pending; and that the State does not provide protection for human rights defenders and journalists to work without hindrance.



REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS



Pretoria, Sept. 2015

OUR PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

In September 2015, the Centre organised its first regional Consultation on the implementation of Human Rights Committee Concluding Observations, that brought together representatives from the governments, NHRIs and NGOs of Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania. In some cases, this was the first time that all three actors were able to discuss about civil and political rights in a constructive way. Several key ideas were discussed amongst the participants aiming at improving the implementation process at the national level, including:

1) The reinforcement of the National Mechanisms on Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) and the involvement of the Members of the Parliaments (MPs) in the implementation process, in order to ensure a full and efficient involvement of the State party in the follow-up procedure.

2) The key role of the NHRIs as a facilitator between State institutions and civil society at all stage of the reporting process. It was highlighted that NHRIs can contribute to opening a space for a dialogue on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and should be considered as a primary partner for the follow-up missions organised by the CCPR-Centre.

3) The importance of maintaining a dialogue between State institutions and civil society is a long-term process. When it is possible, a meeting between the NGOs involved in the State review and the Government should be organised prior the review of the State Report, possibly with the support of the NHRIs in order to facilitate the long-term dialogue between relevant stakeholders.

The regional Consultation in Pretoria was the first such event organised by the Centre. Plans of action were developed by participants during the event and will provide a guidance on the next steps in the ICCPR implementation process in the six countries. It is expected to organise a similar conference in West Africa in September 2016, where participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Togo will attend.



HAITI



Partner NGO:
**Plateforme des Organisations Haïtiennes
de Défense des Droits Humains**

OUR PRIORITIES IN THE AMERICAS

Haiti was last reviewed by the Human Rights Committee in October 2014. The recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure concern:

- Investigations into the Duvalier case and the serious violations committed between 1991 and 1994
- Police abuses, including deaths caused by firearms
- Harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, journalists and members of the opposition, and threats made against them
- Legislative and municipal elections

CCPR-Centre undertook a high-level follow-up visit in August 2015. It was headed by the former Chair of the Human Rights Committee (and President of the CCPR-Centre), Rafael Rivas Posada.

The delegation met with several Ministers, including the Minister of Justice, Mr. P.R. Casimir and the Prime Minister, Paul Evans.

The focus of the mission was on the long-awaited legislative and municipal elections, which were due to take place in 2011, but they only happened by the end of 2015. The implementation of the other recommendations remains pending, since government efforts are currently focused in the elections.

During our mission the Government committed to submit its follow-up report on time to the HR Committee. This follow-up report was eventually submitted in October 2015, as requested by the Committee.



VENEZUELA

Declaración Pública: Los derechos humanos en Venezuela ante el Comité de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas

Venezuela comparece hoy ante el Comité de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas, el cual revisará el cumplimiento por parte del Estado venezolano del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos. Las organizaciones firmantes presentaron información a este Comité que evidencia como a pesar de algunas reformas y avances legislativos, el Estado no ha cumplido con su obligación jurídica internacional de proteger los derechos civiles y políticos y se siguen cometiendo graves violaciones a los derechos humanos.

PUBLICACIÓN: 29 JUNIO 2015



29 de junio de 2015.- Venezuela comparece hoy ante el Comité de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas, el cual revisará el cumplimiento por parte del Estado venezolano del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos.

Partner NGO:
Foro por la Vida. The Centro de derechos humanos de la Universidad Católica Andrés Bello and Espacio Público

OUR PRIORITIES IN THE AMERICAS

In April 2015, CCPR-Centre was invited to undertake two workshops with civil society activists and journalists in Caracas. Most Venezuelan activists were familiar with the Inter-American system of human rights protection but much less familiar with the UN system of protection of Human Rights. Venezuela was reviewed by the HR Committee in July 2015.

The Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee were highly reflective of the numerous and worthy inputs provided by civil society ahead of the review. The Committee asked for urgent action on the following four recommendations:

- Protection of human rights in the context of demonstrations
- Greater independence of the judiciary
- An end to the intimidation of, threats and attacks against journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers and members of the opposition
- An end to the intimidation of civil society organisations which contributed in the work of the Committee

This was the first time that the Committee adopted a specific recommendation aimed at the protection civil society actors who engage with the Committee. This recommendation was particularly relevant as several human rights defenders were publicly attacked on their return to Venezuela.



ARMENIA & UKRAINE



Partner NGO:
Human Rights House Network (HRHN)

OUR PRIORITIES IN EUROPE / CIS

In 2015, the work of CCPR-Centre in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) focused primarily on Armenia. In January, we undertook a follow-up visit together with the Human Rights House Network (HRHN), in reference to the July 2012 recommendations of the Human Rights Committee. In Yerevan, our delegation met with the office of the Ombudsman, and representatives from the international community. We also participated in an NGO conference organised by UPR Info and we were invited by Open Society Foundation Armenia to a press conference which was largely covered by national media.

During our visit in Yerevan, we were able to meet with representatives from all the national authorities who had taken part in the Committee review. This was a unique opportunity to remind the Armenian government of their obligation to submit follow-up information to the Human Rights Committee, which they subsequently did in June 2015.

HRHN also submitted an alternative report in June with the CCPR-Centre's support. As a result, the Committee was able to undertake a new round of assessments on the follow-up measures taken by Armenia. A set of new grades reflecting the Committee's latest assessment were adopted in November, regarding concerns for the victims of the events in March 2008, the lack of complaint mechanisms for torture victims, and the need to further the independence of the judiciary.

In addition to our work on Armenia, we were invited by our partner HRHN to a workshop in Ukraine in December to follow up on the recent recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture (CAT) to Ukraine.



| 2015 ACCOUNTS

13% State of Geneva

12% Danish MoFA

11% Open Society F

11% German MoFA

11% Swiss MoFA

9% City of Geneva

7% Joseph Rowntree
Charitable trust

5% Loterie romande

4% Norway MoFA

4% Foundation Hans Wilsdorf

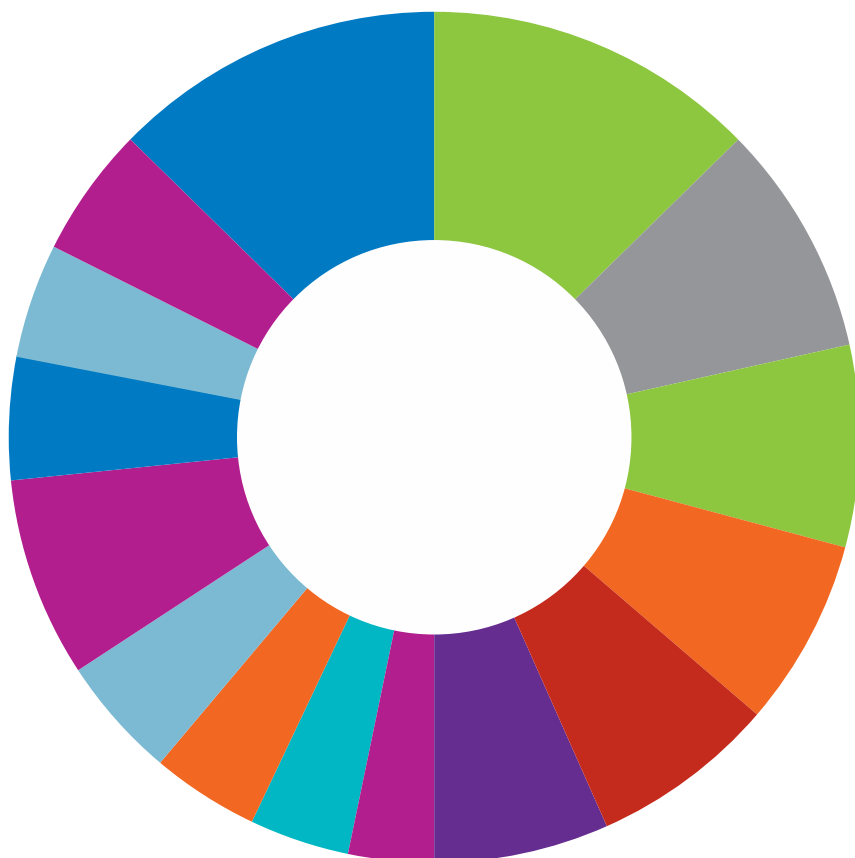
4% Dutch MoFA

3% UK FCO

2% Other income

2% The Center /USAID

1% OIF



PROFITS AND LOSS (CHF)

LOSS

	2015	2014
Human resources	267'748	252'743
Honorarium for NGOs	64'414	59'036
Translation & Interpreters	4'450	-
Interns Stipends	4'682	3'351
Travel for national consultations & participation of HRDs to HRCtte	40'203	84'864
Visa	1'096	4'042
Perdiem for national consultations & HRDs participation to HRCtte	31'299	51'955
National consultations (Phase I)	12'246	29'242
National consultations (Phase II) & follow up activities	9'455	14'788
Office rent & maintenance	22'161	23'889
Projects Management	10'397	13'965
IT and webcast	16'450	7'440
Bank fees and changes fees	1'441	1'313
Reserve funds	3'500	3'942
Total	489'549	550'575

PROFITS

	2015	2014
Etat de Genève	64 087	21 396
MFA Denmark	59 589	97 921
OSF	53 592	54 732
MFA Germany	52 411	49 094
Swiss MFA	51 498	119 788
Ville de Genève	43 118	5 668
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	35 015	54 984
Loterie Romande	25 531	-
MFA Norway	20 383	112 167
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf	20 000	
MFA Netherlands	18 381	
MFA UK (FCO)	15 333	22 213
Carter Center	12 100	
OI Francophonie	4 300	
Other income	12 112	20 064
Total	487 455	558 230
Profit/Loss	-2 093	7 654

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