

Annual Report 2010



The Centre for Civil
and Political Rights

Mission and objectives

1

Build the capacity of and support NGO coalitions in their activities related to the Human Rights Committee.

2

Promote the role and participation of NGOs in the Human Rights Committee's reporting procedure.

3

Reinforce the involvement of NGOs in the follow-up to the Concluding Observations

4

Facilitate the submission of individual complaints by NGOs and improve the follow-up on individual complaints.

The ultimate objective of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights 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 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 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 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 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 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 Centre with national civil society organisations, and therefore ensures that key organisations are properly identified at the national level.

Word from the President

Ahmed Khalil

Former Member of the Human Rights Committee



In 2010 the Centre for Civil and Political Rights further developed its activities and successfully supported several dozen NGO representatives to actively participate in the Human Rights Committee's reporting process. Specific attention was given to countries, including Moldova, Uzbekistan, Cameroon and Jordan, where the support of the Centre was crucial to allow NGOs to effectively participate in the reporting process.

The Human Rights Committee passed a significant milestone in October 2010, as the 100th session took place in Geneva, more than 30 years after its first meeting. At the occasion, the Centre launched the first Guidelines on the NGO participation to the Committee. These Guidelines were welcomed not only by the NGOs but also by the Committee's Members.

Specific attention needs to be drawn to the project on Rwanda, where the Centre successfully managed to carry out work on the follow-up to the Concluding Observations together with the preparation of the report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The participation of Committee Members in the field mission is also a great achievement and was welcomed by the different stakeholders.

It is gratifying to note that in its second operating year the Centre's efforts in fundraising were successful in covering most of its projects, as well as raising core funding for the following year. This was possible thanks to the different donors, especially with the support received 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. 2010 was an exciting and challenging year. We all look forward to the continuing development of the Centre in 2011, including the development of the follow-up activities and a new project aiming to raise awareness of the Committee's work on the individual complaints procedure.

Ahmed Khalil, President of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights



A comprehensive approach to support National NGOs

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 information is sent to the Committee at the right time and in a format which makes it easily usable. It is also important 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 Centre for Civil and Political Rights has therefore developed a comprehensive approach in order to facilitate national NGO interaction with the Human Rights Committee throughout the reporting process and is committed to supporting the participation of NGOs at each stage of the procedure.

• Phase 1: Drafting an NGO Report before the adoption of the List of Issues and NGO replies to the List of Issues for the review

In phase 1 the Centre makes contact with the national NGOs and provides legal and technical advice on the drafting of the reports. A report highlighting the NGOs' key concerns is sent to the Committee before the List of Issues is adopted. Once the List of Issues is available, the Centre works with the national NGOs to produce a report responding to each of the questions in the List of Issues.

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. This will also be an opportunity for the Centre's representative to work with the national NGOs in person and help them in the drafting of the report.

The Centre has therefore developed a comprehensive approach to facilitate national NGO interaction with the Human Rights Committee throughout the reporting process and is committed to supporting NGOs at all stages of the procedure.



A comprehensive approach to support National NGOs

- **Phase 2: Attending the Human Rights Committee review of the State and lobbying**

During phase 2 the Centre enables representatives of the national NGOs to be present during the dialogue between the Committee and the State representatives. This empowers the NGOs to use what is said during the review in their advocacy rather than relying on (necessarily incomplete) reports. During the session the Centre organises informal briefings with the Committee members. These briefings are an opportunity for the NGOs to present their concerns and respond to questions from the Committee. Through these briefings the NGOs can have a direct impact on the dialogue between the Committee and the State and on the recommendations which the Committee will make to the State.

- **Phase 3: Follow-up to the Concluding Observations**

In phase 3 the Centre for Civil and Political Rights and the national NGO partners organise one or two follow-up mission(s) 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.

The Centre and the national NGO partners organise follow-up missions with a member of the Human Rights Committee.



Training and legal support

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights was in contact with around **70 NGOs from the 23 States involved in the reporting process** in 2010. These NGOs were reminded that their State was due to be reviewed and informed of the opportunities for NGO engagement with the Human Rights Committee. The Centre also provided guidance on drafting and submitting alternative reports. **As a result of the Centre's efforts national NGOs submitted information on all of these States**, except Ethiopia, many of them with the direct assistance of the Centre. The situation in Ethiopia is such that the Centre was unable to find any NGOs willing to risk submitting information to the Human Rights Committee.

In addition, the Centre supported coalitions of NGOs from **Uzbekistan, Cameroon, and Jordan** in the preparation of reports on the main concerns of the Human Rights Committee as reflected in the Lists of Issues on these States. This resulted in extremely strong reports, covering all of the points raised in the Lists of Issues.

NGO reports were welcomed by the Members of the Committee, several of whom commented specifically on how useful these reports were during the review.

The Centre also took part in several trainings and workshops organised by partners. Representatives from the Centre are indeed regularly invited to give presentations to the Geneva Training Courses (GTC) organised by the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) as well as the training given to young Human Rights Defenders, organised by the CODAP or the Indigenous Fellowship Programme run by the OHCHR. Representatives of the Centre were also invited to give lectures to students from the Geneva Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law as well as the University of Grenoble and the University of Hannover.

NGO reports were welcomed by the Members of the Committee, several of whom commented specifically on how useful these reports were during the review.



UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
PARTICIPATION IN THE REPORTING PROCESS
Guidelines For Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



Raising NGO
Awareness of
the Human
Rights
Committee's
Work

Publication of the first NGO Guidelines on engagement with the Human Rights Committee

In October 2010 the Centre for Civil and Political Rights published its Guidelines for NGOs on engagement with the Human Rights Committee in English and French. A Spanish version is being prepared and will be published in 2011.

The guidelines are posted on the Centre's website and so are available free to any interested NGOs. An announcement of the publication with a link to the online version was sent to the Centre's entire network.

The Guidelines are divided into five sections: Part I provides a basic introduction to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Part II describes the State reporting process in detail; Part III provides detailed guidance on the opportunities for NGO engagement with the Committee; Part IV contains advice on maximising the impact of NGO written submissions as well as practical information on how to submit reports; Part V presents each of the substantive provisions of the ICCPR and summarises the Human Rights Committee's approach to the issues as shown in their examination of State reports and explored in the General Comments.

These guidelines were welcomed by both the members of the Committee and the NGOs.

In the course of 2010 the Centre **sent 16 Newsletters**, providing information on the Committee's work and the opportunities for NGO engagement, and disseminating relevant documents. By the end of 2010, **1400 people were subscribed to the Centre's general alerts**, proving that this service is seen as a useful tool.

The NGO guidelines are posted on the Centre's website and available in English and French to any interested NGOs.



Supporting the participation of NGOs in the Committee's sessions

In the course of 2010 the Centre for Civil and Political Rights took over responsibility for coordinating all the NGO briefings during the Human Rights Committee sessions. **NGO briefings were carried out on each State reviewed by the Committee.** Briefings were also carried out on Kuwait, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia and Togo before the adoption of the List of Issues.

The briefings on New Zealand, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, and Togo were carried out by videoconference. This enabled the national NGOs to engage with the Human Rights Committee without having to travel to Geneva or New York for a single meeting.

In total the Centre organised 21 informal briefings in the course of 2010.

During the July session the Centre organised a briefing on working methods, which was attended by international NGOs and Committee members. During this briefing the NGOs and the Committee members discussed ways of improving the NGO briefings, including the possibility of having formal NGO briefings. An additional meeting on this issue will take place in July 2011.

In October the Human Rights Committee accepted the Centre's proposal that the Centre **webcast the Committee sessions**, starting as soon as possible. The Centre started to experiment with recording the review of States during the October session and made audio recordings of that session available on its website. **The Centre hopes to have a reliable system in place for the 102nd session of the Human Committee in July 2011.**

“We would like to thank the Centre for its cooperation during the Review of Cameroon. You helped us to work efficiently with the Human Rights Committee.”

Tidler Kumichi
Gender Empowerment and
Development (GeED)
Maximilienne Ngo Mbe
REDHAC



Facilitating the attendance of national NGOs at the Committee's sessions

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights worked closely with NGOs from three States: Uzbekistan, Cameroon, and Jordan.

The Centre enabled NGO representatives from these States to attend the relevant Committee sessions and participate in the NGO briefings. All briefings highlighted a number of concerns, including the harassment of NGOs. A number of the concerns identified by NGOs were reflected in the Human Rights Committee's Concluding Observations and most of the recommendations selected for the Committee's Follow-up Procedure were issues mentioned by the NGOs.

It should be noted that the Committee asked Uzbekistan to submit its next periodic report in three years time, reflecting serious concerns about the implementation of the ICCPR.

It is also worth mentioning that these NGOs were the only representatives of national civil society from Uzbekistan, Cameroon and Jordan to attend the session (with the exception of an LGBT representative from Cameroon).

National NGO Partners:

Uzbekistan:

- *Legal Aid Society Uzbekistan (LAS)*
- *Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights*

Cameroon:

- *Solidarité pour la promotion des droits de l'homme et des peuples (PRODHOP)*
- *Global Education and Environmental Development Foundation (GEED).*

Jordan:

- *Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)*

“The participation in the examination of the Jordan report was extremely interesting and will allow us to carry out a better follow-up to the Concluding Observations.”

Nizam Assaf
ACHRS – Jordan



Follow-up to the Concluding Observations: Promoting Implementation at the national level

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights carried out three follow-up missions in Moldova, Uzbekistan and Rwanda in close cooperation with its national partners.

In **Moldova**, the Centre has continued working with the national NGOs to promote the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's Concluding Observations adopted in October 2009. In this context a representative of the Centre attended a workshop with the national NGOs in February 2010 in order to discuss the follow-up. Before this workshop the Concluding Observations were translated into Moldovan and widely disseminated. The NGOs had also been in contact with the State authorities, including Parliamentarians who were interested in working with the NGOs in the context of the National Human Rights Plan. A follow-up report will be prepared and submitted in March 2011, by which time the State should have submitted its follow-up report.

The follow-up mission in **Uzbekistan** was carried out in July 2010. This mission included meetings with national NGOs and with the embassies of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA as well as with representatives of the OSCE and UNDP. At each of these meetings the Concluding Observations were presented and ways in which the Committee's recommendations could be addressed bilaterally were discussed. The meetings were extremely useful in raising awareness of the Committee's recommendations as many of the officials were not aware of the review by the Human Rights Committee. The Concluding Observations were also translated into Uzbek and widely disseminated by the NGOs.

“I would even go so far as to say, that not for the CCPR Centre staff assistance, we might not have been able to take such an active part in the review process...”

Bana Shoughry -Badarne
PACTI



Follow-up to the Concluding Observations: Engaging in a Dialogue with the National Authorities

In Rwanda, a high-level advocacy mission was undertaken by Ahmed Khalil, the President of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights and a former member of the Human Rights Committee, and Zonke Majodina, a current Committee member and the NGO focal point for the Committee, accompanied by a representative of the Centre, in June 2010. The objective of this mission was to assess the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's Concluding Observations and to initiate a dialogue with the authorities. To this end meetings were organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice as well as with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and with the National Human Rights Commission. Meetings were also held with the UN Country Team, the European Union Mission and several Embassies. Most of these officials were not previously aware of the Human Rights Committee's Concluding Observations. The mission was therefore **an important opportunity to raise awareness,** including with those directly responsible for discussing and implementing the Committee's recommendations at the national level.

This was one of the first times that a current member of the Human Rights Committee had taken part in such a mission alongside the national NGOs. The mission proved useful for all the parties. The Committee gained direct knowledge of the situation and the assessment of the progress made in implementing the Concluding Observations will be useful in continuing to engage with the State during the follow-up process. The Committee formally expressed their appreciation of this innovative approach to follow-up at their session in July 2010.

The NGOs found that the presence of a Committee member improved their position and validated their work on implementation. The national NGOs will now prepare an alternative follow-up report with the support of the Centre. This report will be submitted to the Human Rights Committee in March 2011.

“The Committee should take note with deep appreciation of the follow-up mission organized by the Centre for Civil and Political Rights.”

Yuji Iwasawa, Chair of the Human Rights Committee



Follow-up to the Concluding Observations: Providing Follow-up reports to the Human Rights Committee

In addition to the work on follow-up in Moldova, Uzbekistan, and Rwanda, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights contacted national NGOs in States which submitted follow-up reports. In 2010 the Centre helped national NGOs to produce follow-up reports on:

- Denmark
- Spain
- Sweden
- Zambia

National NGOs from Australia and Japan also submitted reports to the Human Rights Committee.

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 section assessing the **additional actions required by the Government to fully comply with Committee's recommendations.** All the reports are available on the Centre's website as well as on the official Human Rights Committee page dedicated to the follow-up.

Additional follow-up reports on Rwanda, Russian Federation, and Moldova will be submitted for the 101st session of the Human Rights Committee in March 2011.

“Thank you for all your help and support around the Human Rights Committee, it's been great working with you.”

Edwina Hughes,
Peace Movement Aotearoa,
New Zealand



Linking the Treaty Bodies' findings with the Universal Periodic Review

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights is convinced that **the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) established by the Human Rights Council could be more effective if full attention was given to the Treaty Bodies' findings**, and especially the Concluding Observations.

In this context the Centre started to work closely with national NGOs to ensure that NGO reports submitted to the UPR provide information related to the follow-up to the Concluding Observations. **A specific project was developed on Rwanda** with the *Ligue des droits de l'homme dans la Region des Grands Lacs* to provide training on the UPR process with a particular emphasis on ways of linking this process with the recent review of Rwanda by the Human Rights Committee (March 2009).

A first training, carried out in February 2010, in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team and the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) focussed on training the national NGOs and preparatory work on drafting a joint report for the UPR.

Based on the work carried out by a coalition of 25 NGOs, a second workshop was held in June 2010 to finalise the report submitted to the UPR. **Among other priorities, this report highlighted the issues selected for the Human Rights Committee's follow-up procedure.** In January 2011 three representatives of the national NGOs will come to Geneva to lobby the UN missions around the UPR of Rwanda, in order to ensure that the Human Rights Committee's recommendations are adequately taken into account in the process.

The Centre started to work closely with national NGOs to ensure that NGO reports submitted to the UPR provide information related to the follow-up to the Concluding Observations.



Looking
forward

What's next?

In 2011 the Centre for Civil and Political Rights will continue to support national NGOs from countries scheduled to be reviewed by the Human Rights Committee. Specific projects will be developed on **Togo, Mongolia, Guatemala, and Jamaica**, which will include training on the ICCPR, support for the drafting of NGO reports, attendance at the relevant Human Rights Committee sessions and follow-up activities.

Thanks to the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Norway**, the Centre will be in position **to develop its activities related to the follow-up to the Concluding Observations**, including field missions with Committee Members.

The essential support of the **Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust** will allow the Centre to continue **to raise awareness of the Human Rights Committee's activities** and to support NGOs in all States due for review, ensuring that interested organisations receive information and support throughout the process.

In addition the Centre will launch a new project to promote better accountability of the **Human Rights Committee's decisions on individual communications**. This project is designed not only to improve the participation of NGOs in this mechanism, but also to ensure that the Committee's decisions are widely known and receive appropriate follow-up.

In 2011, the Centre hopes to launch a new project to promote better accountability of the Human Rights Committee's decisions on individual communications.

Donors

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

In 2010, the Centre received support from the following Governments and Institutions:

- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- The Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation
- La Loterie Romande
- The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- La République et Canton de Genève
- The Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Individuals Members

Thank you
for your
support

Budget and accounts

For its second year of activities, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights has managed to increase its income by more than 100%, from CHF 90'800.- to CHF 209'000.-. This is mainly due to the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) which is funding the Centre's core activities for three years, as well as the support of the Governments of Switzerland and Norway. Thanks to these donors almost all the activities planned for 2010 were carried out. The Centre's main costs are related to human resources and travel costs, either to facilitate NGO participation in the Human Rights Committee's sessions or to carry out follow-up missions in country. Administrative costs remain low (11%) and include all the office costs.

Expenditure

Staff costs	63'747.85
Consultancy fees	2'700.00
Translation (Guidelines)	6'190.00
Interns	799.00
Travelling costs	25'830.97
Visa fees	1'006.37
Per diem	13'301.92
Training	4'858.62
IT & Telecommunication	5'045.90
Office premises	8'109.45
Provisions	17'000.00
Administrative costs	<u>11'775.82</u>
Contributions received in advance for 2011	160'365.90
	<u>99'175.78</u>
	<u>259'541.68</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>4'561.16</u>

Income

Swiss Dev. Coop. (SDC)	893.00
JRCT	87'910.00
OSI - Open Society	13'421.75
State of Geneva	12'040.00
Gvt of Norway	87'279.78
<u>Total</u>	<u>197'944.53</u>
Other revenue	7'250.16
	208'794.69
Contributions received in 2009 for activities in 2010	<u>55'308.15</u>
Total	<u>264'102.84</u>

Staff

- Patrick Mutzenberg, Director (50%)
- Peggy Brett, Programme Officer (40%)
- Laure Bonjour, Administrative Assistant (80%), from June 2010
- Samar Khamis, Consultant
- Victoria Kuhn, Consultant
- Francesca Restifo, Consultant

Interns and pro bono

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

- Sandra Carter
- Jockum Hilden
- Mark Shope

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.

The work carried out in 2010 would not have been possible without the support of several persons, including:

- Benedetto Urio, webmaster
- Jacques Moynat, auditor
- Sara Song, designer

The significant development of the Centre and its successes over the year would not have been possible without this support.

Board

Mr. Ahmed Tawfik Khalil (President)

Former Member of the Human Rights Committee (Vice-President). Member of the Sub-committee on Protection of Minorities. Former representative of Egypt to the United Nations, and Chairman of the Group of 77.

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 (Human Rights & Refugees) 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.

Ms. Victoria Kuhn (Central America Region)

Lawyer, Human Rights Officer at UN OHCHR Regional Office in Guatemala.

Ms. Chantal Mutamuriza

Lawyer, Human Rights officer at the International Service for Human Rights.

Ms. Lucia Nader (Latin America Region)

Political scientist, International Relations Coordinator at Conectas Direitos Humanos based in Sao Paulo – Brazil.

Board

Ms. Marina Narvaez

Lawyer, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

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".



Centre for Civil and Political Rights

Visiting address:

Rue de Varembe 1 (5th floor – ISHR offices)

CH-1202 Geneva

Postal Address:

PO Box 183

CH-1211 Geneva 20

Tel: +41(0)22 / 33 22 555

Email: info@ccprcentre.org

Web: www.ccprcentre.org

Post Account

IBAN: CH30 0900 0000 1076 4913 9