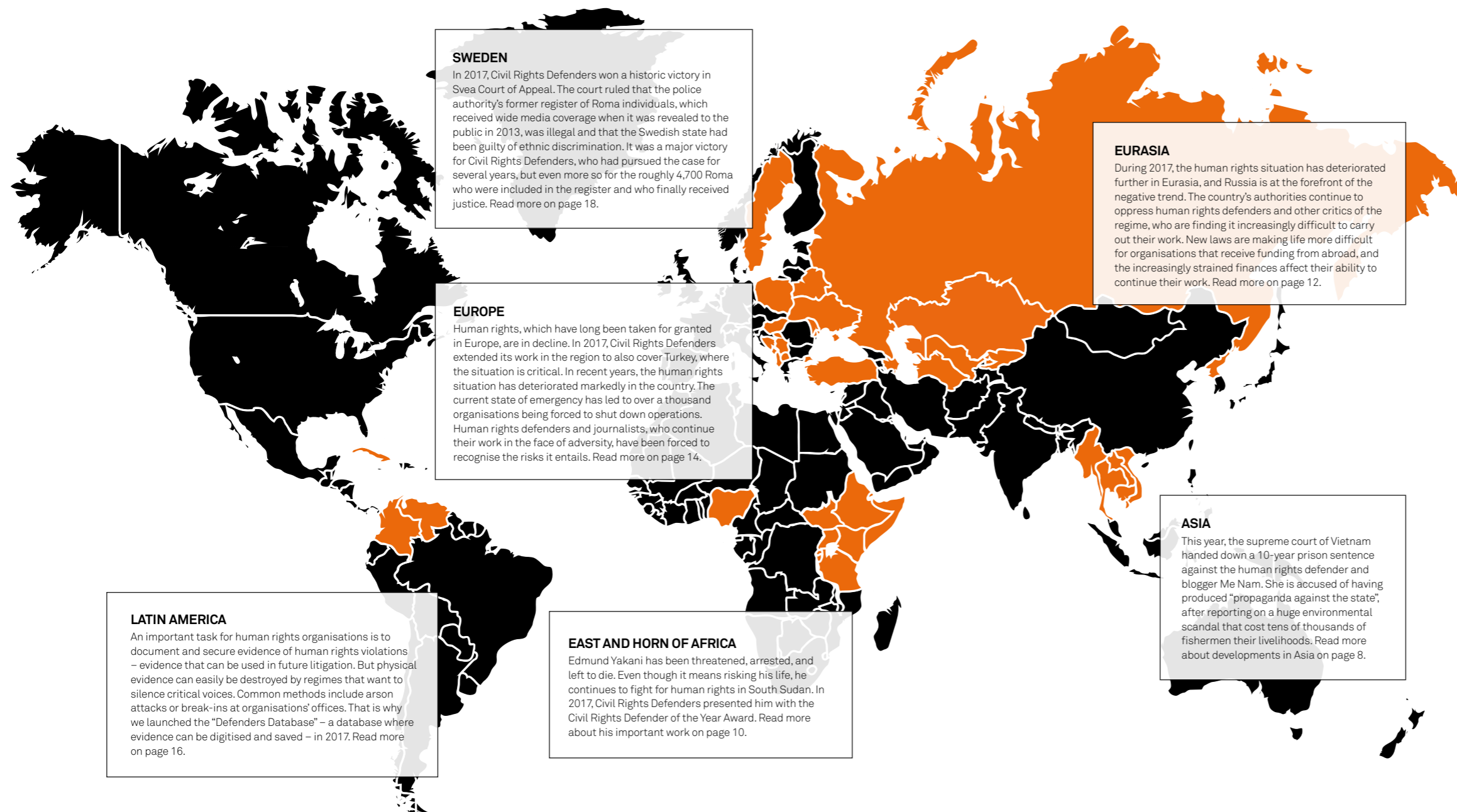


ANNUAL REPORT



PHOTO: LICADHO

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS is an international human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. The organisation defends people's civil and political rights and empowers human rights defenders at risk. Civil Rights Defenders operates in Sweden and in the countries in the world where respect for human rights is at its weakest. We engage in advocacy activities and legal processes, and provide information on the situation with regard to human rights globally.



CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Civil Rights Defenders 2017 – The Year in Review	6
Asia	8
East and Horn of Africa	10
Eurasia	12
Europe	14
Latin America	16
Sweden	18
Natalia Project	20
Civil Rights Defender of the Year 2017	21
Civil Rights Defenders Wins Historical Victory in the Court of Appeal	22
Annual Report 2017	26
Management Report	26
Income Statement	31
Balance Sheet	32
Changes in Equity	33
Cash Flow Analysis – Indirect Method	33
Notes	34
Audit Report	39
Directors and Field Programme Officers at the End of 2017	41
Board	42

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Translation: Alice E. Olsson
Cover photo: Licadho

270 people received support from Civil Rights Defenders' Emergency Fund in 2017. Read more on page 7.

87 per cent of Civil Rights Defenders' income went to fulfilling the organisation's purpose in 2017.

200 Civil Rights Defenders partners with close to 200 local human rights organisations around the world.

115 By the end of 2017, 115 participants were part of the Natalia Project – the world's first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk. Read more on page 20.

4 700 About 4,700 Roma were included in the police authority's illegal Roma register that was brought to light in 2013. In 2017, they received justice when Civil Rights Defenders sued the state and won a historic victory in the court of appeal. Read more on page 22.



Relatives of victims of forced disappearance hold photos of their loved ones outside a high school in Cizre, Turkey. In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders grew and our operations now also cover Turkey, where the human rights situation has deteriorated significantly in recent years.

TOGETHER, WE AFFECT CHANGE

Civil Rights Defenders' work has never been more important. We see a general negative trend for human rights around the world and increased pressure on local human rights defenders. A trend that has dominated developments for several years and will unfortunately not be subsiding in the near future.

Developments within the EU, such as rising populism and increasing discrimination against minorities, worry us. These tendencies are evident in countries such as Poland and Hungary. This negative development has meant that we at Civil Rights Defenders have had to extend and reprioritise our operations in 2017. Last year, the number of employees increased, as did the number of human rights defenders and organisations that we partner with. Now, we also cover Turkey, which is a new country in

the context of our work. And we continue to develop our operations within the EU.

In Sweden, we often take human rights for granted – but even here, serious human rights violations are committed. For example, last year the judgment was delivered in the high-profile case concerning the Skåne police authority's Roma register, a lawsuit brought by Civil Rights Defenders. The court of appeal ruled in favour of the Roma plaintiffs and argued that the register was based on their ethnicity. It was an important ruling that offered redress to those affected. Now, important work awaits to ensure that the same thing does not happen again and that the police authorities change their methods.

In 2017, we also expanded our work on the Sami situation and indigenous rights, which remain an issue

of priority for us moving forward. It is a question of working together with Sami people to strengthen their influence in decision-making processes that affect their living conditions as an indigenous people in Sweden.

It is of utmost importance to support local human rights defenders and their organisations so that they are able and have the courage to continue their vital work around the world. These efforts require funds. I am therefore pleased that the support for us and our work grew in 2017. Our resources for operations in Europe have increased, as have contributions from the Postcode Lottery, private individuals, and companies. Donations are particularly welcome, as they allow us to carry out our work where we perceive the need to be the most pressing.

In addition to funds, defending human rights requires great courage. In many countries, human rights defenders live under threat, both to themselves and to their families. Over the past few years, we have tried to find ways to use innovative solutions to protect and empower human rights defenders. Our global security system, Natalia Project – a personal alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders who are threatened or attacked – is gaining more and more users.

We have also launched the Defenders' Database in order to report human rights violations. In the

database, evidence and other important information is stored in the cloud instead of in paper archives. This reduces the risk that valuable material is destroyed in the case of an attack. The database was launched in Latin America, and the plan is to also introduce it in Africa in 2018.

It is important to remind each other of the progress that can be seen, even if the overall trend for human rights is negative. For example, we can see that our work with Belgrade Pride in Serbia is showing results. The court of appeal's judgment in the Roma register case last year has brought justice to those affected and will hopefully have a positive impact for other groups living in vulnerable conditions as well. There are other positive examples, of course, but at Civil Rights Defenders we will continue to speak the uncomfortable truths and push for change – that is our task. It is our responsibility to, together with local human rights defenders, demand accountability and shed light on events that must not be covered up. To do this, we need your support. Only together can we achieve change in the short and long term.

John Stauffer,
Executive Director,
Civil Rights Defenders

It is important to remind each other of the progress that can be seen, even if the overall trend for human rights is negative.



CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS 2017

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Civil Rights Defenders is an international human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. The organisation defends people's civil and political rights and empowers human rights defenders at risk. Civil Rights Defenders operates in Sweden and in the countries in the world where respect for human rights is at its weakest. We engage in advocacy activities and legal processes, and provide information on the situation with regard to human rights globally.

During 2017, Civil Rights Defenders continued its work to support human rights defenders in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Common to all of these regions is that we keep a presence on-site and a long-term perspective in our work. Thanks to our partnerships with nearly 200 local human rights organisations across the world, we have extensive regional expertise.

INCREASED FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

Carrying out our work requires resources. Our activities are funded by grants from public bodies, such as Sida, and funds raised from companies, organisations, and private individuals. In 2017, large fundraising efforts were carried out to increase the proportion of funds raised. These are particularly important to us, as they can to a greater extent be used where the need is most pressing, while the grants from public bodies tend to be earmarked for certain projects or regions.

Our efforts to raise an increased amount of funds is showing results, but it is a long-term effort that must continue to increase in the years to come. We will also step up our efforts to forge closer relationships with more companies. We believe that our expertise can be valuable to companies, and that good partnerships

will affect change in a positive direction. Our funds raised are spent partly on region-specific activities around the world, and partly on overarching projects that support human rights defenders globally.

THE EMERGENCY FUND – FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

Through the Civil Rights Defenders Emergency Fund, we support human rights defenders at risk who need help fast. Among other things, we offer access to legal aid should they be arrested, or help to leave the country. We also carry out preventive efforts, such as security training and assistance with physical and digital security solutions.

In 2017, approximately 50 applications were approved, which means that around 270 people received support from the Emergency Fund.

DEFENDERS' DAYS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every other year, Civil Rights Defenders organises Defenders' Days, a conference for and with human rights defenders from around the world. The aim is to offer a forum for networking and knowledge exchange that strengthens our joint capacity, as well as to provide a platform to highlight and improve local human rights defenders' vulnerable situation. 2017 was not a conference year; the next Defenders' Days is in April 2018.

Every year, we present a prize to a prominent human rights defender – the Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award. In 2017, the prize was awarded to the South Sudanese human rights defender Edmund Yakani. Read more about Edmund Yakani and his important work on page 21.



HUMAN RIGHTS INNOVATION INITIATIVE – TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Civil Rights Defenders is an innovation-focused organisation. Through the Human Rights Innovation Initiative, we support both our own and our partner organisations' activities through innovation. Our method, which we refer to as "defender-centric", takes local human rights defenders' challenges as its starting point. We work to find digital and physical solutions to the problems they face. Implemented innovations lead to improved security for human rights defenders, while also increasing the spread and impact of their work.

During 2017, the Human Rights Innovation Initiative has supported human rights defenders through various technical solutions, such as finding secure encryption and communication solutions. The initiative has also

created an opportunity for local human rights defenders, Civil Rights Defenders' own staff, and the general public to share innovative ideas via the organisation's website. The best ideas are then picked up for further development.

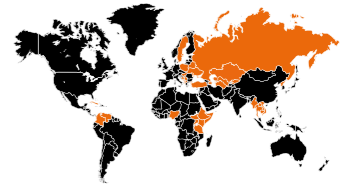
We also launched the Innovation Blog, where we write about news, lessons learned, and thoughts on innovation for human rights.

Last year, Civil Rights Defenders organised its first innovation competition – the 2017 Innovation Challenge. The aim of the competition is to find smart solutions that help and reduce the risks for those who work with human rights. In 2017, two winners were chosen. One of the winning ideas tackles the issue of mental health for human rights defenders. The other focuses on increasing accountability among the police in one of the countries where we operate. The winner uses crowdsourcing and data visualisation to increase citizens' opportunities to obtain information and affect the police authority's work and development.

Civil Rights Defenders is an innovation-focused organisation. Through the Human Rights Innovation Initiative, we support both our own and our partner organisations' activities.



Sousou and Maher Cissoko performs when Civil Rights Defenders presents Edmund Yakani with the Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award 2017.



ASIA

Civil Rights Defenders monitors developments in Asia, with a focus on Southeast Asia, where the human rights situation continues to deteriorate. Opportunities to drive public opinion and organise in defence of human rights decline as new repressive legislation is introduced. Oppressive methods are copied between the countries in the region.



PHOTO: VILHELM STOKSTAD / KONINENT

A group of school children pass by a KLA-rebel truck in Kachin State, Burma. The regime claims that peace efforts are increasing; at the same time, the civil war escalates.

During the year, Southeast Asia's last democracy fell when the opposition party was dissolved in Cambodia. In parallel with the erosion of the last remains of democracy in the region, several other processes are having a negative effect on human rights. A widespread problem that engages human rights defenders is land theft. Land is confiscated without due compensation, and the population is displaced to give room for plantations, mining, and development projects that are planned without regard for the people who live on the land. They are forced to leave their homes and often lose their livelihoods in the bargain. Attempts at peaceful protests are met with violence and repression.

Linked to this is an ongoing process of urbanisation in several of the countries, where people who can no longer support themselves in the countryside end up in slums around the cities' industrial areas. One example is Cambodia, where approximately 700,000 people work in the textile industry for salaries that the employees can barely live on. The right to organise in order to improve one's working conditions is severely restricted.

10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR VIETNAMESE BLOGGER ME NAM

This year, the supreme court of Vietnam handed down a 10-year prison sentence against the human rights defender and blogger Me Nam. She is accused of having produced "propaganda against the state", after reporting on a huge environmental scandal that cost tens of thousands of fishermen their livelihoods. In 2015, she received Civil Rights Defenders' award as Civil Rights Defender of the Year.

In Burma, the persecution of the Muslim Rohingya minority resulted in 700,000 people being displaced

and thousands murdered. The situation of the Rohingya was classified by the UN as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing." At the same time, the civil war in the country's border regions is escalating, often in connection with attempts at seizing control of natural resources.

Added to this are restrictions on the operations of the free media throughout the region. Journalists are arrested and threatened with violence. Laws are used arbitrarily to silence and arrest people with inconvenient opinions.

But despite the intense pressure, there are still many journalists and human rights defenders who are prepared to fight for democracy and human rights in the region. As these brave people continue their work, others also find the courage to make a stand for human rights.

To highlight the serious situation in the region, Civil Rights Defenders engaged in advocacy activities targeting policy makers in Sweden, the EU, and UN bodies together with local partner organisations in 2017. Through our partner organisations, we collect important information that we use to influence politicians and policy makers in order to strengthen respect for human rights in the region going forward.

This year, a 10-year prison sentence was handed down against human rights defender and blogger Me Nam.



Opportunities to drive public opinion and organise in defence of human rights decline as new repressive legislation is introduced.



EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

Civil Rights Defenders' work in East and Horn of Africa covers Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda. The organisation also monitors human rights developments in Ethiopia.

South Sudan, the youngest country in the world, became independent as recently as in July 2011. In terms of economic, social, and political factors, the country is among the poorest in the world. The human rights situation is critical and has deteriorated further since violent conflicts broke out between different ethnic groups in 2013. In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders presented its annual award, Civil Rights Defender of the Year, to the South Sudanese human rights defender Edmund Yakani for his tireless work for human rights. Read more about his important work on page 21.



Election day in Kenya, 8 August 2017.

In Kenya, the situation has deteriorated once again. The 2017 Kenyan elections were annulled when irregularities came to light. The opposition boycotted the new election, as the opposition leader claimed that the election authority had not taken the requisite measures to guarantee fair elections. The incumbent president is growing increasingly oppressive, and it looks as if the country could be moving toward a dictatorship. Protests against the president are quashed, and at the beginning of 2018 three major TV stations were closed down.

In Uganda, where the current president, Yoweri Museveni, has been in power for over three decades, the human rights situation is serious. An amendment, which was proposed in 2017 and passed in 2018, allows Museveni to stay in power even longer. Last year, the situation escalated; the human rights situation deteriorated, and civil society and local human rights

defenders carry out their work under constant pressure.

The largest country in the region, Ethiopia, is in deep political crisis, which may lead to civil war. The state of emergency, first declared at the end of 2016, was extended in 2017 and only lifted in August.

INVESTIGATIONS INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In 2017, one of Civil Rights Defenders' partner organisations finalised and published an investigation into human rights violations in the region. Another partner started a project to examine how the state of emergency in Ethiopia has affected the country's human rights defenders.

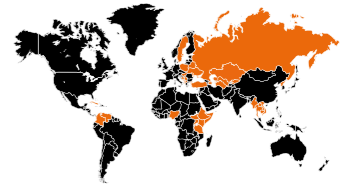
In Uganda, break-ins into organisations' offices are common. The purpose is to eliminate information, and the break-ins can go nearly unnoticed as the perpetrators leave no destruction behind. It makes dealing with evidence more difficult, and last year our partner organisation National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Uganda (NCHRD-U) conducted an investigation into the issue. In turn, our partner organisation National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Kenya (NCHRD-K) started an investigation into human rights violations committed against the Sengwer people living in the Embobut forest in Kenya. The Sengwer people is being denied the right to be recognised as an indigenous people and pushed to leave the forest. In their work, NCHRD-U and NCHRD-K will be able to use Civil Rights Defenders' new database, the Defenders' Database, where evidence concerning human rights violations can be stored and secured. Read more about the database on page 16.

Last year, more than 40 human rights defenders from the region were trained in digital security by Civil Rights Defenders. We also began the work of connecting Somali human rights defenders to our security programme, Natalia Project. Training for the new participants will take place in the beginning of 2018. Read more about the Natalia Project on page 20.

Last year, more than 40 human rights defenders from the region were trained in digital security.



Gloria Nifa Madegwa works as a capacity building officer at Civil Rights Defenders' partner organisation, National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Kenya (NCHRD-K). Among other things, she coordinates training for human rights defenders in the country and is also responsible for the coalition's work with the Defenders' Database.



A flash mob for LGBT rights in Perm, Russia, 2017. Human rights are in sharp decline in the country, not least for minorities.

EURASIA

Civil Rights Defenders' work in Eurasia covers the former Soviet Union, excluding the Baltics. During 2017, the human rights situation has deteriorated further in the region, and Russia is at the forefront of the negative development.

The trend, which began when Vladimir Putin started his third term as president of Russia in 2012, continues. In 2017, authorities continued to oppress human rights defenders and other critics of the regime, who are finding it increasingly difficult to carry out their work in Russia. In November 2017, a law was adopted that makes it possible to brand media organisations as "foreign agents". It is one of many repressive laws adopted in Russia in recent years, which, in combination with media campaigns and harassment, creates almost non-existent conditions for the organisations that work to promote democracy and human rights.

Among other things, the new laws make it increasingly difficult for organisations to receive funding from abroad, and the strained financial situation affects their ability to continue their work.

CHECHNYA – AN INCREASINGLY URGENT SITUATION

In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders has worked to highlight the critical developments in the Chechen Republic, a constituent entity of Russia. The oppression of the population, both the public and more vulnerable groups, as

well as the reduced space for local organisations to act complicate the work in the republic considerably. Last year, the media reported that LGBT persons were being persecuted, tortured, and even killed.

Civil Rights Defenders is actively working to raise awareness of the ongoing campaign to push the last human rights organisation, Memorial, out of the republic. If the local dictator Ramzan Kadyrov, who rules Chechnya with an iron fist, manages to do so, he will be able to commit atrocious human rights violations without the rest of the world knowing.

BELARUS – REGRESSION AFTER REDUCED SANCTIONS

In February 2017, we released a report on Belarus to mark the anniversary of the lifting of EU sanctions against the country. The sanctions, which were imposed in response to the Belarusian regime's human rights violations, were removed after six political prisoners had been released. However, the EU turned a blind eye to the regime's continued violations of human rights. In the report, Civil Rights Defenders notes that it was a mistake to lift the sanctions, as Belarus has failed to meet all the requirements set by the EU. In March 2017, when the regime struck down a peaceful demonstration in the country, it became even clearer that the EU had made the wrong call and that Belarusian authorities intend to clamp down on all forms of critical thinking.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND ADVOCACY WORK

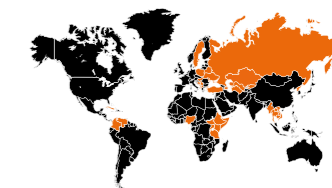
Civil Rights Defenders works in various ways to support human rights defenders and increase international pressure on countries in Eurasia. We support human rights defenders through training and other capacity development, and engage in advocacy activities with them. Thanks to the organisation's wide network, human rights defenders can share experiences and learn from each other. Through articles, reports, and seminars, we put the current situation on the politicians' agenda.

The connection between security in Europe and developments in Russia is made all too rarely. A priority in the context of Civil Rights Defenders' work in Eurasia is therefore to influence EU politicians to take a clear stance against the lack of respect for human rights in the region.



At the end of March 2017, Belarusian authorities carried out mass arrests in connection with peaceful demonstrations. The picture shows one of the protesters being taken to a police car.

During 2017, the human rights situation has deteriorated further in the region, and Russia is at the forefront of the negative trend.



Relatives of victims of forced disappearance hold photos of their loved ones in Kosuyolu Park, Turkey. In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders grew and our operations now also cover Turkey, where the human rights situation has deteriorated significantly in recent years.

EUROPE

In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders' operations in Europe expanded and now also cover Turkey. The background to the expansion includes developments in the region, where populism and discrimination against minority groups are proliferating. Human rights, which have long been taken for granted, are in decline.

In Turkey, the situation is critical. The human rights situation in the country has deteriorated significantly in recent years, not least since the failed coup d'état in 2016. The current state of emergency has caused over a thousand organisations to be forced to shut down their operations. Human rights defenders and journalists, who continue their work in the face of adversity, have been forced to recognise the risks it entails.

and Montenegro participated. The final took place in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where the winning team competed against teams from Sweden and the Netherlands. The competition's purpose is to train lawyers, offer them practical experience of human rights work, and bring young lawyers together across national borders. The aim is also to increase knowledge among future decision makers and spark an interest in working with human rights.

FOCUS: WESTERN BALKANS, POLAND, HUNGARY, AND TURKEY

During 2017, Civil Rights Defenders' work in Europe has mainly focused on the Western Balkans, Poland, Hungary, and Turkey. In the Western Balkans, we have worked on several parallel projects, and at the end of the year we released a comprehensive report series on Roma rights in the region. In Poland and Hungary, we have trained primarily young people in human rights. In Turkey, the focus has been to support local human rights organisations and to establish our own presence, so that we can continue this important and very difficult work together.

For many years, Civil Rights Defenders has worked for LGBT rights in Serbia, with particular focus on Belgrade Pride, and our efforts are making a difference. During Pride 2017, the prime minister and two other cabinet members participated in the parade, and the associated conference was organised in a government building for the first time ever. Despite this progress, however, much remains to be done to change negative attitudes and political decisions.

We have also conducted mock trials through the international Moot Court Competition. The competition gathers law students from Southeast Europe to participate in fictional trials focused on human rights. During the year, lawyers from Croatia, Serbia, Albania,

In Turkey, the situation is critical. Human rights defenders and journalists, who continue their work in the face of adversity, have been forced to recognise the risks it entails.



Civil Rights Defenders is working to raise awareness of Roma rights in the Western Balkans.



LATIN AMERICA

Civil Rights Defenders' work in Latin America is primarily focused on Cuba and Venezuela. Operations are mainly based in Bogotá, Colombia, where we have an office.

Thanks to the level of respect for freedom of expression and association in the country and with the help of extensive international aid, Colombian human rights organisations have grown relatively strong and accumulated substantial expertise. We use these experiences to contribute to the work of our Cuban and Venezuelan partners. The aim is to spread knowledge and create opportunities for the exchange of experiences between them. In 2017, we organised training courses in Colombia for a total of six Cuban human rights organisations together with an equal number of organisations from Colombia.

A WEAKENED MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY IN CUBA

Because of negative developments in Cuba in recent years, many human rights defenders have been forced to give up their work or leave the country. This has weakened the movement for democracy. One reason for the increased repression is, paradoxically, that the US, the EU, and many individual EU member states, including Sweden, have established new relations with the Cuban government on the pretext that the country has undergone economic and political reform.

But these modest reforms were implemented before relations were resumed. There have therefore not been any new reforms; rather, previous reforms have been rolled back. This has also meant that neither the US nor the EU are now willing to condemn repression in Cuba, as they do not want to risk those relations turning sour. The Cuban government can thus persecute human rights defenders and champions of democracy without fear of reprisals from the rest of the world.

FOCUS ON EXTERNAL ADVOCACY

The situation in Venezuela is urgent. The country is on the brink of collapse, people are starving, and there is hyperinflation. The root of the political crisis in Venezuela is that the coalition that has ruled the country since Hugo Chávez became president in 1999, and which for a long time had wide popular support, refuses

to accept that it has lost this support and must, according to the democratic rules of order, relinquish power.

In the light of the difficult situation in Venezuela and Cuba, Civil Rights Defenders has worked intensively with advocacy activities vis-à-vis politicians and businesses during 2017.

Through the established and social media, we have carried out two campaigns targeting consumers and businesses. The campaign in Cuba has focused on the tourism industry, where big companies are owned and operated by the Cuban military's holding company, GAESA. This means that tourism is making the oppressors stronger.

The Venezuela campaign is aimed at the Finnish partly state-owned company Neste, which, together with the fully state-owned Venezuelan oil company PDVSA, owns the Swedish company Nynas AB. PDVSA's oil exports account for more than 90 per cent of all Venezuelan exports. The company's CEO serves in the government as minister of oil, and thus carries some of the responsibility for the dismantling of democracy and human rights violations. The Finnish government's co-ownership of a company with PDVSA through Neste goes against both the Finnish government's and Neste's very strict policies regarding corruption and human rights.

DATABASE TO DOCUMENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In 2017, we also developed a new database, the Defenders' Database, which has been launched in Cuba. An important task for human rights organisations is to document and secure evidence of human rights violations – evidence that can be used in future litigation. But physical evidence can easily be destroyed by regimes that want to silence critical voices. Common methods include arson attacks or break-ins at the organisations' offices. By digitising material and uploading it to the Defenders' Database, we ensure the continued existence of the evidence. The database is currently being used in Cuba and will be rolled out among our partners in East Africa in 2018.

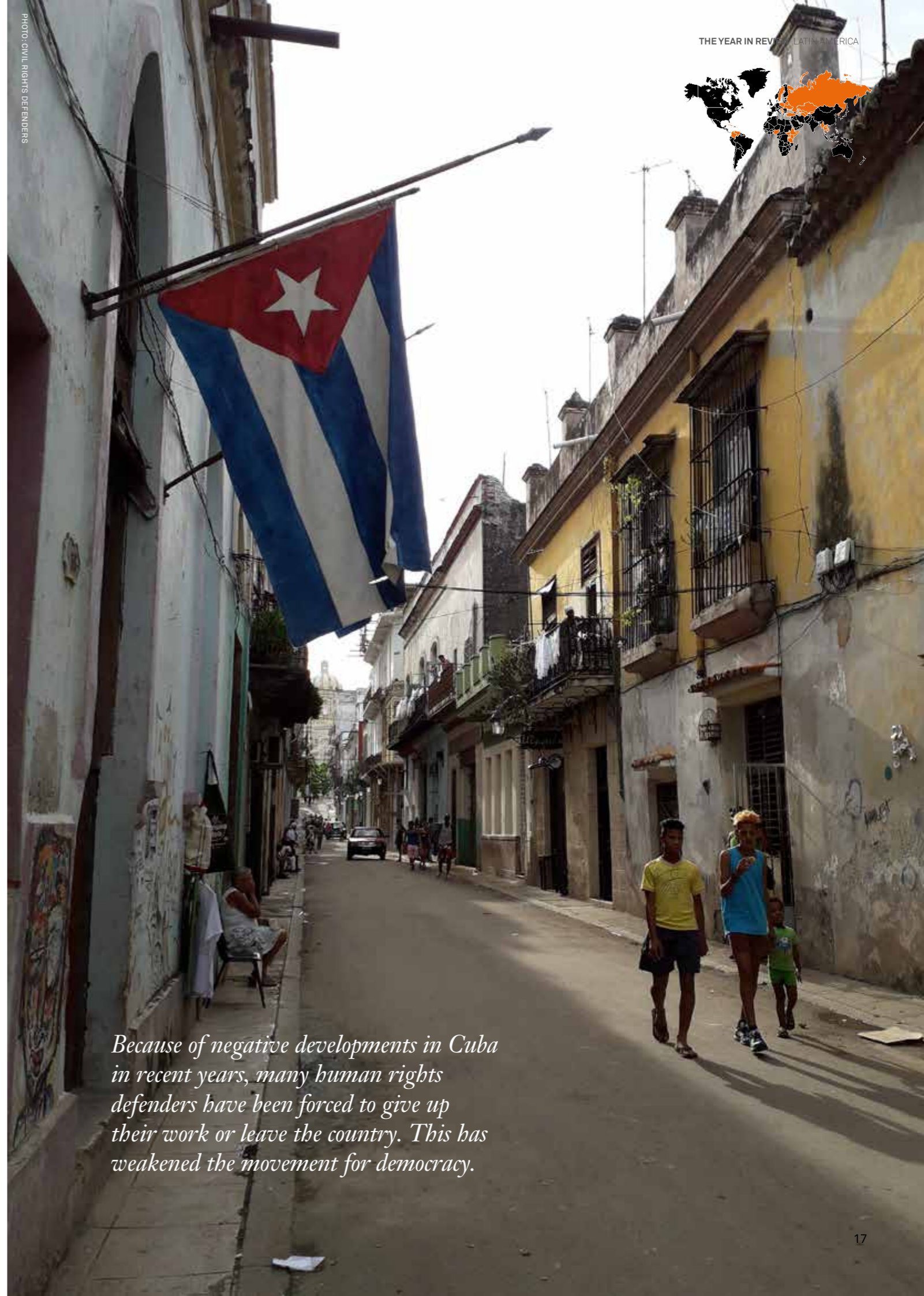
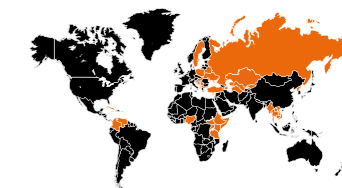


PHOTO: CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Because of negative developments in Cuba in recent years, many human rights defenders have been forced to give up their work or leave the country. This has weakened the movement for democracy.



In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders highlighted the fact that Nazism is gaining a foothold in Sweden as well as the human rights violations it brings.

Turmoil in connection with the Nordic Resistance Movement's demonstration in Borlänge on 1 May 2016.

SWEDEN

In Sweden, Civil Rights Defenders works on issues concerning hate crime, discrimination, and minority rights. We also have a strong focus on monitoring respect for human rights in closed institutions in the country, such as compulsory care and detention.

An important part of the work consists in carrying out advocacy activities aimed at the government and parliament. By raising issues to a political level, we want to ensure that those in power take responsibility for respecting human rights.

HISTORIC VICTORY FOR ROMA RIGHTS

In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders won a historic victory in the Svea Court of appeal. The court ruled that the police authority's former register of Roma individuals, which received wide media coverage when it was revealed to the public in 2013, was illegal and that the Swedish state had been guilty of ethnic discrimination. It was a major victory for Civil Rights Defenders, who had pursued the case for several years, but even more so for the roughly 4,700 Roma who were included in

the register and who finally received justice. Read more about the high-profile case on page 22.

AS NAZISM GAINS A FOOHOLD, THE SWAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DECLINES

Last year, Civil Rights Defenders highlighted the fact that Nazism is gaining a foothold in Sweden and the human rights violations it brings. We pursued litigation against the Nazi organisation the Nordic Resistance Movement, whose ideology is anti-democratic and calls for violence against ethnic minorities.

In 2017, we started a collaboration with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and Sami representatives, in which we work for Sami rights and increased respect for indigenous rights. This work constitutes one of our focus areas in Sweden for the coming years.

We also released a report, "Randomly Selected", about the work of the police and ethnic profiling in Sweden. Being stopped and searched by the police because of your ethnicity is an everyday experience for many of Sweden's minorities. The report, which is based on interviews with police officers and people who testify to being exposed to profiling, sheds light on the fact that profiling occurs and that those who suffer are affected in very negative ways. In the long run, it may have serious consequences for society by, for example, diminishing trust in the police. The report was written in collaboration with the Department of Criminology at Stockholm University and was launched in December 2017.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS PURSUES INDIVIDUAL CASES TO HIGHLIGHT SOCIAL ISSUES

In 2017, we also pursued several cases where we could establish that human rights in Sweden had been violated. These include a case in which a demented man with disabilities had not received the support he needed for a fair trial.

The individual cases that Civil Rights Defenders works on often point to wider social issues. Through pursuing the cases, we want to raise the issues to a general level and thus demand that Sweden takes responsibility for respecting human rights. In this case, which is still under investigation, we are asking for compensation from the Chancellor of Justice for the violations of the man's rights.

We have also put a great deal of focus on highlighting the problem of patients that are kept in compulsory care, even though their treatment is finished and there is no reason to keep them there. The most common reason for why patients are kept in compulsory care is that the municipal authorities fail to arrange service homes within the required time frame.

In 2017, we conducted a large-scale survey to map human rights compliance within compulsory care. It is aimed at people who are, or have been, admitted for compulsory care during the last five years. With the help of the survey, we can identify shortcomings and work to ensure respect for human rights going forward.

Civil Rights Defenders is also pursuing the high-profile case of Sinthu Selvarajah. At the end of

2014, 28-year-old Sinthu died after being subjected to excessive violence in connection with a police intervention at a psychiatric ward in Västerås. He was pushed to the ground by several police officers, sprayed with three cans of pepper spray (OC spray), and a plastic bag was placed over his mouth. The case has been tried and closed several times, but in October 2017 the Prosecutor-General decided to reopen the preliminary investigation, as two police officers are suspected of misconduct in connection with the incident. Civil Rights Defenders, which is highly critical of the actions of the police and has for several years worked actively to highlight the shortcomings of the investigation, welcomes the decision.

At the end of 2014, 28-year-old Sinthu died after being subjected to excessive violence in connection with a police intervention at a psychiatric ward in Västerås.



Sinthu Selvarajah

NATALIA PROJECT: INCREASING THE SECURITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK

In large parts of the world, it is very dangerous to work with human rights. Despite the risks, many continue to work tirelessly to make the world a more peaceful place. To increase their safety, Civil Rights Defenders runs the Natalia Project – the world’s first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk.

The project is named after the human rights defender Natalia Estemirova, who was abducted and brutally murdered in Chechnya in 2009.

Since its launch in 2013, the number of participants has steadily grown, and in 2017 Natalia Project went from just over 90 to 115 participants. Last year, Natalia Project expanded to Latin America, and thus includes participants from four continents.

RAPID HELP MAKES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Natalia Project’s participants often find themselves in vulnerable situations, where the ability to quickly alert the outside world to the fact that they are in danger can mean the difference between life and death. For these people, contacting the police or other authorities

is not an option – they are the problem rather than the solution.

Often, it may be some time before the world learns that a human rights defender has been subjected to an attack, but with Natalia Project the information spreads quickly.

Participants are provided with a personal alarm with a built-in GPS. In the event of an attack, or in threatening situations, they can activate the alarm. A distress signal is sent to a number of people they have selected, such as colleagues, family members, or other local human rights defenders, and to Civil Rights Defenders. In a matter of minutes we can act locally, by coming to their rescue, and centrally, by disseminating information on social media and influencing those in power to act.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING RISKS

When a human rights defender joins Natalia Project, a risk analysis is carried out to identify actual and potential threats. Civil Rights Defenders develops action plans for various types of incidents and conducts safety training to demonstrate how the alarm works and advise on how they can protect themselves and reduce risks.

No two human rights defenders’ situations are the same. Some of the participants live under constant threat, others need Natalia Project at specific times, or when they travel to certain places. Nevertheless, it offers an increased level of security. In 2017, we had four distress signals; all of the situations could be solved locally on-site before they had a chance to escalate.

We know that Natalia Project makes a difference and that participants feel safer. Our ability to quickly come to their rescue and the fact that participants receive immediate support is one component, but the vast majority also claim that their own awareness has increased, they have begun to structure their thinking around security and thus reduced the risks.

The knowledge that Civil Rights Defenders makes a difference to human rights defenders, whose work has never been more important, means that we will continue to develop and improve Natalia Project in order to connect and support more people fighting to defend human rights.



Olena Shevchenko from the organisation Insight, which works for LGBT rights in Ukraine, is one of the participants in the Natalia Project.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2017

AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE, EDMUND YAKANI CONTINUES TO FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Every year, Civil Rights Defenders presents a prize to a prominent human rights defender – the Civil Rights Defender of the Year Award. In 2017, the award went to the South Sudanese human rights defender Edmund Yakani, who, despite facing great risks, works tirelessly for human rights in a context of conflict, violence, and grave violations.

Edmund Yakani has dedicated more than 20 years of his life to the fight for human rights. Today, he is the executive director of the human rights group Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO), based in South Sudan’s capital, Juba. As a human rights defender, he considers it his duty to defend and promote human rights, for example by helping other human rights defenders and documenting human rights violations. It is work that is not appreciated by the government, rebels, and other armed groups in the country.

South Sudan, which gained independence in July 2011, is the youngest country in the world. In terms of economic, social, and political factors, the country is also among the poorest. Respect for civil and political rights has never reached the level that the country’s citizens wished and hoped for on the eve of independence.

In 2013, the human rights situation worsened when armed ethnic conflict broke out. Since then, human rights defenders and other critical voices have had to endure increasingly targeted threats because of their work. Edmund Yakani himself has been threatened, arrested, and left to die.

One of the worst incidents occurred after Edmund Yakani had asked people to submit evidence – photographs of murder or attempted murder – to be used in future litigation. The authorities found out and arrested him. He had a gun pressed to his head, was severely beaten, and later dumped in the water.

“Fortunately, some people walked past and recognised my face and brought me out of the water to a medical clinic, where I woke up and received medical attention,” says Edmund Yakani.

As a dedicated human rights defender, Edmund Yakani sees no other option than to continue his struggle.

“I’m not interested in getting a job for my personal gain. Doing something for society is better, and that means working for human rights and protecting human rights defenders. To live like this might be dangerous, but not enough to make me give up. I have to keep hoping that tomorrow, or the next morning, the situation will change for the better.”



ABOUT THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since 2013, Civil Rights Defenders annually presents an award to a prominent human rights defender who, despite the risk to their own safety, continues the fight for respect for human rights. The recipient’s work must be carried out without the use of violence and as part of an independent human rights organisation.

THE POLICE AUTHORITY'S ROMA REGISTER

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS WINS HISTORIC VICTORY IN THE COURT OF APPEAL

In September of 2013, the Swedish daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter could reveal that the police authority in Skåne, southern Sweden, had kept a register of roughly 4,700 Roma individuals or people with close connections to Roma. There was a clear consensus that the register was illegal. But no one raised the issue that the register was based on ethnicity, which is why Civil Rights Defenders and eleven Roma, including three children, sued the Swedish government for violations of their human rights. On 28 April 2017, the historic judgment was handed down – Svea Court of Appeal held it to be a case of ethnic discrimination.

Almost four years after news broke of the Skåne police authority's register, the legal process was over. By then, Civil Rights Defenders, who represented the eleven individuals, had fought for justice in both the district court and the court of appeal. The verdict was significant. Especially for the victims whose rights had been violated and for other Roma, but also for society at large. Strategically, it was important to show the existence of ethnic discrimination in Swedish society, including in public institutions.

But let's look back. The Roma are, and have always been, a particularly vulnerable group in Sweden, as in other European countries. Xenophobia and discrimination are part of everyday life for Roma, and many live completely or partly outside of society. Yet, Dagens Nyheter's revelation about the register still came as a shock to many Roma. It also marked the start of a journey that would serve up yet another severe blow to the confidence in Swedish society and the judiciary.

WHY AM I LISTED?

Imagine finding out that you are listed on one of the police authority's registers. Not because you, or someone in your family, ever did something wrong or committed a crime. You are listed simply because you happen to belong to a certain ethnicity. You also find your children, only a few years old, listed on the police register. What is more, the register includes both people who are dead and people who have not lived in Sweden for many years. Why? you might ask. That is what the Roma did – without getting a response.

WE ARE SUING THE STATE

It was established early on by courts at several instances that the register was illegal. The Chancellor of Justice decided that everyone on the register would receive SEK 5,000 as compensation for the violation of their

rights. However, no one wanted to acknowledge that the register had an ethnic dimension, and no reasonable explanation was offered as to why the register had been drawn up in the first place.

For the Roma, this was the crucial question. So it was for Civil Rights Defenders as an organisation that works for human rights in Sweden and the rest of the world. After engaging in a dialogue with some of the people who had been victimised, we filed a joint lawsuit against the state in March of 2015.

VICTORY IN THE DISTRICT COURT BUT CHANCELLOR OF JUSTICE APPEALS

The case was litigated at first instance during the spring of 2016, and Civil Rights Defenders and the eleven plaintiffs won against the state in the Stockholm District Court in June of the same year. The judgment concluded that the eleven persons in the case had been registered solely because of their ethnicity, in violation of both the Swedish Police Data Act and the European Convention on Human Rights. The verdict also made reference to the abuse that Roma have historically been subjected to by the Swedish state. The district court imposed a compensation of SEK 30,000 to each of the persons concerned in the case.

But before the judgment could gain legal force, the Chancellor of Justice appealed, citing other reasons for why the register had been created. This meant a new judicial proceeding in the spring of 2017, this time in the Svea Court of Appeal. Fortunately, the court of appeal upheld the district court's verdict, and the case was closed in May 2017. Shortly after, the state, through the actions of the Chancellor of Justice, decided to pay the full damages of SEK 30,000 to all of the nearly 4,700 Roma who had been registered – the largest total sum the state has ever paid out in damages.

A STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT CASE

A process of this magnitude is very expensive and complex, and the question is whether the Roma who were subjected to the violation would have had the resources to pursue the case on their own. The collaboration between the eleven victimised Roma and Civil Rights Defenders was a prerequisite for success. For Civil Rights Defenders, as for other organisations, this type of process is an important working tool. To take on a legal case as an organisation in order to shine the light on a larger issue and achieve wider social change is called strategic litigation. In this case, Civil

It was established early on by courts at several instances that the register was illegal. However, no one wanted to acknowledge that the register had an ethnic dimension, and no reasonable explanation was offered as to why the register had been drawn up in the first place.

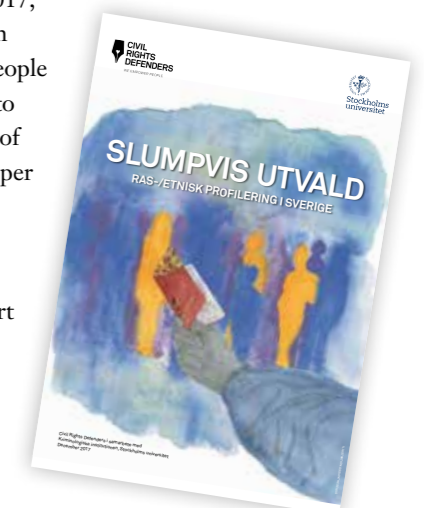
Rights Defenders not only wanted to achieve redress for the eleven whom we represented or the others who had been registered. We also wanted to highlight the issue of discrimination against a minority and the Swedish state's violation of human rights. It was a task of responsibility, not least because much was at stake, both for the Roma and for other groups in society that face discrimination.

HOW DO WE PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN?

The verdict meant that it was established, in black and white, that the register was illegal and that the police uses ethnic profiling. Now, we must make sure that it does not happen again. The police will need to review and change internal processes and working methods, and work with their value system to bring about a change in attitude. Even though justice has been done, the work is far from finished.

REPORT ON ETHNIC PROFILING

In the light of the police authority's register, Civil Rights Defenders has, together with the Department of Criminology at Stockholm University, produced the report "Randomly Selected". The report, which was published in December 2017, is based on interviews with both police officers and people who have been subjected to ethnic profiling. The aim of the report is to offer a deeper understanding of ethnic discrimination within the police force in Sweden. Please download the report from our website: www.crd.org.



Fred Taikon is one of the people who appeared in the police authority's register of Roma individuals. Together with Civil Rights Defenders and ten other people, he sued the Swedish state for ethnic discrimination and won in the court of appeal. The image was taken in front of the Stockholm District Court on the same day that the lawsuit was filed.

OUR VISION

**A PEACEFUL AND SAFE
WORLD WITH FREEDOM
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Organisation ID no. 802011-1442

The Board of Directors and Executive Director of Civil Rights Defenders hereby present the annual report for the 2017 financial year.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES

Civil Rights Defenders is an international human rights organisation that is politically and religiously independent. The organisation defends people's civil and political rights and empowers human rights defenders at risk. Civil Rights Defenders operates in Sweden and in the countries in the world where respect for human rights is at its weakest. We engage in advocacy activities, legal processes, and provide information on the situation with regard to human rights globally.

Registered office: Stockholm, Sweden

VISION

A peaceful and safe world with freedom and justice for all.

WHY IS CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' WORK IMPORTANT TO OUR EMPLOYEES?

On the basis of the principle of equal dignity for all, Civil Rights Defenders works toward a peaceful and safe world with freedom and justice for all.

Conflicts and human rights violations increasingly pervade our world, and we believe that a well-functioning, strong, and local civil society is becoming even more important. We want to drive politics, business, and civil society forward by working and developing together on the important issues of human rights. We believe that our commitment, and expertise within our areas of knowledge, affect change and contribute to a better world for all.

GOAL

Civil Rights Defenders' overall goal is to improve people's access to freedom and justice through greater respect for their civil and political rights.

To achieve this, the work is guided by three objectives. Civil Rights Defenders shall:

1. Support people to exercise their civil and political rights through:

- Increased access to legal aid
 - Increased access to information
2. Induce states to take responsibility for the fulfilment of human rights by:
 - Influencing legislation
 - Improving the application of human rights
 3. Strengthen the work of local human rights defenders by:
 - Improving their ability and capacity to affect and drive change
 - Improving the safety of human rights defenders

WORKING METHODS

Investigation and Accountability Mechanisms

Civil Rights Defenders investigates and holds the state and other decision makers accountable when legislation or its application goes against civil and political rights. We carry out this work independently, or in collaboration with local human rights defenders. We scrutinise laws, draft legislation, and regulatory activities, and litigate against states and those in power who violate human rights. We pursue cases in national and international courts, committees, and tribunals.

Public Opinion and Advocacy

Civil Rights Defenders affects change and influences states, decision makers, and public opinion. We engage in opinion-forming and advocacy work, independently or together with local human rights defenders and other organisations to increase the capacity for national and international impact. The organisation drives debate, runs campaigns, and highlights key issues in the media, through seminars, and reports. In totalitarian states, we communicate independent information through alternative media outlets and other forums for discussion and debate.

Support and Education

Civil Rights Defenders' founding principle is the importance of strong local human rights actors. We focus on partnering with and empowering local actors. This means that the organisation works with security training, emergency support, education, professional development, and financial support. Based on local needs, we support developments to increase the ability and capacity for work that affects change locally. It is also a question of human rights defenders' methods as well as access to tools and systems for reporting and performance management. We also create conditions for local human rights defenders to safely meet and exchange experiences to strengthen and inspire each other.



ORGANISATION

Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit expert organisation working to promote human rights. Gerald Nagler is the organisation's founder and honorary chair.

The annual general meeting (AGM) is the organisation's highest decision-making body. Membership is conditional on supporting the organisation's goals and core values (as expressed in international human rights treaties) as well as a willingness to work towards them.

The organisation's activities are primarily not governed by funding from the membership. Instead, the organisation engages in fundraising and receives grants. Membership dues for 2017 were SEK 300.

The AGM elects the board, which at the end of 2017 consisted of seven members – four women and three men. Five board meetings were held during the year. There is no remuneration for the work carried out by the organisation's honorary chair, the chair of the board, and the board members.

Amelie Silfverstolpe (Program Director, Axfoundation) and Susanne Urwitz (Lawyer) were appointed to the nominations committee at the 2017 AGM.

BOARD OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS



Benedicte Berner



Christoffer Lindblad



Anna Jonsson Cornell



Elisabeth Tamm



Carin Norberg



Fredrik Andersson



Lars Häggström

BOARD OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS

- Benedicte Berner (Media Analyst) Chairperson of the Board
- Anna Jonsson Cornell (Professor) Board Member
- Carin Norberg (Chair, Center for Economic and Social Rights) Board Member
- Christoffer Lindblad (Founder and Partner, Pelago AB) Board Member
- Elisabeth Tamm (Director, Tax and Family Law, Bank of Åland) Board Member
- Fredrik Andersson (Entrepreneur) Board Member
- Lars Häggström (Executive in Residence, IMD Business School) Board Member

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS' PERSONNEL

Civil Rights Defenders' work is primarily carried out by employed staff at the organisation's head office in Stockholm and in field offices in Asia, Belgrade, Bogotá, Pristina, Sarajevo, and Tirana. The total number of employees at end of 2017 was 52, compared with 49 at the end of 2016.

Distribution by office

Stockholm	38
Belgrade	6
Bogotá	1
Pristina	2
Sarajevo	2
Asia	1
Tirana	2
Total	52

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

- In 2016, Civil Rights Defenders initiated the restructuring of the Communications and Fundraising Department. During 2017, these were reorganised into two separate departments (the Fundraising Department and the Communications Department) to facilitate the prioritisation of fundraising activities. During the year, large

fundraising efforts were carried out and a development director was hired for the department. The aim is to significantly increase the proportion of funds from private individuals and companies in the coming years.

- Last year, Civil Rights Defenders expanded its activities in Europe and restructured the former programme for the Western Balkans into a department for Europe (the Europe Department). Now, operations also cover Turkey.
- In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders' executive director, Robert Hårdh, chose to move on to a new position after 19 years as head of the organisation. On 22 December 2017, John Stauffer, Civil Rights Defenders' legal director, took over the role as acting executive director, until the organisation's new executive director takes office in May 2018.
- In the beginning of the year, the field office in Chisinau, Moldova, was closed. Due to a lack of funds, Civil Rights Defenders had to prioritise alternative ways of running its operations. The work with our partner organisations continues, albeit on a smaller scale.
- A new three-year strategy (2017 – 2019) was adopted at the beginning of the year. On the basis of the strategy, a detailed plan of action is drawn up annually, in which the organisation determines short-term goals at the organisational, departmental, and individual level. In this way, the work towards common and overarching goals is coordinated. A harmonised performance management model was implemented to follow up on the work. The overarching goals are followed up through biannual reports presented to the board, and through the annual performance review process at the individual level.

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Work Environment

Throughout the year, Civil Rights Defenders has focused on the psychosocial work environment, with respect to both organisational structure and creating clearer roles and expectations. Last year, a new performance review process was implemented. Both directors and other employees received training to ensure the quality of the process. Support for the organisation's directors has increased as the organisation has brought in HR competency, which

has in turn developed the directors' competencies and capacity to lead their teams.

Staff Survey

At the end of 2017, the annual staff survey was carried out. We partnered with a new supplier, which resulted in more detailed and department-specific data than previously. This data can be used for further development efforts. The organisation also has a system in place whereby all the work concerning outcomes is documented and can thus be followed up at both organisational and departmental levels.

Equality and Diversity

Civil Rights Defenders is an international organisation with employees from countries all over the world. More than 20 different languages are spoken within the organisation. In our code of conduct, which all employees and interns sign, clear guidelines are given about the equality of all and what to do if you discover or are subjected to harassment or discrimination.

Collective Labour Agreement and Professional Development

Civil Rights Defenders follows a collective labour agreement for professional employees signed by the IDEA (the Employers' Association for Non-Profit Organisations), Unionen, and Akademikerförbunden (the employee perspective). Skills development is discussed in connection with the annual performance review. Development plans and goals are written into individual target documents for each year.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Civil Rights Defenders performs systematic risk assessment and risk management by identifying, analysing, and working to ensure that unforeseen events or circumstances do not have a negative impact on activities and expected results.

By analysing, documenting, and monitoring risks carefully and systematically, their adverse effects can be avoided or mitigated. In risk management, we differentiate between internal risks, such as the lack of adequate human resources, capacity or management functions, reporting of results, financial control, and corruption; and external risks, such as unexpected political, institutional, economic, environmental, social, or technical circumstances.

Civil Rights Defenders uses an integrated risk management approach, which involves a

continuous, proactive, and systematic process to understand, manage, and communicate risks from a broad perspective. It also means making strategic decisions that contribute to achieving the organisation's overall objectives.

The board of Civil Rights Defenders conducts an annual assessment of the risks reported by the executive management and how these have been managed. Based on the analysis of risk assessment and risk management, the board decides on an annual risk management plan and assesses the extent to which it will influence strategic decisions and future business directions.

Civil Rights Defenders operates in countries with a high risk of corruption and where human rights work in many cases is prohibited. Taking preventive measures is therefore important. The organisation has a zero-tolerance policy and an anti-corruption working group. The working group deals with reported suspicions of corruption and maintains and develops best practices for compliance with the policy.

PROFIT AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The operating profit for the year amounts to SEK 285,760. As a result of a decline in the exchange rate for USD, the profit has been subjected to an exchange rate loss, which yields a loss after financial items of SEK -353,022. Out of the profit for the year, SEK 165,120 is to be allocated to the Emergency Fund, set up and funded by the OAK Foundation. The loss after the appropriation, SEK -518,142, will be carried forward. Equity carried forward thus amount to SEK 6,253,709.

FUNDRAISING

Income in 2017

Civil Rights Defenders' operating income during 2017 amounts to SEK 82,782 thousand, which represents an increase of SEK 4,126 thousand compared to 2016. The income comes from both

government and private funders, and includes both donations and grants.

To ensure continued financial strength and long-term stability, the organisation will continue to prioritise increasing funds raised from government and private funders. We will also strengthen our work with philanthropists and develop fundraising activities internationally.

Public Grants

In 2017, Civil Rights Defenders' income from grants from public bodies amounted to a total of SEK 55,776 thousand, which is on level with 2016. The most important grant-awarding bodies are Sida, SI, UD, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Grants from state actors are important for maintaining long-term engagement, in Sweden and in the world.

Private Foundations

Private foundations are becoming an increasingly important source of funding for the organisation. In 2017, the income from this segment amounted to SEK 7,570 thousand in grants and donations, slightly more than in 2016. The biggest contributions came from OAK Foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy, Open Society Foundations, and the Gerald and Monica Nagler Foundation.

Funds Raised from the General Public

During the year, Civil Rights Defenders raised SEK 4,023 thousand from private individuals. Both private donors, who donated individual amounts, and approximately 1,260 regular monthly donors supported our work. Monthly donations allow for long-term planning and stability, and reduce administration costs. The support from monthly donors is very important for our continued work and will be given priority in the coming years.

MULTI-YEAR COMPARISON

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Total income including interest income and similar profit items (SEK thousands)	82,800	79,185	85,582	71,879	61,681
Operating income	82,782	78,655	85,436	71,804	61,646
Project expenses/total income	87%	89%	91%	94%	94%
Fundraising expenses/total income	7%	4%	1%	2%	1%
Administrative expenses/total income	6%	5%	3%	3%	4%

Companies

During the year, companies contributed SEK 15,411 thousand to Civil Rights Defenders, either through long-term partnerships, by giving a donation through the Christmas campaign, or by awarding earmarked grants. In 2016, the corresponding income from companies was SEK 12,244 thousand. Donations and grants from companies are of great importance for our ability to meet the challenges ahead, and the organisation will focus on strengthening its partnerships with companies.

As a beneficiary of the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Civil Rights Defenders received SEK 10,000 thousand in the annual distribution, which corresponds to an increase of SEK 3,000 thousand from the previous year. The Swedish Postcode Lottery also approved two special project applications for a total of SEK 7,000 thousand in 2017, which will stretch over 2–3 years. Major corporate donors were Millicom and Weekday.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

During the year, Civil Rights Defenders started the implementation of a new three-year strategy for 2017–2019. In the light of the negative trend concerning respect for human rights in the world and

the increased pressure on human rights defenders, Civil Rights Defenders must strengthen and develop its operations. To meet the resource needs that a continued expansion requires, we will focus on fundraising activities in Sweden and abroad. These efforts will contribute to increased resources and enable the organisation to strengthen its support for local human rights defenders where the need is the most pressing. Geographically, Civil Rights Defenders will grow in all the regions and continents where we already operate. Due to developments in our surroundings, we also see an increased need for strengthening our work in Europe. The Turkey initiative will be followed up, and further activities will be established in EU countries. The organisation's advocacy work at the EU level must be developed and intensified. Therefore, we are also opening an office in Brussels. There is also a pressing need for action in the Middle East/the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa, and in the long term we will also be establishing operations there.

CODE REPORT BASED ON FRII GUIDELINES

Civil Rights Defenders follows the Code of Quality issued by FRII (Swedish Fundraising Council). See www.frii.se.

INCOME



Public bodies – 67% (70%)
 Foundations and organisations – 9% (9%)
 The general public – 5% (5%)
 Companies – 19% (15%)

Total income incl. interest income and similar profit items: SEK 82,800 thousand (SEK 79,185 thousand)
 The inner circle shows the distribution of income for 2017 and the outer circle for 2016.

SPECIAL PURPOSE EXPENSES



Africa – 1% (2%)
 Asia – 10% (8%)
 Eurasia – 25% (33%)
 Europe – 36% (35%)
 HRDs at Risk – 11% (11%)
 Latin America – 7% (5%)
 Other – 10% (8%)

Special purpose expenses 2017: SEK 71,900 thousand (2016: SEK 70,087 thousand)
 The inner circle shows the distribution of special purpose expenses for 2017 and the outer circle for 2016.

INCOME STATEMENT

	Note	2017	2016
<i>Amounts in SEK</i>			
Operating income	3		
Membership dues		5,400	32,400
Donations		15,059,110	13,391,759
Grants		67,253,282	64,842,200
Other income		463,783	388,893
Total operating income		82,781,575	78,655,252
Operating expenses	4, 5		
Project expenses	6	-71,899,626	-70,087,488
Fundraising expenses		-6,013,898	-3,498,630
Administrative expenses	7	-4,582,291	-3,995,000
Total operating expenses		-82,495,815	-77,581,118
Operating profit		285,760	1,074,134
Financial activities			
Interest income and similar profit items	8	18,331	530,161
Interest expenses and similar loss items	8	-657,113	-2,753
Total financial activities		638,782	527,408
Profit/loss after financial items		-353,022	1,601,542
Profit/loss for the year		-353,022	1,601,542
Allocation of profit/loss for the year			
Profit/loss for the year according to the income statement (see above)		-353,022	1,601,542
Provisions for special purpose funds		-756,097	-309,283
Utilisation of special purpose funds		590,977	-
Changes in equity carried forward		-518,142	1,292,259

BALANCE SHEET

<i>Amounts in SEK</i>			
ASSETS	Note	2017-12-31	2016-12-31
Current assets			
Current receivables			
Accounts receivable		150,200	157,838
Other receivables		202,925	465,323
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	9	1,121,302	1,197,300
Current receivables		1,474,427	1,820,461
Cash and bank balances		50,764,794	52,928,752
Total current assets		52,239,221	54,749,213
Total assets		52,239,221	54,749,213
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Special purpose funds		485,841	320,721
Equity carried forward		6,253,709	6,771,851
Total equity		6,739,550	7,092,572
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		2,484,976	2,141,535
Liabilities – received, unutilised grants	10	36,079,924	39,159,554
Other liabilities		1,115,673	760,731
Accrued expenses and deferred income	11	5,819,098	5,594,821
Total current liabilities		45,499,671	47,656,641
Total equity and liabilities		52,239,221	54,749,213

CHANGES IN EQUITY

<i>Amounts in SEK</i>			
	Special purpose funds (Emergency Fund)	Equity carried forward	Total equity
Opening balance	320,721	6,771,851	7,092,572
Special purpose designated by donor:			-
Emergency Fund	479,159	-479,159	
Natalia Project	276,938	-276,938	
Utilisation of special purpose funds:			-
Emergency Fund	-314,039	314,039	
Natalia Project	-276,938	276,938	
Loss for the year		-353,022	-353,022
Closing balance	485,841	6,253,709	6,739,550

Brave people around the world are defending the rights of others – without a thought to their own safety. The Emergency Fund enables us to assist these people at risk and in emergency situations. To increase their safety, Civil Rights Defenders also runs Natalia Project, the world's first alarm and positioning system for human rights defenders at risk.

CASH FLOW ANALYSIS – INDIRECT METHOD

<i>Amounts in SEK</i>			
	Note	2017	2016
Operating activities			
Operating profit		285,760	1,074,134
		285,760	1,074,134
Interest received		18,331	345
Interest paid		-2,580	-2,753
Cash flow from operating activities		301,511	1,071,726
Changes in working capital			
Change in accounts receivable		7,638	219,261
Change in other current receivables		338,397	424,840
Change in accounts payable		343,441	413,390
Change in other current liabilities		-2,500,412	704,422
Cash flow from operating activities		-1,509,425	2,833,639
Cash flow for the year		-1,509,425	2,833,639
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		52,928,752	49,565,297
Exchange rate differences related to cash and bank balances		-654,533	529,816
Cash and cash equivalents at year-end	12	50,764,794	52,928,752

NOTES

NOTE 1 ACCOUNTING AND VALUATION PRINCIPLES

The accounting and valuation principles comply with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFNAR 2012:1 (K3) and the Swedish Fundraising Council's (FRII) governing guidelines for annual reports, unless otherwise stated below. The accounting principles remain unchanged from the previous year.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating Income

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Membership dues comprise payments received for membership of Civil Rights Defenders. Membership dues are recognised as income when payments are received from the members.

A transaction in which Civil Rights Defenders receives an asset or a service with a value attached, without providing anything of the same value in return, constitutes a donation or a grant. If the asset or service is received because Civil Rights Defenders has met or will meet certain conditions, and the organisation has an obligation to repay the counterparty if such conditions are not met, such an asset or service is classified as a grant. If it does not constitute a grant, it is a donation. Donations are mainly funds raised from private individuals, companies, and organisations. Donations are reported on a cash basis, but if a donation refers to a specific time period, it is allocated to that period through provisions for special purpose funds in equity. If there are donations from companies and organisations that have been agreed but not received at the reporting date, these are recognised as income following individual assessment.

Grants are recognised as income when the conditions attached to them have been met. Grants received are recognised as a liability until the conditions attached to them have been met. This means that income is only recognised when it is highly probable that the grant will not be reclaimed. Grants forwarded to partner associations where Civil Rights Defenders is responsible to the awarding body are also recognised as income. Grants consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents from public bodies, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Swedish Institute, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Postcode Lottery.

Income not connected to Civil Rights Defenders' primary operations is reported under Other income.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses include project expenses, fundraising expenses, and administrative expenses. Joint expenses such as IT, accounting, operational management, and communication expenses are allocated to project expenses, fundraising expenses, and administrative expenses according to an allocation key.

Project expenses are those that are directly associated

with the fulfilment of Civil Rights Defenders' purpose according to its statutes. These include expenses for personnel engaged to carry out activities adopted by the board, in and outside of Sweden, and any administrative expenses directly arising from the obligations the organisation has assumed in order to fulfil its purpose. Project expenses also include expenses for opinion-forming and information activities regarding Civil Rights Defenders' mission. The monitoring, reporting, and auditing of projects are also classified as project expenses. Project expenses also include activity-related support expenses, which are allocated to the relevant activity using allocation keys.

Fundraising expenses are expenses intended to generate external income in the form of donations and grants from all donors and grant-awarding bodies, i.e. both private individuals and companies. This includes existing donors and efforts to identify new donors through campaigns, mailings, and maintenance of donor registers. Fundraising expenses also include costs of printed materials, postage, salaries and allocated joint support expenses.

Administrative expenses include those related to statutes and legal requirements, such as the board of directors, the annual general meeting, accounting, preparation of the annual report and audit, as well as central management and planning. Expenses not related to projects, member care/enlistment, or fundraising are classified as administrative expenses. Administrative expenses may also include any joint support expenses that have not been allocated to project, fundraising, or membership expenses.

All leases are recognised as operating leases, which means that lease payments are recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Remuneration of employees in the form of salaries, social security contributions, and other benefits are recognised as an expense as and when the employees perform the services. Pension obligations are classified as defined-contribution pensions and recognised as an expense in the year in which the pension is earned.

Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit association and as such is not liable to pay taxes.

BALANCE SHEET

Assets and liabilities are measured at cost unless otherwise stated below.

Foreign currency receivables and liabilities are measured at the closing rate.

Accounts receivable are measured individually at the amounts expected to be received.

Civil Rights Defenders is a non-profit association – it does not aim to make a profit and has no external owners – which means that terms such as profit/loss and equity have a different meaning than for other legal forms, such as limited companies. Equity comprises funds, such as donations, that have been provided to enable the organi-

sation to fulfil its purposes and have not been paid out at the reporting date, and for which there is no legally binding obligation classified as a liability or provision.

As there are restrictions on the use of various funds, the following division is made:

• **Special purpose funds:** This capital may be used, but only for the purpose or purposes specified by the donor or the board of directors. Such funds are generally used in the following financial year. The funds include fundraising donations where a specific project was specified, and which have not yet been utilised.

• **Equity carried forward:** This capital consists mainly of unused funds that have been provided to the organisation

without restrictions, as well as the organisation's profit or loss. Unused funds that have been provided to the organisation without restrictions are at the disposal of the board of directors and may be used in accordance with the organisation's statutes and to fulfil the organisation's purposes. The profit or loss for the year (before allocation), as recognised in the income statement, represents the difference between operating income, operating expenses, and profit from financial activities.

NOTE 2 ESTIMATES AND ASSESSMENTS

No material items in the organisation's income statement and balance sheet are based on estimates and assessments.

NOTE 3 DONATIONS, GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

Donations recognised as income

	2017	2016
General public	4,017,701	3,931,363
Companies:		
Swedish Postcode Lottery	10,000,000	7,000,000
Millicom	417,155	443,030
Weekday H&M Hennes & Mauritz GBC AB	114,060	0
Other companies	96,716	1,637,140
OAK Foundation	97,855	0
Other organisations	290,623	370,226
External foundations	25,000	10,000
Total income	15,059,110	13,391,759

Pro-bono services received has not been recognised in the income statement and is mainly related to services within communication and law in 2017.

Grants recognised as income

Public bodies:		
Sida	52,305,599	52,331,720
Swedish Institute	810,746	427,774
Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,363,548	3,063,123
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,295,837	
Foundations and organisations:		
Swedish Postcode Foundation	0	787,258
OAK Foundation	1,495,741	1,593,618
National Endowment for Democracy	1,143,516	1,670,009
Open Society Foundations	2,651,517	999,796
Gerald & Monica Nagler Foundation	356,908	180,423
Other	1,046,541	624,892
Companies:		
Swedish Postcode Lottery	4,783,329	3,163,587
Total income	67,253,282	64,842,200
Other income		
Reimbursement of expenses	463,783	388,893
Total income	463,783	388,893

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
NOTE 4 SALARIES, OTHER BENEFITS, AND SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS		
Salaries		
Board of directors	-	-
Executive Director	1,061,615	848,087
Other employees	19,308,781	15,360,174
Social security contributions	6,929,894	5,439,540
Pension expenses	2,024,491	1,761,007
Total salaries and benefits	29,324,781	23,408,808

The executive director's pension expenses accounted for SEK 211,471 (SEK 183,000) of total pension expenses. Remuneration below one half base amount was SEK 5,000 (SEK 5,000). The period of notice between Civil Rights Defenders and the executive director is three months. There is no severance agreement.

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
Geographical distribution of salaries and other benefits:		
Sweden	17,705,634	13,505,406
Other countries	2,664,762	2,702,855
Total	20,370,396	16,208,261

Average number of employees, Sweden

Men	14	11
Women	21	17
Total	35	28

Average number of employees, other countries

Men	5	4
Women	10	11
Total	15	15

Members of the board

Men	3	2
Women	4	4
Total	7	6

During the year, 24 (24) individuals worked on a voluntary basis for Civil Rights Defenders. These voluntary contributions are not recognised in the income statement.

NOTE 5 LEASES

Civil Rights Defenders rents office premises in Sweden and in other parts of the world. Expenses for the year amounted to SEK 3,694,000 (SEK 3,688,000).

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
Future office expenses are due as follows:		
Within 1 year	3,453,000	3,400,000
2 – 5 years	5,738,000	9,009,000

The lease agreement runs until 2020, with a renewal option. Civil Rights Defenders subleases office facilities of 102 square metres at an annual rent of approximately SEK 592,000. The current sublease agreement expires in 2018, with a renewal option.

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
NOTE 6 PROJECT EXPENSES		
Africa	1,029,804	1,099,241
Asia	7,215,879	5,264,276
Eurasia	17,829,016	22,818,360
Europe	21,008,148	19,534,555
Latin America	5,198,232	3,288,668
Protection of Human Rights Defenders at Risk	7,560,030	7,666,985
Sweden	5,089,178	4,663,966
Other	6,969,339	5,751,436
Total project expenses	71,899,626	70,087,488

NOTE 7 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
Accounting expenses and administration	631,677	357,254
Human resource expenses	3,254,693	3,026,895
Office expenses	694,136	560,361
Board and membership expenses	1,785	50,490
Total administrative expenses	4,582,291	3,995,000

NOTE 8 INTEREST AND SIMILAR PROFIT/LOSS ITEMS

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
Interest income	18,331	345
Interest expenses	-2,580	-2,753
Exchange rate differences, cash and bank balances	-654,533	529,816
Total	-638,782	527,408

NOTE 9 PREPAID EXPENSES AND ACCRUED INCOME

	<i>Amounts in SEK</i>	
	2017	2016
Prepaid expenses:		
Office rent	855,817	842,824
Pensions	10,400	170,448
Other	255,085	184,028
Total	1,121,302	1,197,300

Amounts in SEK

NOTE 10 LIABILITIES – RECEIVED, UNUTILISED GRANTS	2017	2016
Liability, unutilised grant from Sida	15,447,901	25,557,332
Liability, unutilised grant from the Swedish Postcode Lottery	12,658,728	10,442,057
Liability, unutilised grant from others	7,973,295	3,160,165
Total	36,079,924	39,159,554








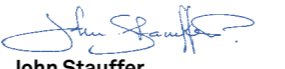
NOTE 11 ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME	2017	2016
Accrued social security contributions	1,207,068	1,065,607
Holiday pay liability	2,380,891	2,183,744
Payroll tax	871,352	699,113
Accrued expenses	1,359,788	1,646,357
Total	5,819,098	5,594,821

NOTE 12 COMPONENTS INCLUDED IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2017	2016
Cash funds	60,175	51,718
Bank balances	50,704,619	52,877,035
Total	50,764,794	52,928,753

NOTE 13 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Civil Rights Defenders has recruited a new executive director who will take office on 14 May 2018. In other respects, operations have continued as before.

Stockholm, 21 March 2018

			
Benedicte Berner Chair	Anna Jonsson Cornell Board Member	Elisabeth Tamm Board Member	Carin Norberg Board Member
			
Christoffer Lindblad Board Member	Fredrik Andersson Board Member	Lars Häggström Board Member	John Stauffer Executive Director

Our audit report was submitted on 27 April 2018

Grant Thornton Sweden AB

Lena Johnson

Authorised Public Accountant

AUDIT REPORT

TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS, ORGANISATION ID NO. 802011-1442

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

OPINION

We have audited the annual accounts for Civil Rights Defenders for the year 2017. The association's annual accounts are included on pages 26–38 of this document.

In our opinion, the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association at 31 December 2017 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended. The statutory administration report is consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts.

We therefore recommend that the annual general meeting adopt the income statement and the balance sheet.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities under these standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the association in accordance with ethical requirements for professional accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The board of directors and the executive director are responsible for other information. The other information consists of the annual report for 2017 (but does not include the annual accounts and our audit report concerning these).

Our opinion on the annual accounts does not extend to this information and we do not express any form of confirmation regarding this other information.

In connection with our audit of the annual accounts, it is our responsibility to read the information identified above and consider whether the information is materially inconsistent with the annual accounts. During this procedure, we also take into account our knowledge otherwise obtained during the audit and assess whether the information appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work performed concerning this information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The board of directors and the executive director are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual accounts in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act. The board of directors and the executive director are also responsible for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors and the executive director are responsible for the assessment of the association's ability to continue as a going concern. They disclose, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and use of the going concern basis of accounting. The going concern basis of accounting is, however, not applied if the board of directors and the executive director intend to liquidate the association, cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audit report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of the association's internal control relevant to our audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors and the executive director.

- draw a conclusion on the appropriateness of the board of directors' and the executive director's use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts. We also draw a conclusion, based on the audit evidence obtained, as to whether any material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our audit report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion about the annual accounts. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause an association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We must inform the board of directors of, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit. We must also inform them of significant findings during our audit, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we have identified.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

OPINION

In addition to our audit of the annual accounts, we have also examined the board of directors' and the executive director's administration of Civil Rights Defenders for the year 2017.

We recommend that the annual general meeting discharge the members of the board and the executive director from liability for the financial year.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. Our responsibilities in this regard are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section. We are independent of the association in accordance with ethical requirements for professional accountants in Sweden and have otherwise fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The board of directors and the executive director are responsible for administration in accordance with the statutes.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our objective for the audit of the administration, and therefore our opinion regarding discharge from liability, is to obtain audit evidence to assess with a reasonable degree of assurance whether any member of the board of directors or the executive director in any material respect has undertaken any action or been guilty of any omission which could give rise to liability to the association.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden will always detect an action or omission which could give rise to liability to the association.

As part of an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. The examination of the administration is based primarily on the audit of the accounts. Additional audit procedures performed are based on our professional judgement, with a starting point in risk and materiality. This means that we focus the examination on such actions, areas and relationships that are material for operations and where deviations and violations would be of particular importance for the association's situation. We examine and test decisions made, support for decisions, actions taken, and other circumstances that are relevant to our opinion concerning discharge from liability.

Stockholm, 27 April 2018

Grant Thornton Sweden AB

Lena Johnson
Authorised Public Accountant

DIRECTORS AND FIELD PROGRAMME OFFICERS AT THE END OF 2017

HEAD OFFICE STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)

John Stauffer, *Executive Director /Legal Director*

Päivi Hemming, *Chief Operating Officer*

DEPARTMENTS, HEAD OFFICE

ASIA DEPARTMENT

Martin Gemzell, *Programme Director*

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Yvonne Borg Nordlind, *Director of Communications*

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA DEPARTMENT

Mesfin Negash, *Programme Director*

EURASIA DEPARTMENT

Joanna Kurosz, *Programme Director*

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Karin Fritz, *Chief Financial Officer*

FUNDRAISING DEPARTMENT

Anna Magnard, *Development Director*

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK DEPARTMENT

Peter Öholm, *Programme Director*

LATIN AMERICA DEPARTMENT

Erik Jennische, *Programme Director*

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

John Stauffer, *Executive Director /Legal Director*

FIELD OFFICES

ASIA

Martin Gemzell, *Programme Director*

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Goran Miletic, *Programme Director for the Europe Department*

BOGOTÁ (COLOMBIA)

María Pía Alvira, *Programme Officer*

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Sarah Maliqi, *Programme Officer*

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Ena Bavic, *Programme Officer*

TIRANA (ALBANIA)

Vasilika Laci, *Programme Officer*

BOARD



Benedicte Berner,
*Media Analyst (Chairperson
of the Board)*

Benedicte is a lecturer in media and democracy at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. She has also lectured on freedom of expression at Harvard University and is an

associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard. She has previously worked at the International Red Cross and IOM (International Organization for Migration) in Moscow, and as director of international issues at the European Institute for the Media.



Christoffer Lindblad,
*Founder and Partner, Pelago AB
(Board Member)*

Christoffer is the founder of and a partner at Pelago, a prominent Nordic leadership services company. Christoffer was previously country manager (Sweden) and partner

at Alumni, a leading company in executive recruitment and leadership development. He has a broad network in the Nordic business community and solid experience in board and executive recruitment for large international corporations and organisations. Christoffer has a law degree from the University of Lund and has previously worked for the law firm Mannheimer Swartling.



Anna Jonsson Cornell,
Professor (Board Member)

Anna is a professor of comparative constitutional law and vice dean of the Faculty of Law at Uppsala University. She teaches constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, and security

law. Her specialist areas include state-building processes, rule of law, and rights protection, as well as international police cooperation and human trafficking.



Elisabeth Tamm,
*Director, Tax and Family Law,
Bank of Åland (Board Member)*

Elisabeth is the director of the Bank of Åland's Trust Department. She is chair of the board of the Alba Langenskiöld Foundation and the Astrid Lindgren Children's Hospital

Foundation. She also serves on a number of other boards, including the H&M Foundation and the Erling Persson Family Foundation. Elisabeth Tamm holds an LLB and an MBA from Uppsala University.



Carin Norberg,
*Chair, Center for Economic and
Social Rights (Board Member)*

Carin holds a master's degree in political science from Uppsala University. She has extensive experience of working with Sida,

where she was employed from 1971 to 2002. She has also worked as an advisor to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia in New York and was the director of the Nordic Africa Institute during the period 2006–2012. Carin has also been an active member of several boards, including the Swedish Institute Alexandria and TI Sweden.



Fredrik Andersson,
Entrepreneur (Board Member)

Fredrik has extensive experience in strategic communications consultancy and entrepreneurship, both in Sweden and internationally. He also has a long track record in social issues, politics, and rights. Fredrik

is a partner and a member of the board of Miltoon Group, one of the leading communications companies in the Nordic countries with 250 employees in Helsinki, Tallinn, Stockholm, Brussels, and Washington D.C. He is also a partner in the Museum of Photography and a member of the Board of the MEDEA Award for dramatic arts in Sweden. In 1998, he founded the Public Affairs Section at the PR agency Prime, where he worked for 14 years.



Lars Häggström,
*Executive in Residence, IMD
Business School (Board Member)*

Lars works at IMD Business School in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he is a lecturer and researcher in leadership and change. He is also the founder and CEO of

the company Enable Performance AB, which works with development of organisations and individuals. Lars previously worked as HR director of Stora Enso, a company active in the field of renewable materials, and before that as HR director of Nordea. He has also worked in the pharmaceutical industry in the UK and the US. Lars has an education in behavioural science and economics from Uppsala University.

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Thanks also to the many private donors who support Civil Rights Defenders.



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