

# 2014 ANUAL REPORT

CENTRE FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS









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I am pleased to sign the introduction of the 2014 Annual Report of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights. As a Member of the UN Human Rights Committee since 1987, and twice elected as Chair, I have witnessed the increasing role of the Centre in supporting the work of many NGO all around the world. Back in the early nineties, NGOs had a limited access to the Committee and NGO reports were available only for a small number of countries. Since

its establishment in 2008, the Centre considerably changed the Committee's relationship with the civil society, enabling us to receive more focused NGO reports as well as creating a space for genuine dialogue with human rights

defenders. The webcasting of the sessions of the Committee is another great achievement of the Centre as it allows national stakeholders to closely follow our work.

The recent evaluation undertaken by the Centre showed that its role is greatly appreciated, both by the Members of the Committee and the human rights defenders. This role has to be reinforced to ensure that NGOs are actively

participating in the review of States reports by the Committee. This ultimately contributes to improving the application of the Covenant at the national level.

In the future, I hope that the Centre will reinforce its role regarding our work on the general comments as well as on individual complaints under the First Optional Protocol. This is crucial to ensure that the Committee's jurisprudence is more accessible to

practitioners. I also hope that the Centre will be more involved in the follow-up to the individual complaints to ensure that a full remedy is provided to the victims of violations of the ICCPR.



Christine Chanet
Former Chair of the Human
Rights Committee



consultations that led to NGO coalitions that would bring the voices of the victims of human rights violations to the Committee.

In addition, we carried out a record number of follow-up missions since the Centre's establishment. We organized these missions with Members of the Committee in nine countries, namely Angola, Bolivia, Dominican Pepublic

of the Committee in nine countries, namely, Angola, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique and Nepal. In most of these \_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ countries, the states representatives were grateful to the

Centre for organizing in-country visits with Members of the Committee, enabling them to continue the dialogue initiated in Geneva. These follow-up missions had a positive impact on the State cooperation with the Committee, as most of the States visited

submitted their follow-up reports. Moreover, these visits allowed us to assess the implementation of

the recommendations issued by the Committee. The findings showed that in several instances progress has been made, demonstrating the impact of the State reports' review coupled with our field activities. Thanks to our two regional offices, in Indonesia (for the Asian region) and in Togo (for the West and Central Africa region), we have been able to carry out on-going follow-up activities with human rights defenders. It is our objective to establish new regional offices in East Africa, the MENA region and South America. This objective is in line with the recommendations issued at the end of our first external evaluation released in early 2015. This evaluation indicated that both our partners from the civil society and the Members of the Human Rights Committee commended our work, which is considered essential for ensuring the full implementation of the ICCPR at the national level.



Rafael Rivas Posada -President





# **SPECIAL FOCUS:**

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S GRADING SYSTEM

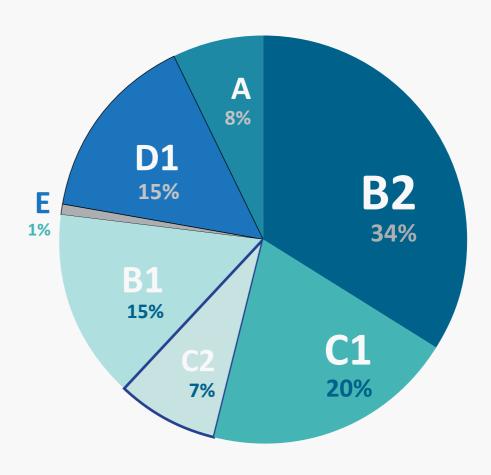
The innovative grading system adopted by the HR Committee in 2012 provides a valuable overview of how states perform in implementing the recommendations adopted in the context of the State review. The CCPR Centre works to disseminate the grading system and encourage relevant actors, particularly state authorities, NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions to make the most of it. In 2014, we submitted 6 follow-up reports to the HR Committee on Angola, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru, Mauritania and Uruguay with suggested grades on the level of implementation of the Committee's priority recommendations.

The overview of the grades adopted by the Committee since the inception of the system in 2012 provides a unique perspective on the level of implementation of the HR Committee's priority recommendations. Out of the 41 states which were assessed by the Committee, 11 received the highest grade, A, which corresponds to the full implementation of the recommendation. Countries such as Angola, Chile, Kosovo, and Mongolia featured in the group. The recommendations they implemented ranged from free birth registration (Angola) to reform of the criminal justice system (Mongolia).

Reply/ action satisfactory	A	Reply Largely satisfactory	
Reply/ action partially satisfactory	B1	Substantive action taken, but additional information required	
	B2	Initial action taken, but additional information and measures required	
Reply/ action not satisfactory	C1	Reply received but actions taken do not implement the recommendation	
	C2	Reply received but not relevant to the recommendation	
No cooperation with the Committee		No reply received within the deadline, or no reply to any specific question in the report	
	D2	No reply received after reminder(s)	
The measures taken are contrary to the recommendations of the Committee	E	The reply indicates that the reassures taken go against the recommendations of the Committee	

#### **GRADES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**Between 2012 and 2014** 



The majority of grades adopted by the Committee over the first three years indicate that states have taken at least some steps towards complying with the recommendations, but that additional action is required. Combined together, grades A, B1 and B2 represent 57% of all grades adopted by the Committee. This constitutes a very encouraging sign compared to the 27% of recommendations graded C1 and C2, which indicate that the States did not take action to implement the recommendations. A small number of states

(15 %) did not cooperate with the Committee and never submitted their follow-up reports, being rated with the grade C1. Finally, a minority of States (1%) adopted measures going against the Committee's recommendations, receiving the worst grade (Grade E). It is noteworthy that in 2014, Turkey received the lowest grade, E, for taking measures opposed to the Committee recommendation to provide for a civilian alternative to compulsory military service. So far, Turkey is among the three countries which have taken measures which go against the Committee recommendation, along with Colombia and Kuwait.

As part of our new Strategic Framework (see below section "New tactics for the global enforcement of civil and political rights"), we will continue to work to strengthen the Committee's grading system and provide regular NGO follow-up reports to the Committee.

• • • • • • • • February

**Bolivia:** Follow-up visit with HR Committee Member V. Rodriguez Rescia **Angola:** Follow-up visit with OSISA-Angola

ENSURING AN EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE WORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

## Phase 1:

# NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND EFFECTIVE PREPARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

#### **Ensuring effective NGO contributions to the Committee's work**

The CCPR Centre organised various national consultations with its partners to prepare high quality NGO submissions to the HR Committee, under each phase of the review process.

National consultations are designed specifically to ensure that human rights defenders are in a position to provide input to the HR Committee. They include sessions on the provisions of the ICCPR and the work of the HR Committee as well as strategic advice on effective lobbying for the review.

#### Facilitating NGO coalitions for Committee's review

National consultations facilitate the establishment of large NGO coalitions ready to contribute to coordinated NGO reports specifically tailored for the HR Committee. The CCPR Centre works closely with national partners to ensure NGO coalitions are involved at all stages of the reporting process, including the follow-up phases.

In 2014, we organised eight workshops in Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Malawi, Nepal and Uzbekistan, which gathered more than 190 NGOs. We also contributed to building NGO coalitions, which were able to thoroughly document violations of civil and political rights.

I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THESE UN STRUCTURES AND I NEED SIMPLE INFORMATION. FOR ME THE CENTRE RESOURCES ARE VERY USEFUL

NGO representative from Asia



The review of Chad's second periodic report by the HR Committee took place in March 2014.

To prepare for this occasion, the CCPR Centre organised a workshop in N'Djamena in January 2014, in collaboration with the Association

Tchadienne pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme. The issues analysed and discussed in depth included the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, the prevention and prosecution of acts of torture and the independence of the judiciary.

An NGO coalition formed with the support of CCPR Centre prepared a report and worked on an advocacy strategy to raise the most important

issues during the review. Two civil society representatives were invited

Chad

to take part in the Committee session in Geneva. The advocacy strategy proved successful, with most of the issues raised by civil society taken into account by the Committee during the review. In its Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended, amongst other issues, that Chad should take priority measures to ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, prevent and prosecute acts of torture and inhumane treatment.

# Cambodia

CCPR Centre's Asia Pacific Coordinator
Daisuke Shirane, during the
consultation with CSOs in Cambodia



The review of Cambodia's second State Report took place during the 113th session of the Committee in March 2015. To prepare for this session, the CCPR Centre organised a two day workshop in Phnom Penh in Cambodia to support the participation of local civil society organisations (CSO) in the review process. This workshop was organised together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR's) Cambodian office and the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) - a coalition of 21 NGOs.

More than 30 participants from different CSOs participated in the workshop. The issues analysed and discussed in depth by the participants included torture, gender discrimination, arbitrary detention, human trafficking and the independence of the iudiciary.

Following this workshop, the CCPR Centre and CHRAC worked on a combined report to the Committee. Two Cambodian human rights defenders were invited to attend the Committee's session in March 2015.

**DR Congo:** Support of HR Defenders to participate in the UPR to lobby for a full ICCPR implementation **110th session of the HR Committee:** Visit of HR Defenders from Nepal and Chad to brief the Committee

# Cote d'Ivoire

With more than 20 years of delay, Cote d'Ivoire finally submitted its initial report to the HR Committee, which was reviewed in March 2015. To prepare for this review, the CCPR Centre, jointly with the Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Pénale Internationale

(CI-CPI), organised a two-day national consultation on the implementation of the ICCPR in issues which attracted the Cote d'Ivoire. The consultation took place on 29 and 30 October, in Abidjan, and was attended by prominent civil society organisations. The 2010 post-election

violence and impunity for torture featured among the most attention. The CI-CPI coordinated a coalition report with the Centre's support, which was submitted to the Committee before the State review in March 2015.

# Uzbekistan

The CCPR Centre, in partnership with the Open Society Foundations, organized a two day conference with human rights defenders, experts and journalists specializing in the fight against corruption in the Eurasian region. The conference took place on 26 and 27 November 2014 in Bern, Switzerland. The objective of the conference was to discuss the issue of corruption and its impact on human rights. In particular, the better address this issue during the review of Uzbekistan by the Committee, which is scheduled to take place in July 2015. The conference also served as a platform to

exchange knowledge and best practices on the role of civil society and journalists in the fight against corruption and coordinate it with human rights work.

Prior to the conference, a consultation for human rights defenders from Uzbekistan was organised in Geneva to discuss the main challenges on the implementation of the ICCPR and prepare for the upcoming HR Committee session. We will continue to support civil society to engage effectively in the review of Uzbekistan by the Committee in 2015. Particular attention will be given to addressing corruption issues from a human rights perspective.

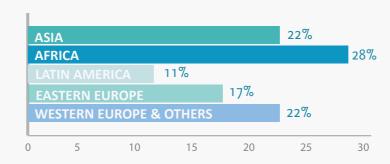
# conference aimed at discussing strategies to

THE ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. THAT IS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CENTRE. Member of the Committee

#### Phase 2:

## **SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY DURING COMMITTEE SESSIONS**

#### Countries reviewed by the Committee in 2014



#### Connecting and supporting NGO participation

The CCPR Centre e-alerts and newsletters continue to provide civil society and other relevant actors with a distinctive source of information on the Committee. The session overviews produced by the CCPR Centre offer valuable highlights of the State reporting process and relevant developments in the Committee's work. In 2014, we undertook the webcasting of 18 State reviews, for a total of 108 hours. The webcasts can be watched live and are accessible in our archives. They are immensely valuable as a means of disseminating the work of the HR Committee to national NGOs and



they are highly appreciated by those who are not able to travel to Geneva.

#### Facilitating NGO advocacy during Committee Sessions

During each Committee session, the CCPR Centre coordinates formal and informal briefings between the HR Committee members and national NGOs for all countries under review. The Centre plays an important role in preparing the NGOs for these briefings and coordinating their participation to ensure an optimal use of the available time. This process contributes to streamlined NGO statements, avoiding overlap and repetition. In 2014, the CCPR Centre worked with more than 120 NGOs in relation to the 18 States reviewed. We also sponsored the participation of 16 NGO representatives in Committee sessions. Our support provides a unique and very useful platform for NGOs to raise their concerns with HR Committee members.



Burundi was reviewed consecutively by the Committee in

October, and the Committee against Torture in November. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence also visited Burundi during the second half of 2014.

In this context, our work was focused on trying to facilitate synergies and mutual reinforcement between these mechanisms. We cooperated with our international partners FIACAT and TRIAL, and our many national partners including ACAT Burundi, the Forum des organisations de la société civile (FORSC) and the Forum pour la Conscience et le Développement (FOCODE). We supported FOCODE to submit NGO reports to both the Committee and the Committee against Torture. We were delighted to sponsor the most involved Burundian human rights defenders to travel to Geneva to attend the reviews of both treaty bodies in Geneva. They both benefited from an excellent press and media coverage in Geneva and in Burundi.

The second report of Haiti was reviewed at the 112th session of the HR Committee in October 2014. The CCPR Centre organised a national consultation in Port au Prince in collaboration with the Plateforme Haïtienne Organisations Haïtiennes de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (POHDH), on 17 and 18 July 2014. It was attended by 19 civil society organisations. This event benefited from good media coverage, as did the subsequent review by the Committee in Geneva. The CCPR Centre, jointly with the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), were able to invite six civil society representatives to participate in the Committee session in Geneva. One of the most prominent issues that was discussed during the review was the fight against impunity, in particular the serious violations committed during the Duvalier regime. In its recommendations the Committee echoed the concerns raised by the national NGOs regarding the death of Mr Duvalier and the possible impact his death could have on the investigation process. The Haitian Government was urged to prosecute the alleged authors of such violations and to provide adequate reparation to the victims. The CCPR Centre will organise a follow-upvisit to Haiti in 2015

with a member of the Committee.



André Afanou, seen here second on the right at the bottom, is the Centre's Coordinator for West Africa, based in Togo. Here in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



I was impressed that Human Rights Committee members grasped the essence of civil and political rights priorities in our country. They had read our report and during the review they focused on most cumbersome issues

Christine Kankindi Association des Femmes Juristes du Burundi

## Malawi

Malawi was reviewed for the first time by the Committee in 2014. To prepare for the review, the CCPR Centre together with its national partner, the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), organised a consultation on the implementation of the ICCPR in Malawi. This event took place in April 2014 in Lilongwe, with representatives of civil society, the Malawian Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi.

We also sponsored two human rights defenders to engage directly with the Committee during the review of Malawi in Geneva, in July 2014. During the review, the Committee regretted that Malawi had no immediate plans to abolish the death penalty despite the de facto moratorium. However, positive steps were taken during a follow-up mission organised by CCPR Centre with the support of the Human Rights Advisor of OHCHR

#### WORLD

# Malawi Suspends Antigay Law, Citing Financial

With a potential 14-year prison and hard-labor sentence hanging over their heads, gay Malawians are getting a reprieve from fear of arrest, as a government official says the state can't afford to jail LGBT people.

BY THOM SENZEE JULY 16 2014 6:50 PM ET



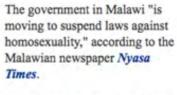












Police have been ordered not to arrest people for engaging in same-sex sexual activity, which is punishable in the southeast African nation by up to 14 years in prison with hard labor.

Malawi has told the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva that police in the nation are no longer arresting people for



Malawi Secretary for Justice and Solicitor General Janet Chikaya-Banda

homosexuality - and that the there is "political will" to review the country's harsh antigay law, according to Towleroad.

After a government minister announced in 2012 that Malawi would consider decriminalizing homosexuality, the U.N. Human Rights Committee asked Malawi to report on its progress in reversing the draconian antigay laws.

As a consequence of the review by the Human Rights Committee, the Malawi police were asked to stop arresting people for same-sex relations.

**DR Congo:** CCPR Centre and its partners gather nearly 200 representatives to elaborate an implementation plan for consolidated UPR recommendations



To prepare for the review of Nepal's second State report, the CCPR Centre organised a workshop in January 2014 in Kathmandu with its country partner, the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC). As a result, a joint report of 68 national NGOs was submitted to the Committee prior to its review of Nepal. In March 2014, two civil society representatives were invited to Geneva to participate at the review of Nepal during the 110th session of the HR Committee. During the review, the Committee raised most of the issues presented by the CSOs in the joint report. This enabled the Committee to adopt priority recommendations relating to impunity for gross human rights violations during the civil war, the lack of independence of the National Human Rights Commission, the measures to fight extrajudicial killings, torture and ill treatment.

Following the review, the Centre undertook a follow-up mission in November 2014 with Margo Waterwal, Vice-Chair of the HR Committee. The aim of this mission, organised in consultation with UNDP Nepal, was to disseminate the Committee's recommendations and to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders. While the State took some limited steps to ensure a greater independence of the NHRI, substantive actions must now be taken to comply with all recommendations, in particular to ensure that all the authors of serious human rights violations that took place during the civil war are brought to justice. An NGO follow-up report will be submitted to the HR Committee in 2015.



# Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone was reviewed for the first time by the HR Committee in March 2014; a long awaited review given the State report was due in 1997. In preparation for this major milestone, the CCPR Centre and its local partners, the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) and Prison Watch Sierra Leone (PWSL) coordinated a civil society report, which was submitted to the HR Committee in February 2014. In addition, representatives of CARL and PWSL attended the session in March 2014 with the support of the CCPR Centre. The issues highlighted by civil society representatives include the need to abolish the death penalty in domestic legislation; the situation of overcrowding in prisons, in particular in Pademba Road Prison in Freetown, and the systematic practice of torture by police officers. Other issues of concern referred to ensuring that reproductive health services are widely accessible and the abortion law allows abortions in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest. All these issues were subsequently pinned down by the Committee as requiring immediate attention by Sierra Leone.

BEFORE THE CENTRE EXISTED THE PARTICIPATION OF NGOS WAS VERY DISORGANISED. SO IN THAT SENSE THE IMPACT HAS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT Member of the Commitee



June

#### Phase 3:

## **Contribute to the implementation** of the Committee recommendations through follow-up activities

#### Assessing the implementation of **Committee recommendations**

Follow-up reports assess the measures that State parties have taken to implement the Concluding **Observations** selected as priority recommendations for the followup procedure. Monitoring the implementation of the Committee's Concluding Observations is an essential part of the reporting cycle. The submission of follow-up reports to the Committee provides national NGOs with a structure for their assessment of progress. These reports are based on the Committee's followup procedure (CCPR/C/108/2).

#### **Engaging with national authorities**

The Centre's follow-up work goes beyond reporting on the situation in the State as we seek to engage constructively with the national authorities on the implementation of Committee recommendations.

elections in Hong Kong BY STEPHANIE NEBEHAY GENEVA Thu Oct 23, 2014 2:09pm EDT 4 Share this 8+1 7 ME Email Print

The assessment of Hong-Kong's implementation of the

substantial attention as it occurred during the "umbrella

Committee's priority recommendations on elections attracted

U.N. rights watchdog calls for open

To do so, we undertake **in-country follow-up missions with members of the Committee**. These missions include workshops with national NGOs in order to raise awareness on the Concluding Observations, as well as advocacy meetings with relevant high-level national authorities. Raising media attention is also a key element of our follow-up strategy.

revolution" of October 2014

In 2014, the CCPR Centre together with its national partners conducted 9 follow-up missions to Angola, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique and Nepal.

Our February 2014 follow-up visit to Angola was organized in

**Angola** collaboration with our national partner

Fundação Open Society Angola (OSISA). The objective was to ensure that the Concluding Observations adopted in March 2013 would be widely known by the relevant stakeholders, as well as to engage in a dialogue with the national authorities on their implementation. The delegation noted that the Government of Angola was taking the Committee recommendations seriously. We were delighted to see that the recommendation regarding free birth registrations had been implemented. On



Angola was praised for implementing the Committee's recommendation to ensure the free and systematic birth registration of children

that particular issue, many observers, including UNDP and NGOs, underlined that the progress made was mainly due to the adoption of the HR Committee's recommendation. Similar impact can be highlighted about the adoption of Presidential Decree No. 124/13 and the Rules of Procedure of the Law Against Domestic Violence that were approved after the review of the Angolan report.

Following the mission, Angola submitted its follow-up report, which was assessed by the Committee in October 2014. The Committee recognised some progress, but it remained concerned about the lack of advancement on the independence of the Ombudsman and the lack of effective measures taken to prevent gender-based violence.

A member of the Committee, Victor Rodriguez Rescia, visited Bolivia in a follow-up mission organised by CCPR Centre and its partner NGO, Comunidad de Derechos Humanos (CDH) in February 2014. The Committee's priority concerns in Bolivia

related to the impunity for past human rights violations, military jurisdictions, torture and racial violence. During the visit, Victor Rodriguez Rescia met with the President of the Constitutional Court to discuss, inter alia, the concerns of the Committee regarding the restrictive legislation on abortion. We were pleased to be informed that a few days after the meeting, the Constitutional Court decided that the law requiring prior court authorisation for therapeutic abortions was declared unconstitutional. A coalition of NGOs coordinated by CDH with the support of CCPR Centre will submit a follow-up report to the HR Committee in 2015.

"THAT IS WHAT THE CENTRE WAS REALLY USEFUL FOR. TO SIT DOWN, DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL. NON-POLITICIZED MANNER TO LOOK INTO HOW TO REACH IMPROVEMENTS."





The implementation of the Committee's recommendation related to Dominican nationals of Haitian origin is particularly problematic.

# **Dominican Republic**

Dominican Republic is one of the few countries which refuse to facilitate follow-up visits with a member of the Committee. In addition, the government has so far failed to provide the follow-up information requested by the Committee since March 2013. Despite the State's lack of cooperation with the Committee, CCPR Centre and its partner NGOs, Comunidad Esperanza y Justicia Internacional (FUNCEJI) and the Caribbean Institute for Rule of Law, organised a two day follow-up event in September 2014.

The participants, with the support of CCPR Centre, drafted and submitted a report to the Committee focusing mainly on the legal, social and economic situation of the Dominican nationals of Haitian origin. The report also addresses the measures taken by the State to address cases of violence against women.

#### Guatemala

Rafael Rivas Posada, former President of the Human Rights Committee and Chairman of the CCPR Centre visited Guatemala in November 2014 to follow-up on the recommendations made by the Committee in 2012. The visit was organised by the CCPR Centre together with its national partner, Centre for Comparative Studies in Criminal Sciences in Guatemala (ICCPG).

Major topics discussed during the visit included the measures adopted under the National Reparations Programme; the mechanisms for justice, truth and reparation for victims of enforced disappearances committed during the armed conflict; attacks against human rights defenders, and sexual violence, including rapes of girls and adolescents.

Our visit evidenced some government efforts to meet its obligations under the ICCPR, in particular by harmonising its legislation with international standards. However, concerns were raised with regards to the integrity of the Presidential Commission for Coordinating the Executive Policy on Human Rights (COPREDEH).

The fight against lynching featured among the recommendations of the Committee discussed during our follow-up visit to Guatemala





# Kenya

Kenya was reviewed by the HR Committee in 2012, when three issues were selected for the Committee's follow-up procedure: participation of women in the public and private sectors, the lack of investigation of the 2007/08 post-election violence as well as the lack of investigation of cases of torture and conditions of detention.

In this context, the CCPR Centre carried out a follow-up mission in Kenya in May 2014, with Cees Flinterman, the HR Committee member, and with its national partner the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU). During the mission, meetings were organized with representatives of the State, the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the civil society, including journalists and students, in order to discuss dissemination and implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Some progresses were made in the area of participation of women through the inclusion of relevant provisions in the 2010 Constitution and the National Gender and Equality Commission, although they need to be further consolidated. No substantive progress was made with regard to the other two issues, although the planned adoption of the

Prevention of Torture Bill by the Parliament could be a step forward. An NGO follow-up report will be submitted to the Committee in 2015, although the State follow-up report is overdue since July 2013.



Our partners from Kenya Ann Kamau from Independent Medico Legal Unit and Anita Nyanjong from International Commission of Jurists-Kenya

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#### Social

Evaluation des recommandations des commissions des traités et des mécanismes spéciaux du Conseil des droits de l'Homme.



Nouakchott, 27/08/2014 - Mme Aïchetou Mint M'Hayham, Commissaire aux droits de l'Homme et à l'Action Humanitaire a supervisé ce mercredi, à Nouakchott l'ouverture d'un atelier organisé conjointement par le Commissariat, le Centre des droits civiques et politiques et le bureau du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les droits de l'Homme à Nouakchott.

# **Mauritania**

Mauritania was reviewed by the HR Committee in October 2013. The many contributions of civil society to the review, including those which we supported, facilitated the work of the Committee and contributed to the issuance of detailed and specific recommendations. In its concluding observations, the Committee asked Mauritania to dedicate priority attention to four recommendations which related to:

- Disseminating the texts of international human rights treaties nationally.
- Criminalizing torture, investigating allegations, prosecuting and sentencing perpetrators, and putting in place the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).
- Implementing legislation against slavery, prosecuting and sentencing those responsible and adopting a UN-backed road map against slavery.
- Improving conditions of detention and reducing prison overcrowding.

  Mauritania was given 12 months to focus on implementing these four recommendations. In August 2014, we returned to Mauritania with the Committee member Lezhari Bouzid. Our visit showed that some efforts had been made to adopt the road map against slavery and establishing the NPM against torture. However we did not see a similar level of implementation for the other priority recommendations.

We were pleased that national authorities decided to submit information in a timely manner to the Committee on their efforts to comply with the recommendations. We also supported national NGOs in their involvement in the follow-up process, including the proposal of their own grades on the level of implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

September

**Dominican Republic:** National Consultation with the civil society on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and lack of cooperation of the State



Arbitrary arrest and legal safeguards for persons in detention, alternatives to detention and deaths in custody as well as judicial reform are the main areas of concern to the Committee, requiring priority mentioned priority issues of the Committee. attention from Mozambique authorities. As in Mauritania, we returned to Mozambique in order to remind relevant actors of the requirements of the HR Committee following the October 2013 review. Our mission benefited from the participation of the

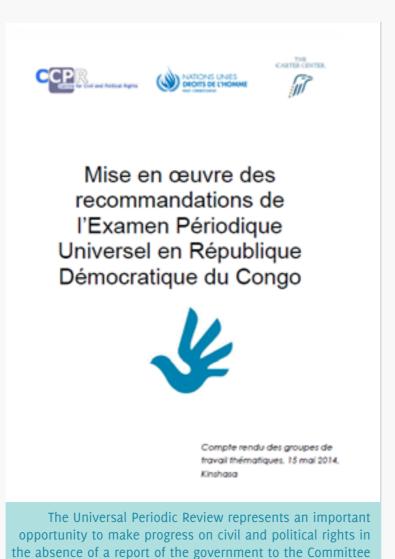
#### Mozambique

former Chair of the HR Committee Ms Zonke Majodina. Although much more remains to be done, some steps were taken with regards to the above Following the visit to Mozambique, we supported the submission of an NGO coalition report on the enactment of Committee recommendations. We are also hopeful that the government will submit its overdue follow-up report in the near future.

# **Democratic** Republic Of Congo

The 2014 UPR review of DRC provided a good opportunity to identify areas requiring progress on civil and political rights, in the continuing absence of DRC's fourth periodic report to the Committee, which is overdue since 2009. The Centre supported national NGOs to lobby the state in preparation for the review in February, and we subsequently returned to Kinshasa in May to organise a large consultation with representatives from NGOs, government, parliament, the judiciary, lawyers, UN agencies, and diplomats. We clustered UPR recommendations thematically and identified a detailed set of implementing measures, including timeframe and indicators. Throughout the year, a number of implementing measures were developed, including advocacy for the adoption of a draft law on human rights defenders, or the establishment of "mixed courts" which involve both national, and foreign judges to address international criminal crimes. The road map for implementation of the UPR in the DRC was widely disseminated nationwide, and is available on our website.

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# REINFORCING THE COMPLAINT'S MECHANISM

#### Disseminating the latest decisions of the HR Committee

In 2014, the CCPR Centre continued to provide overviews on the decisions of the HR Committee adopted under the OP1. These summaries are available on our online database at http://www. ccprcentre.org/individual-communications/decisions-search/.

The database can be searched through various relevant criteria. These case summaries, together with jurisprudential analysis, are regularly disseminated in our 'Case Law Digests' sent out after each Committee session, three times a year. These tools are a unique source of information for researchers, students, and human rights lawyers.

#### Assessing the implementation of decisions on individuals complaints

In 2014, we continued to produce summary overviews on the implementation of Committee decisions on individual complaints. They provide a clear and concise overview of Committee assessments with regards to the implementation of their decisions on complaints, including regarding the remedies provided to the victims.

112th session of the Committee: HR defenders from Burundi and Haiti brief Committee members Cote d'Ivoire: National consultation with civil society organisations to prepare for upcoming review by the Committee

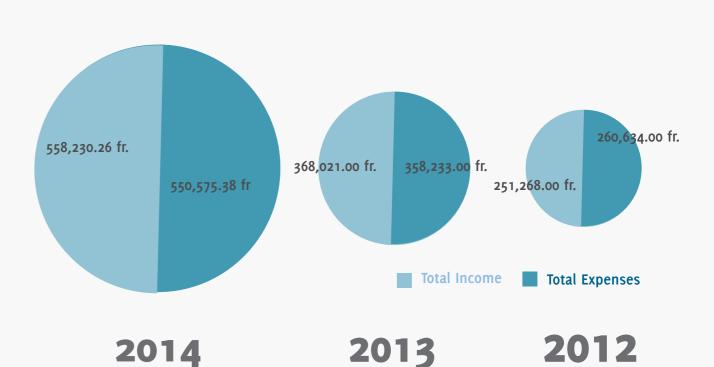
# TOWARD A UNIVERSAL PROHIBITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

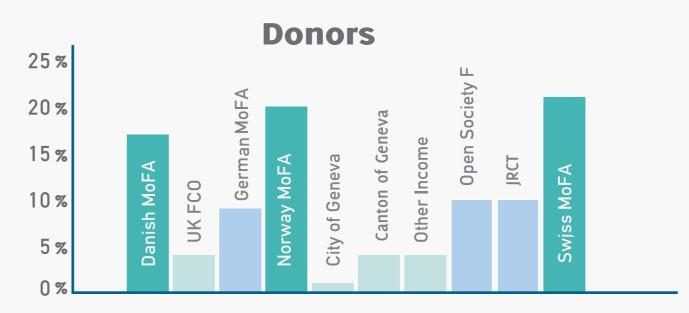


Upon invitation from the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, we joined their campaign on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (OP2) on the abolition of the death penalty. The Coalition has been leading a particularly effective campaign which resulted in new ratifications by Poland, Salvador and Gabon recently.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of OP2, we organised a reception with members of the HR Committee and the Geneva City Council on 10 October - the World Day against the Death Penalty. Additionally, the CCPR Centre and the World Coalition collaborated to organise an expert meeting on the project of the HR Committee General Comment on Art.6 (right to life), and to meet with the group of States who sponsor the Coalition campaign for OP2.

# 2014 ACCOUNTS (in CHF) Profit - Loss Summary





• • November

Nepal: Follow-up visit the HR Committee member M. Waterval

Guatemala: Follow-up visit with the former HR Committee member and President of the Centre, R. Rivas Posada

Mozambique: Follow-up visit with Committee member Z. Majodina

Centre launches first external evaluation of its work

#### Staff

Patrick Mutzenberg	Director	2009
Andrea Meraz-Sepulveda	Human Rights Officer	2013
André Kangni Afanou	Central ਟੀ West Africa Coordinator	2013
Daisuke Shirane	Asia-Pacific Coordinator	2013
Haewen Fortunato	Webmaster	2012
Vincent Ploton	Head of External Relations	2014

#### **Board**

Asger Kjaerum	2011	Lucia Nader	2008
Chantal Mutamuriza	2008	Marina Narvaez	2008
Diallo Abdoul Gadiry	2008	Philippe Tremblay	2009
Florian Irminger (Treasurer)	2010	Rafael Rivas Posada (President)	2012
Hassan Shire (Vice President)	2008	Rafendi Djamin	2008
Jakob Th. Moller 20	2011	Sarah Joseph	2008
	2011	Victoria Kuhn	2008

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## Interns and pro bono

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights would like to thank the following interns, consultants and researchers who worked with us in 2014:

Brian Frenkel	Helena Rodriguez-Bronchu	Nur Arab
Cecilia Ercole	Isobel Edwards	Regina Paulose
Christel Daidie	Jérémy Bacharach	Roopa Mathews
Claudia Squillacioti	Justine Batura	Sandesh Shrestha
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