

# *Bridges/2010*

Annual Report of International Bridges to Justice



I support International Bridges to Justice. I believe very fervently that the accused have rights, and we must do everything we can to stop torture being used as an investigative tool. These people, the accused, are not guilty until they are proven so. They are innocent until they are proven to be guilty, and so I would commend every right thinking person to support International Bridges to Justice.

Desmond Tutu

*International Bridges to Justice is dedicated to ensuring the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals throughout the world. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee everyone the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment and the right to a fair trial.*

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# Celebrating Ten Extraordinary Years

It was with gratitude for the abundance of your faith and support that in 2010 we celebrated the tenth anniversary of International Bridges to Justice.

What began in China, where we have now established regional defender resource centers, distributed nearly a million rights-awareness posters with the Ministry of Justice's logo, and trained thousands of lawyers and police, was followed by another major first – a defense skills training for 200 lawyers in Vietnam. We then began a program in Cambodia, the country that inspired me to start IBJ after my encounter with a 12-year-old boy in pre-trial detention for stealing a bicycle.

Our next foray was into India, where we conducted the first national defense training in partnership with the government's legal aid authority, reaching legal aid lawyers in all 28 states. Soon thereafter, we expanded IBJ's programming into three of Africa's most challeng-

ing countries: Rwanda and Burundi, post-conflict states that are scarred by genocide, and Zimbabwe, which was at the peak of overwhelming political and economic instability when we entered.

In nearly all these ventures, we moved forward against the initial advice of many who were certain we would fail. We did so out of a firm belief that the needs are greatest in countries like these. We are grateful for your leap of faith with us, allowing us to work with defenders throughout the world to kindle the flame against darkness.

Cambodia perhaps best exemplifies how far we have come in such a short period of time. As the only NGO there focused exclusively on criminal legal aid work, IBJ now represents indigent defendants in 13 out of Cambodia's 24 provinces. In three provinces where IBJ has legal aid centers, Takeo, Prey Veng and Pursat, investigative torture today is almost 100 percent eliminated, no longer

being the rule but rather an exception.

We have implemented other pioneering initiatives, most notably our JusticeMakers program. Following the three online competitions we have conducted since 2008, we have provided funding for innovative criminal justice reform projects undertaken by 33 JusticeMakers Fellows from 25 countries and built a global platform utilized by over 6,000 lawyers and human rights defenders. We have piloted an exchange program called "Communities of Conscience", in which defense lawyers from developed countries provide training, mentoring, and support to defense lawyers from developing countries. I have been astonished by the very real and tangible progress that is possible when sparked by mentoring support and even small amounts of financial capital.

Capitalizing on the power of our networks, in 2010, we opened our first regional

hub, the Singapore Justice Training Centre. We also established the Legal Training Resource Center, offering defense attorneys web-based courses, and the Criminal Defense Wiki, the first Wiki dedicated exclusively to global criminal defense practice.

While IBJ's accomplishments have been many, none could have occurred without the incredible support of all of us defenders, donors, volunteers, staff, board members, and supporters working together to bring this message of hope to the world. Standing with us, having the courage to see the reality of the situation and the leadership to move beyond and see the possibility, you have had the prophetic imagination to create the IBJ that exists today.

Thank you for being an indispensable part of IBJ's first ten years. I know that in the next ten years, with the wholehearted commitment of all of us, we will bring the dream of legal protection for all to fruition.

*"We are grateful for your leap of faith with us, allowing us to work with defenders throughout the world to kindle the flame against darkness."*



IBJ CEO and Founder Karen Tse

# Ending Torture in the 21st Century

*Implementing a more humane vision of criminal justice is best accomplished with cooperation from the entire legal community.*

In countries throughout the world, systematic human rights abuses disguised as routine criminal processes are a daily reality. The indignities suffered by countless individuals accused of crimes amount to a colossal injustice hidden in plain sight.

Despite the strides many countries have made in recent years towards formal recognition of international criminal justice conventions, domestic laws purporting to safeguard defendants' rights are all but toothless, absent effective enforcement. IBJ believes that skilled defense attorneys, equipped with adequate training and support, are the key to unlocking the full potential of criminal justice reforms.

## Mission

International Bridges to Justice is dedicated to ensuring the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals around the world. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee every person the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

## Theory of Change

IBJ's mission is global in scope, marshaling a world-wide community of public

defenders and legal rights advocates to support the work of defense attorneys in developing countries. In each of its country programs, IBJ works at both the national level, influencing decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms, and on the local level, where IBJ fosters grassroots transformation through trainings, criminal justice roundtables, public awareness campaigns, and the provision of legal services to the indigent accused through Defender Resource Centers.

## Trainings

IBJ's most basic function is to increase defender capacity. There simply are not enough skilled defense attorneys available to provide adequate representation to everyone accused of a crime. Nor is there the necessary infrastructure to support their work. To address these shortfalls, IBJ provides training to new and experienced criminal defense attorneys, both increasing the number of lawyers taking criminal cases and improving each lawyer's ability to provide competent representation. IBJ also trains other actors within the justice system, such as police, prison officials, and judges, in best practices for safeguarding the rights of the accused.

## Criminal Justice Roundtables

Implementing a more humane vision of criminal justice is best accomplished with cooperation from the entire legal community. To promote mutual respect among the different stakeholders, IBJ regularly convenes roundtable meetings where defense lawyers, police, prison officials, prosecutors, and judges can engage with one another and identify common ground. Representatives from local government, community members, and legal academics are also invited. By providing a forum for these parties to communicate constructively, IBJ fosters institutional understanding of the role that defense attorneys play in the development of a functioning criminal justice system.

## Rights Awareness Campaigns

Knowledge is a powerful tool in the fight for human rights. By equipping ordinary individuals with awareness of their legal rights, IBJ greatly increases the likelihood that they will assert their rights if arrested. By publicizing the role that lawyers play in protecting the accused from illegal detention and torture, IBJ encourages individual defendants to demand represen-

tation and enhances societal understanding of the importance of defense attorneys, increasing public support for their work. IBJ employs a variety of media platforms to raise awareness, from posters to radio broadcasts.

## Defender Resource Centers and Legal Services

The Defender Resource Centers (DRCs) are IBJ's principal vehicle for achieving transformative change. Serving as the centers of IBJ's in-country activities, the DRCs enable IBJ to complement its legal defense trainings with mentoring and one-on-one case consultations, opportunities for networking and skill-sharing, and the provision of technical support for defense lawyers.

The DRCs also operate as community legal centers – the first place to go for those seeking help for themselves or accused family members. Through the DRCs, IBJ-trained lawyers take hundreds of cases annually, increasing access to justice for the indigent accused and strengthening the country's pro bono culture. Thus, they provide a model for the implementation of a properly functioning legal aid system.





Two Burundian children  
on International Day  
Against Torture

Photo courtesy of Nathalie Monadjar

# HELP IBJ END TORTURE

*We ask for your commitment to help in whatever way you can. We need assistance with every aspect of our programs. Financial support, knowledge, advice, connections, and referrals are indispensable. Your participation today starts another ripple of hope. Thank you for your invaluable support!*

[www.ibj.org/donate](http://www.ibj.org/donate)  
+41(0).22.731.24.41  
[internationalbridges@ibj.org](mailto:internationalbridges@ibj.org)

## Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

There is no faster way to add resources to IBJ's efforts than a financial contribution. IBJ offers a variety of ways for individual, corporate, and institutional donors to support our efforts. Whether you have an interest in supporting a particular country program, JusticeMakers, online legal education, or our operations, your donation or in-kind gift is invaluable.

## Join Our Team

With offices in Switzerland, Cambodia, China, India, Singapore, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe, IBJ is always looking for passionate, entrepreneurial people to join our team. Whether you're a private lawyer seeking a change of pace, a nonprofit manager with a passion for human rights, or a university student looking for an internship, we'd love to hear from you.

## Partner

IBJ is building a global network of institutions to tackle legal abuses at a local level. Whether you're a lawyer or human rights officer with expertise, an engineer with a technological solution, or a government official who can help IBJ navigate policy, we need your help!

# IBJ Selects 23 New Fellows from 19 Countries

*Innovations in criminal justice reform inspire hope in Africa, Asia, and South America*

IBJ's JusticeMakers program was launched in 2008 with a global competition that identified eleven "heroes of criminal justice," who each received \$5,000 in seed funding to implement their initiatives locally. This competition is run on the JusticeMakers website ([justicemakers.ibj.org](http://justicemakers.ibj.org)), which attracted over 28,000 visits in 2010. The competition and online JusticeMakers community have generated the development of a global defender network with the potential to have significant impact on the criminal justice systems of developing countries throughout the world.

In 2010, IBJ hosted two JusticeMakers Competitions: the Asia JusticeMakers Competition and a global competition that focused on Latin America and on accused persons with HIV/AIDS. In total, IBJ awarded 23 JusticeMakers Fellowships over three continents: Asia, Africa, and South America.

IBJ strengthened its JusticeMakers program through the creation of an online training curriculum focusing on program management, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, budgeting, and safety awareness. The modules were developed in English and later translated into Spanish. We expect to translate the cur-

riculum into French in 2011. These modules will provide the basis for future training of JusticeMakers Fellows as IBJ seeks to expand the JusticeMakers program around the globe.

## *2010 JusticeMakers Fellows*

With a generous grant from the Lien Centre for Social Innovation, IBJ launched its first regional competition, the 2010 Asia JusticeMakers Competition. The four-month long competition resulted in the selection of 12 Asia JusticeMakers Fellows, who were trained in August at IBJ's Singapore Justice Training Centre.

**Oanh Hoang Ngo (Vietnam)** has been improving access to counsel for indigent juveniles and strengthening the Vietnamese juvenile justice system by enhancing the professional capacity of lawyers through skills training courses on juvenile cases and by lecturing for the Hanoi Bar Association. She will provide lectures for other bar associations in Vietnam and will also establish a charitable fund to finance legal assistance for indigent defendants.

**H.M. Harshi Chitrangi Perera (Sri Lanka)** is systematically building a pool of competent

legal talent to alleviate the problems in the Sri Lankan legal system: lack of respect for the rights of the accused, the general lack of knowledge among the accused of their rights, and poor training of defense attorneys. She has successfully provided direct legal assistance to five female pretrial detainees, obtaining their release after years of remand detention.

**Ajeng Larasati (Indonesia)** has conducted legal counseling sessions at detention centers in Jakarta to ensure that detainees exercise their right to legal counsel granted by the Indonesian Constitution. She has created a new set of educational tools and enlisted a team of lawyers and psychologists to inform the accused about their legal rights and teach them to assert these rights. The team will also train detainees who act as assistants

to the prison warden to provide legal services to the accused.

**Bijaya Chanda (India)** has organized 10 training programs for underprivileged and marginalized remand prisoners in five sub-jails in Kolkata. Altogether, 992 pretrial detainees have been informed of their legal and constitutional rights. She is also providing direct legal assistance to several pretrial detainees to obtain their early release. Bijaya also conducted four community outreach programs to inform citizens of their legal rights.

**Seyed Mohamad Hassan Razavi (Iran)** proposes to introduce "decarceration", or alternatives to prison, for minor crimes in Iran. Detention of Iranian males often has devastating effects on their families, typically leaving them without



JusticeMakers Fellow Harshi Perera with a client





Congolese JusticeMakers Fellow Justine Mwanaisha Saidi with a group of juveniles she is representing

a stable source of income. Through various activities, he hopes to engage Iran’s judicial sector with the goal of reducing the country’s prison population. (By mutual agreement, no funding was provided.)

**Nana Chapidze (Georgia)** established a resource center with an information database regarding juvenile rights in Georgia. She is also providing direct legal assistance to juveniles and organizing round-table discussions regarding the juvenile justice system with civil society organizations.

**Rasul Agagasan Jafarov (Azerbaijan)** started a hotline to provide legal rights information to citizens and, specifically, family members of prisoners. He is publicizing the right to early release for prisoners in Azerbaijan by holding trainings for prisoners and their families. Rasul is also assembling a team of lawyers to provide legal assistance to prisoners.

## *Informing At-Risk Georgian Youth of Their Basic Human Rights*

Since her project began, 2010 JusticeMaker Nana Chapidze has made great strides in her bid to raise public awareness of juvenile rights in Georgia, a country that acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, but has often fallen short of the standards it requires. Nana uses interactive dialogues and coloring projects to communicate the basic human rights children are entitled to at a level they are able to understand. “Global children’s rights are not taught at schools. It’s important that the children receive the necessary level of education of human rights now, before they turn 18 and become independent,” Nana said. “Hopefully

this project will encourage the State to teach juveniles human rights.” Through her project, Nana supervised regular training sessions on children’s rights at children’s homes and other institutions that host at-risk children.

Nana also published a brochure advising juveniles, defined as those between 14 and 18 years of age, of their rights. The brochure was developed in conjunction with the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. It includes basic information

about the legal system in Georgia, defines legal terms in a way that students can understand, and clearly highlights several important tenets of criminal procedure: the right to a lawyer, the right to remain silent, the right to receive medical care in custody, and the right to be informed of the charges against you.



Georgian children learning about their basic human rights

Photo courtesy of Roshan Nebhrajani

Photo courtesy of Mar Costa



Indonesian JusticeMakers Fellow Ajeng Larasati talking to detainees at Cipinang Prison in Jakarta

Shahanur Islam (Bangladesh) is running training sessions to promote respect for human rights amongst local police, prison officials, and lawyers in Dhaka, and selecting volunteers from these groups to facilitate awareness-raising activities in the wider community. He is also collaborating with the local legal community to provide

legal aid to prisoners from religious and ethnic minorities whose rights have been violated.

Muhammad Waqas Abid (Pakistan) is conducting 10 seminars in rural areas of Punjab to educate brick kiln workers and agricultural laborers – those most susceptible to

legal rights abuses – about their legal rights. He is also collaborating with local lawyers and NGOs to establish a legal resource center to provide direct case support to the accused. Finally, he is working with local media channels to maximize coverage of legal abuse.

Rosselynn Jae Garcia de la Cruz (Philippines) created a paralegal module that serves as an educational tool to apprise farmers of their rights under the criminal justice system, with the objective of ending the phenomenon of criminalization of agrarian reform. She also established a paralegal class to train local women as paralegals, so that they may quickly respond to arrests in agrarian communities on the Bondoc Peninsula. These paralegals will ensure the preservation of evidence, gather affidavits, and help farmers navigate the legal process.

Junaid Khalid (Pakistan) is establishing “legal camps” throughout Karachi to provide citizens with direct and easily accessible legal advice and counsel. These camps, facilitated by lawyers, government officials, law enforcement authorities, and community leaders, will complement an online initiative offering citizens a platform to submit legal questions and access electronic legal-rights education resources.

Yasmeen Shariff (Malaysia) is working with the government, police, parents, and social workers to provide an alternative to custody for accused juveniles in Kuala Lumpur. Upon arrest, these parties will work together to decide on an alternative, appropriate recourse, such as warning and caution, mediation, family conferencing, counseling, or therapeutic treatment.

### 2011 JusticeMakers Fellows

In October 2010, IBJ launched its third JusticeMakers competition, which once again awarded \$5,000 in project funding to applicants whose criminal justice reform projects displayed the most originality, efficacy, and sustainability. The 2011 JusticeMakers Competition sought innovative proposals from across the globe, and in particular, from Latin America. We awarded six Fellowships to Latin American applicants from Colombia, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay.

In addition, this competition sought proposals addressing issues pertaining to legal rights abuses experienced by individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS, who are often heavily stigmatized and shunned by society. This marginalization often results in a lack of legal representation for them and, ultimately, a denial of their rights. In addition, individuals with HIV/AIDS often lack adequate

## Never Give Up: Fighting Unjust Detention in Sri Lanka

2010 JusticeMaker Harshi Perera is working hard to secure the release of female pretrial detainees in Sri Lanka’s Welikada prison. All of the women have been awaiting trial for many years and lack legal assistance.

Recently, Harshi’s hard work paid off when her client, U. A. Somawathi, was released after spending eight years awaiting trial in Welikada. Ms. Somawathi was arrested in February 2003 and charged with possession and sale of heroin, but was never tried on the charges. She was finally released in February 2011 after receiving the assistance of legal counsel as part of Harshi’s JusticeMakers project. After four appearances by counsel on Ms. Somawathi’s behalf failed to produce a result, Harshi used the

media relations skills she learned at IBJ’s Singapore Justice Training Centre to inform the press of Ms. Somawathi’s story. The case was published in a recent book as an example of corruption within the police department and attorney general’s office.

Harshi has obtained the release of two additional detainees through her project. She credits the training she received on

leadership, media relations, and presentation skills at the SJTC as instrumental to the project’s success. “The presentation skills have helped me to conduct awareness meetings in a more confident manner,” she stated.

Harshi recalled that a fellow JusticeMaker encouraged the group to “never ever give up.” She agrees, “Yes. We will never ever give up until we die.”



Welikada Prison in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Photo courtesy of Gaston Lacombe



resources to understand their rights, and as a result, they are prime candidates for mistreatment and abuse in the criminal justice system. To help remedy this, IBJ secured a grant from the Levi Strauss Foundation, funding three \$5,000 JusticeMakers Fellowships to address this problem in Argentina, Indonesia, and Azerbaijan.

**Justine Mwanaisha Saidi** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) is responding to the problem of denial and delay of access to competent legal representation for poor people accused of crimes, including vulnerable youth, in the city of Bukavu by collaborating with the police and prison officials and implementing seminars to raise awareness. She also plans on raising the number of lawyer volunteers to provide early access to legal counsel for women and children accused of crimes.

**Adriana Patricia Castano Roman** (Colombia) is providing direct legal representation to young victims of arbitrary detention in the city of Medellín. Her project will also include legal training for criminal defense lawyers to enhance their skills, support to victims of abuse and arbitrary arrest, documentation of their cases to increase transparency regarding these practices, and rights-awareness trainings for youth.

**Alejandro Tomas Vianda Ovalle** (Chile) is assisting accused juveniles in Chile by providing them with the opportunity to have direct contact with their attorneys via video communication. His project is in response to the denial or delay of access to competent legal representation for accused juveniles. To achieve enhanced access, he will create collaborative events involving legal sector participants.

**Veronica Marisol Quiroga Pando** (Bolivia) notes that the right to counsel is often denied to citizens in Bolivia due to very high crime rates, extreme poverty, and a lack of resources for public defender offices. This systematic denial of access to counsel is even more serious for women, who are often unable to obtain criminal defense lawyers due to existing cultural norms and persistent stereotypes. Veronica's project seeks to provide legal representation for women prisoners in order to ensure access to justice from a perspective focused on gender and human rights.

**Gabriela Eugenia Vazquez** (Argentina) is helping to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and reduce the problem of HIV/AIDS in prisons by engaging security professionals to help with prevention, as well as strengthening the counseling unit within prisons. She will conduct counseling sessions on internal health in which safe sex practices will be promoted to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in penitentiaries.

**Gautier Zomissi** (Cameroon) is improving communication between the various actors in Cameroon's judicial system to ensure that prisoners are no longer unlawfully incarcerated beyond their sentenced terms. He is also seeking to increase the speed of prosecutions by creating an intelligence office that will coordinate prisoners' files and facilitate communication between different judicial actors. In addition, Gautier will also create a hotline in partnership with the government that will allow inmates to obtain urgent assistance or needed information relating to processing their cases.

**Maria de la Paz Martinez Irigoitia** (Paraguay) is working



Pakistani JusticeMakers Fellow Muhammad Waqas Abid conducting a rights awareness event

to eliminate abuses by police and prison officials by fostering collaboration between public defenders and medical schools in the region to tend to abuse victims. She intends to have physicians treat victims and issue medical reports so that defenders can report abuse and the concomitant human rights violations.

**Mahfuza Folad** (Afghanistan) is providing direct legal representation to accused women, as well as expanding female prisoners' knowledge about their rights and responsibilities within the Afghan criminal justice system. She is representing 14 indigent women in Kabul accused of crimes, providing 12 days of criminal justice training for accused women, and creating and publishing 1,000 "Know your Rights" brochures that will be distributed to the accused and other actors in the criminal justice system.

**Alex Argo Hernowo** (Indonesia) is combating the discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS by providing legal services for people living with the disease, producing educational tools about legal and human rights issues impacting individuals with HIV/AIDS, and training

individuals to become paralegals to address the criminal defense needs of accused HIV/AIDS sufferers.

**Elchin Abullayev** (Azerbaijan), in response to the rapidly spreading epidemic of HIV/AIDS in his country, is increasing public attention on prisoners suffering from this disease. He is strengthening advocacy for these prisoners to ensure that they get proper medical attention, as well as promoting their early release from prison.

**Mabel Jenny Atezana Arispé** (Bolivia) plans to organize a group of volunteer attorneys to train both detainees and the attorneys that represent them on human rights and criminal procedure. The attorneys will then utilize their new skills and knowledge to defend their clients. The trainings will also raise awareness amongst the accused of the human rights protections to which they are entitled.

Go online and learn more:  
[justicemakers.ibj.org](http://justicemakers.ibj.org)

IBJ's JusticeMakers website includes biographies of current and past JusticeMakers Fellows and in-depth descriptions of their innovative approaches to legal reform implementation.



# Building the Foundations of Justice in Cambodia

*IBJ becoming a fixture in legal aid community*

*IBJ solidified its reach into 13 provinces throughout Cambodia, providing much needed representation to regions with no other permanent legal aid providers.*



Photo courtesy of George Hsia

IBJ Cambodia lawyer Hok Meng Eam (right) talking to a detained client

## JUSTICE FACTS:

### Cambodia

**Rule of Law:** 16/100

**2010 Prison Population:**  
14,403,  
94 per 100,000

Throughout 2010, IBJ continued its three-pillared approach to creating a sustainable legal aid community in Cambodia. Consisting of trainings, roundtable discussions, and rights-awareness campaigns, IBJ's unique methodology facilitated collaboration with local civil society organizations like the Bar

Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) and Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC).

Working closely with the BAKC, IBJ hosted two three-day training events in May and August 2010, attended by nearly 15% of Cambodia's entire legal workforce. IBJ held an additional one-day session for 20 of Cambodia's

criminal defense leaders and four roundtable events for police, court and prison officials, local and national government officials, and civil society organization representatives. These well-attended events help to ensure compliance with Cambodia's laws relating to accused persons by disseminating institutional

knowledge and fostering best-practices discussions amongst criminal justice system stakeholders.

IBJ also conducted 13 Street Law campaigns, reaching 524 ordinary citizens with vital information about their legal rights and freedoms. These informal seminars serve as an effective means to raise rights awareness, particularly in low-literacy and low-income areas. To further extend the reach of IBJ's awareness campaigns, IBJ Fellow Ouk Vandeth spoke regularly on local radio broadcasts about such topics as "The Rights of the Accused" and "Freedom of Expression."

IBJ solidified its reach into 13 provinces throughout Cambodia, providing much needed representation to

regions with no other permanent legal aid providers. Between December 2009 and October 2010, IBJ lawyers took on 543 cases and achieved remarkable results for Cambodians in need, getting sentence mitigation in 67% of cases, full dismissal of charges in 23% of cases, and a significant decrease in reported instances of torture compared with the national average.

In 2011, IBJ will work to expand this significant impact to a greater number of Cambodians in need of legal aid. Enlarging its current network of Defender Resource Centers into new territories and bolstering its support staff will allow IBJ lawyers to grow the legal aid community throughout the nation and bring about lasting change.



Man reads rights awareness material at a Street Law campaign in Pursat Province

Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Bright

## Early Access to Counsel Makes a Big Difference



DRC Coordinator Sim Dalis and volunteer Finella Murphy meeting with IBJ client

Chhun Sopheap, a farmer and father of five in Prey Veng Province, was accused of murdering his neighbor on February 1, 2010. The neighbor was found stabbed to death in her home. Police found a blood-stained t-shirt at the scene, and a cell phone and battery were missing.

The police had two suspects: Sopheap and another village resident. Based solely on the accusation of the other suspect, Sopheap was arrested and charged with the murder. While in custody, he was repeatedly beaten. Nevertheless, he maintained his innocence.

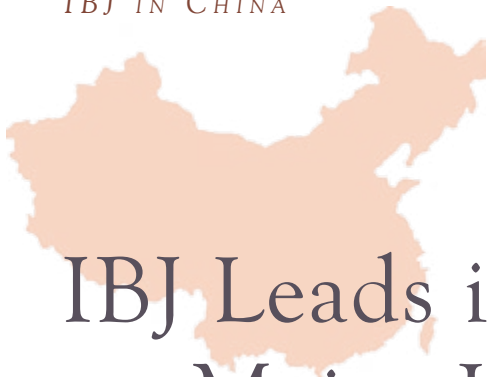
In Cambodia, the accused often spend months in prison awaiting trial without access to an attorney. Luckily for Sopheap, the Cambodian court assigned IBJ lawyer So Bengtharun to the case almost immediately.

Early access to counsel made a world of difference in Sopheap's case. Bengtharun discovered that much of the evidence against Sopheap was the product of police fabrication and that the battery stolen from the victim's house was sold while he was in prison. Similarly, while in prison, Sopheap was wearing sandals the police claimed to have found at the scene of the crime stained with blood. Furthermore, the trousers and tie the police also claimed to have found at the scene were taken from Sopheap's family after his arrest under the pretense that they would be given to him to wear in prison.

Bengtharun was also able to corroborate Sopheap's alibi. A medicine-seller testified that Sopheap was home the entire night caring for his sick son. Ultimately, the Court issued a warrant for the second suspect, the very person who had initially implicated Sopheap.

The Court acquitted Sopheap of murder on November 16, 2010, finding that there was insufficient evidence of his guilt. Without the early access to counsel provided by IBJ, Sopheap would likely still be in detention awaiting trial. It is alternatively conceivable that he would have suffered an all-too-common fate, conviction for a murder he did not commit.





# IBJ Leads in Providing Training on Major Legal Reforms in China

*Also initiates innovative pilot projects*

*Mobilizing our national network of partners, our activities brought a spectacular end to a fruitful year of programming.*

Capitalizing on nine years of partnership development in China, IBJ significantly increased the scope and reach of its work in 2010. Our growing list of partners includes the All China Lawyers Association, the All China Women’s Federation, law firms, bar associations, and professors from the country’s most prestigious universities.

IBJ organized 25 lawyer trainings and 14 roundtables

in seven different provinces and two of China’s four federally administered cities. We trained 1,396 defense lawyers, including 302 Legal Aid lawyers (about 5% of the 6,000 in China). We also trained approximately 2,060 police officers in non-coercive investigative techniques in Shandong and Liaoning provinces.

IBJ was the first organization in China to provide

trainings on major legal reforms, including new rules on exclusion of illegally-obtained evidence announced in July and new sentencing guidelines announced in October. We held three trainings and two roundtables, led by some of China’s most respected legal thinkers, on the new evidence rules. We also held a conference in Suizhou, Hubei Province and a roundtable with judges



Law student distributing IBJ rights awareness materials

## JUSTICE FACTS: China

**Rule of Law:** 45.3/100

**2010 Prison Population:**  
1.57 million,  
190 per 100,000



Police officer explaining the right to counsel to a resident of Liaocheng during a rights awareness campaign

from the Supreme People's Court in Beijing on how best to implement the new sentencing guidelines. With proper training, both new regulations will significantly enhance the role of defense attorneys in the criminal justice system.

IBJ also initiated pilot projects promoting the rights of juvenile defendants and access to rehabilitation. After participating in an IBJ-sponsored study tour of a system of probation for juvenile offenders in Yunnan and attending a roundtable on social background investigations in Xincheng District of Shaanxi Province, the Beilin District Prosecutor's office of Shaanxi implemented a program incorporating both approaches that will be expanded throughout the province, if successful.

Additionally, IBJ held a conference on juvenile record sealing in April, which promoted two pilot projects we have supported since 2008 in Dezhou City, Shandong Province and Licang District, Qingdao. These projects, which may be adopted by other local governments, are quite possibly the most significant advancement in juvenile justice reform underway in China.

To engage leaders in civil society, we initiated a monthly roundtable in

Beijing with the Yipai Public Interest Team. Lawyers gathered to discuss topics such as "Risks Faced by Criminal Defense Lawyers" and "Lawyers and the Media." These lawyers also mobilized their colleagues in Inner Mongolia and Gansu provinces to participate in IBJ rights awareness activities.

In addition, reaching out to more remote locales, IBJ initiated a national eLearning project, which will use Internet-based instruction to train defense lawyers. We posted five modules on client interviewing to the website of the All China Lawyers Association, our partner in the project. We also began production of three modules on the new sentencing guidelines.

Finally, we conducted our annual December 4 campaign to promote rights awareness among ordinary citizens. Entitled "Spirit of Cooperation", it included Street Law campaigns offering free advice in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, and Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, film screenings on criminal justice, and the distribution of a comprehensive family rights brochure by police, law firms, and students. Mobilizing our national network of partners, these activities brought a spectacular end to a fruitful year of programming.

## *"IBJ, my mentor and friend in my growth as a defense lawyer"*

Although IBJ's Defender Resource Center in Northwest China has only been operating for three years, there have already been notable improvements in the quality of representation and the confidence of criminal defense attorneys who have attended IBJ trainings. Recently, one attorney shared her gratitude toward IBJ in a six-page letter, which bore the heading: "IBJ, my mentor and friend in my growth as a defense lawyer; thank you for all your help."

In the letter, Ge Chunrong detailed her history as an attorney. She began practicing law in 2001 and in 2005 began volunteering with the Shaanxi Women's Federation to serve those in need. The problem, she explained, was that at the time she began, there was a lack of skills trainings. Lawyers like her were ill-equipped to properly defend their clients. This changed three years ago when Ge met IBJ. She has since attended ten IBJ trainings and workshops. In her words, "The defense skills and ideology IBJ passed to me revitalized me and broadened my way of thinking," helping her to achieve positive results in many of her cases.

Ge's letter listed in detail the skills that IBJ has imparted to her, including respect for clients, client interviewing techniques, and how to investigate client backgrounds in order to apply for bail. She further praised IBJ for bringing together all judicial stakeholders to bring about change: "IBJ sets up bridges for all sections of judicial departments and builds platforms for the Public Security Bureau, prosecutors, judges, and lawyers to sit together to communicate and promote the mutual understanding and support of each other. Communication is the best way to solve problems."

Finally, Ge described how she recently defended a death penalty case successfully, using the skills she learned from IBJ. A young man was charged with intentional murder of his father. Ge took the case from the District Court all the way to the Supreme People's Court, tirelessly gathering evidence and fighting for her client. Several times, the client lost hope and wanted to end his life, but Ge gave him courage. In the end, she was able to prove that the death had been an accident, thus sparing her client execution. She said, "IBJ's trainings not only gave me the skills to use, but also gave me the spirit of persistence to fight for the interests of my clients."



Chinese Lawyer Ge Chunrong



# Cooperative Approaches to Legal Aid in India

*IBJ continues to be a leading force in India's legal aid network*

*IBJ will work to establish a permanent system of defense lawyers on duty in detention centers and remand prisons to guarantee universal and prompt access to counsel.*

During 2010, IBJ established itself once again as a leading force in the development of India's legal aid network. IBJ continued to employ its complementary approaches to improve access to justice: leading by example through direct client representation and high-level strategic development through local partnerships.

Since December 2009, IBJ lawyers have defended over 250 cases, made possible through its New Delhi-based Fellow Ajay Verma and its partnership with Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) in West Bengal. Ajay also led two training events in June 2010, gathering together judges, lawyers, police officials, judicial officers, and legal scholars for mutual instruction and training. Such events help ensure proper compliance with Indian criminal and procedural law at all levels of the criminal justice system. IBJ's special emphasis on guaranteeing

early access to counsel and proper police examination techniques furthers its mission to eliminate torture as an investigative tool.

Throughout October and November 2010, with the assistance of Andy Haas of the International Senior Lawyers Project and volunteer attorney Puneet Kakkar, Ajay met with key advocates, jurists, and officials to discuss how IBJ India could strengthen the criminal justice system through local partnerships and increased day-to-day participation. Both the general trainings and the advocacy programs create a well-connected community of legal aid practitioners and allow criminal justice stakeholders the valuable opportunity to collaborate on ways to improve the Indian legal system. In November 2010, IBJ and its partner, Delhi Legal Services Authority (DLSA), conducted a full day training workshop on effective legal aid advocacy to improve the skills of lawyers working for

DLSA at the trial court level.

In 2011, IBJ will continue to develop its professional relationships with local legal aid organizations, working toward the creation of sustainable resource centers for legal aid lawyers. Development of resource centers in marginalized regions of the country is a priority, as they will help support the advocates and residents most in need. Looking forward, IBJ will work to establish a permanent system of defense lawyers on duty in detention centers and remand prisons to guarantee universal and prompt access to counsel.

## JUSTICE FACTS:

### India

**Rule of Law:** 56.7/100

**2010 Prison Population:**  
384,753,  
32 per 100,000



*“What IBJ wants to achieve through early access to counsel and creating a robust system of criminal defense could prevent suffering to many ordinary people.”*

Hon. K.G. Balakrishnan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, 2007-2010

Photo courtesy of Tushar Kamti Mandial



Inmates in an Indian prison cell

## *A Major Victory for the Rights of the Accused*

The High Court of Delhi declared: “None can belittle the right of every accused to be fairly and adequately represented in a criminal trial, especially where a capital sentence is involved.”

IBJ Fellow Ajay Verma successfully appealed the conviction of Salamat Ali on the ground that he had not received effective assistance of counsel during his trial. Specifically, Salamat’s trial attorney failed to cross-examine several key witnesses. The trial judge concluded that a lack of cross-examination by defense counsel amounted to an admission by the defendant to the accuracy of their testimony.

However, as the appellate court explained, “an admission is something which is expressly admitted in no uncertain language by the person against whom the admission is pressed into aid.” Consequently, a failure to cross-examine a witness on a topic can never be deemed an admission.

Within the opinion, the appellate court judges stressed a defendant’s fundamental right to counsel and the responsibility of the trial judge to ensure a fair adversarial trial. As a number of witnesses had “not been subjected to any meaningful cross-examination,” the defendant had effectively been denied his fundamental right “to be fairly and adequately represented in a criminal trial.”

# Achieving Countrywide Rights Awareness in Burundi

*IBJ creates positive change through knowledge*

*IBJ employs a comprehensive approach to rights awareness in order to reach every level of the criminal justice system.*

In 2010, IBJ bolstered its legal rights movement in Burundi through the addition of two new Legal Fellows to support the day-to-day operations of its Bujumbura-based DRC and by continuing to conduct hands-on training across the nation. In addition, IBJ's rights-awareness efforts significantly contributed to an inspiring 45% increase in overall media coverage of criminal justice matters, and its operational support facilitated a 13% increase in the total number of IBJ-trained lawyers dedicating at least half of their practice to criminal law.

IBJ employs a comprehensive approach to rights aware-

ness in order to reach every level of the criminal justice system. In 2010 alone, IBJ reached over 4,000 ordinary citizens during five Street Law campaigns, in which residents of the areas around Cibitoke, Kabezi, Rumonge, Kinama, and Gitega received one-on-one education about their rights in case of arrest. Over 130 detainees in Bubanza, Ngozi, and Gitega provinces also received desperately needed rights-awareness training through IBJ's "Know Your Rights" programs. Participants immediately felt the impact of this training: 98% of IBJ-program participants indicated awareness of their right to legal representation

and 86% were aware of their right not to be tortured.

IBJ also achieved great successes in its efforts to reshape the practices and policies of the criminal justice community. Through a mock-trial training with over 61 lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police officers, and prison directors, IBJ helped to increase systematic understanding of detainee rights and contributed to a 60% overall increase in access of lawyers to their clients in police custody. Additionally, IBJ's efforts to combat prison overcrowding with the rallying cry, "Freedom is the rule; detention is the exception," led to a drastic shift in Bu-

## JUSTICE FACTS: Burundi

**Rule of Law:** 11.8/100

**2010 Prison Population:**  
9,844,  
114 per 100,000



Participants in a criminal justice roundtable event at Rutana, Burundi





Burundian lawyer Sylvestre Ngendakuriyo



Military Court judges at a Burundi criminal defense skills training

rundi's detention policy. (See accompanying story.)

IBJ also held various roundtable discussions, bringing judges and prosecutors together with other important participants in the criminal justice sector to discuss a range of issues. These roundtables facilitated the representation of hundreds of vulnerable detainees in

the provinces of Bujumbura, Bubanza, and Bururi.

With the goal of increasing both the scope and depth of coverage throughout Burundi, IBJ will continue its inclusive countrywide awareness and training campaign in 2011, while solidifying ties with the government and Ministry of Justice.



IBJ Fellow Astère Muyango at a Burundi criminal defense skills training

*“Freedom is the rule;  
detention is the exception.”*

On March 24, 2010, President Pierre Nkurunziza ordered the immediate release of hundreds of prisoners from Burundi's overcrowded prisons. The decree targeted several categories of detainees, including pregnant and breast-feeding women, juveniles, and prisoners over sixty years old. A presidential spokesperson announced the decree over public radio using a slogan previously used during IBJ rights-awareness campaigns: Freedom is the rule; detention is the exception.

Prior to this decree, Burundi's prisons were extremely overcrowded, with 11,000 people incarcerated despite a maximum capacity of 4,050. This overcrowding was exacerbated by many pretrial detainees spending months, if not years, awaiting trial in violation of detention limits. Operating at more than double their capacity, prisons were unable to meet the basic medical, legal, and social needs of inmates.

The release came after many IBJ roundtable discussions on prison overcrowding in 2009 and early 2010. During a roundtable on pretrial detention in Rumonge, participants suggested a mass release of detainees as an appropriate way to address this problem.

This decree is a resounding success for the criminal justice system and human rights in Burundi. Moreover, it appears to indicate a growing governmental consciousness of the need to uphold criminal procedures and safeguard the rights of the accused.





# IBJ Makes Significant Impact in Rwanda

*Strides made in creating pro bono infrastructure*

*Of the 140 IBJ-assisted individuals accused of crimes, more than 50% received assistance from local lawyers on a purely pro bono basis.*

With the invaluable help of its Fellow and support staff, IBJ established a Defender Resource Center in Kigali in June 2010. Serving as a gathering place for Rwandan lawyers seeking support and guidance, the DRC quickly became a much relied upon fixture in pro bono legal circles. Currently, the DRC attracts approximately 30 visitors each day from lawyers to relatives of the accused in search of information and legal assistance. The DRC also frequently receives calls from former clients thanking the IBJ team for securing their release.

The DRC receives sup-

port from a core team of 29 volunteer lawyers, specially trained by IBJ to take cases of vulnerable accused persons on a pro bono basis. In 2010, the volunteer lawyer corps assisted in cases in all five Rwandan provinces and secured either a full acquittal or a reduced sentence in 95% of its cases.

As part of IBJ's continuing mission to understand and evaluate the changing legal needs of Rwanda, it recruited 23 dedicated criminal defense lawyers as part of a Criminal Defense Task Force. During 2010, members of the Task Force convened on three separate occasions to

discuss their experiences as criminal legal aid lawyers and to circulate ideas on how to improve Rwanda's pro bono culture and criminal justice system.

IBJ continues to foster the pro bono culture in Rwanda through its partnership with the Kigali Bar Association. In July 2010, IBJ worked with the KBA to train 80 local lawyers on developing case theories and protecting the rights of their clients throughout the criminal justice process. These trainings help galvanize the legal aid infrastructure of Rwanda by connecting individual criminal defenders

## JUSTICE FACTS:

### Rwanda

Rule of Law: 36.3/100

2010 Prison Population:  
62,000,  
595 per 100,000



Rwandan defense attorney Aline Niyodusenga

## IBJ Glossary Creates Sensation at EALS Conference

With the growing standardization and harmonization of laws across the East Africa Community (EAC), the language barrier between Anglophone Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda and the mostly Francophone Burundi and Rwanda becomes particularly challenging. Even within Rwanda the situation is tricky as lawyers can plead in court in French, English, or Kinyarwanda, making the procedure

at times very complex, labor-intensive, and time-consuming. In response to this problem, IBJ developed a 50-page glossary of English/French and French/English legal terms pertaining to the field of criminal law with the support of the East Africa Law Society (EALS), the Burundi Bar Association, and the Kigali Bar Association. The glossary translates more than 800 legal terms from English to French

and vice versa. 400 printed copies of the manual were distributed at the EALS Annual General Meeting and Conference on November 19 and 20, 2010 in Bujumbura, Burundi, creating a sensation within the East African legal community. Many lawyers appreciated the glossary and showed interest in IBJ's work in the different countries of East Africa. At the end of the conference, only ten of the 400 copies were

left. Additionally, a reception that gave lawyers the opportunity to interact informally enabled our Fellows to meet interesting people – including the newly elected President of EALS, the CEOs of EALS and participating national bar associations, and individual lawyers – and spread the word about IBJ. We hope to follow up on the success of the glossary with the publication of an East Africa Criminal Defense Manual in 2011-2012.

to resources like the DRC. In fact, owing in large part to the July 2010 training, between June and August 2010 lawyers' involvement with DRC activities rose by 42%. Even more significantly, of the 140 IBJ-assisted individuals accused of crimes, more than 50% received assistance from local lawyers on a purely pro bono basis.

IBJ will continue to grow its Rwandan programs in 2011 and plans to further integrate the KBA into volunteer lawyer programs. IBJ also plans to work with the Rwandan Ministry of Justice to formulate a national legal aid policy and secure future success in pro bono defense of vulnerable and indigent populations nationwide.



IBJ Fellow John Bosco Bugingo addressing lawyers attending an IBJ Criminal Defense Task Force meeting



Lawyers engaged in discussion during an IBJ training

### *“I was beaten for a crime I did not commit”*

During a visit to Rwanda's Gitarama central prison, IBJ lawyers met 'Pascal', a detainee since November 2007. Pascal and two friends were accused by another alleged co-conspirator of planning to steal a car. Apart from the informant's allegations, the police found no evidence indicating Pascal and his friends had committed or intended to commit any crime. Unfortunately, they confessed to the crime following repeated physical and psychological abuse.

Like many Rwandans, the accused could not afford defense attorneys. Left unrepresented, they were convicted. Pascal's friends were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Pascal was sentenced to an additional year of imprisonment as the theft's alleged planner.

At trial, no mention was made of the torture he suffered. By the time IBJ lawyers met Pascal, the bruises he sustained during repeated physical abuse had healed without medical care.

In November 2010, IBJ lawyers successfully appealed the original judgment on the basis that Pascal's statement was coerced through torture. They obtained Pascal's immediate release, as well as the exoneration of his alleged co-conspirators, sending a message to investigating authorities that torture is unacceptable.

# Protecting Legal Rights in Zimbabwe through Partnership Development

*IBJ strengthens national pro bono culture*

*IBJ-mobilized lawyers took on 108 pretrial detainee cases between December 2009 and October 2010.*

In 2010, IBJ increased resources on the ground in Zimbabwe and reached out to local civil society organizations to strengthen the country's overall pro bono culture. With the recruitment of an additional Legal Fellow in June 2010, IBJ's Harare-based DRC became a crucial legal hub for the entire nation. Supported by the tireless efforts of 68 volunteer lawyers and stocked with reference materials relating to both human rights and criminal law generously provided by BookAid International, the DRC significantly contributed to the 35% increase in volunteer criminal defense representation since October 2009.

The success of the DRC led to increased cooperation with local civil society groups like the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) and the

Law Society of Zimbabwe (LSZ). With additional infrastructure support from the LRF and a push to influence pro bono policy by the LSZ, IBJ strengthened its Zimbabwe program as a force for positive change.

In support of IBJ's efforts to empower individuals, as well as to effect high-level policy change, IBJ-mobilized lawyers took on 108 pretrial detainee cases between December 2009 and October 2010. In all of these cases, an IBJ lawyer was able to meet with the accused within 48 hours of receiving the case. The result was an improvement in access to quality counsel throughout Zimbabwe's overcrowded prison system. IBJ is working with the LRF, LSZ, and the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation

of Offenders (ZACRO) to develop nationwide strategies to increase the reach of this program. In addition, IBJ has partnered with Care at the Core of Humanity (CATCH) in the representation of juveniles accused of crimes.

IBJ continued its legal trainings for criminal defenders in 2010, holding two legal trainings and five roundtable discussions designed to train practitioners on best practices for enhancing access to justice. Key skills development, including workshops on client interviews and building a theory of the case, led to a 42% increase in IBJ-trained lawyers meeting the minimum competency standards in representing accused persons and an astonishing 81% increase in preventing the use of coerced statements and illegally obtained evidence in criminal proceedings.

## JUSTICE FACTS: Zimbabwe

**Rule of Law:** 0.9/100

**2010 Prison Population:**  
15,000,  
121 per 100,000



IBJ Fellow Innocent Maja (right) and Legal Fellows John Burombo and Pamela Chiwara pointing to IBJ rights awareness posters outside a courthouse



## “IBJ is doing a great thing, particularly in Zimbabwe”

“IBJ is doing a great thing, particularly in Zimbabwe, where the majority of people cannot access the justice system,” says Everson Chatambudza, a Zimbabwean attorney.

Everson, an attendee of IBJ’s 2009 and 2010 trainings in Zimbabwe, credits these trainings with teaching him how to effectively cross-examine witnesses. He explains, “As criminal lawyers, trial is one of the most critical



Zimbabwean attorney Everson Chatambudza

aspects of our profession. Without that act of cross-examination, you won’t succeed.”

Everson’s passion for criminal law is a result of growing up in a rural area “where there was a lot of oppression of rights.” He explains that in rural areas it is not uncommon for people to be “incarcerated for stealing a chicken worth less than a dollar. That is gross abuse of human rights.”

He is a strong believer in the work IBJ is doing in Zimbabwe because it both equips lawyers with skills to effectively represent their clients and provides them cases to explore these new skills. Everson plans to “continue to participate in [IBJ’s] project” because he believes it is “very helpful to the lawyers, to our clients, and to society at large.” He observes that in Zimbabwe “few organizations are doing” the work IBJ is doing, so “the least” his fellow lawyers can do is support that work.

Everson urges young Zimbabwean lawyers to dedicate part of their time to representing poor criminal defendants “to ensure justice is done in society.” He believes that “sometimes our profession is more important than money.” He explains that while he has taken many cases without payment, he has derived “the satisfaction that I have liberated someone. To me, that is something that is very, very important.”

Photo courtesy of Adam Schwarz

## IBJ Launches Twin eLearning Initiatives

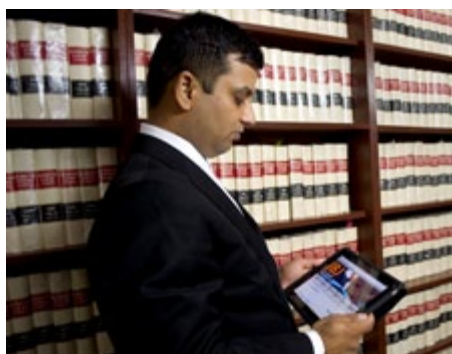
A technology revolution is sweeping the globe. New approaches to communication and information management have profoundly altered the way institutions function. Lawyers in developed countries take instantaneous access to legal resources for granted, while lawyers in developing countries still cannot find even the most basic resources like penal and procedural codes. In 2010 IBJ responded to this global imbalance by launching two interrelated services: the Legal Training Resource Center and the Criminal Defense Wiki.

### Legal Training Resource Center

The Legal Training Resource Center ([elearning.ibj.org](http://elearning.ibj.org)) offers on-demand web-based eLearning courses that give lawyers the crucial skills necessary to represent defendants in the criminal justice system. These eLearning courses present defenders with multimedia training on the basic tenets of criminal defense, focusing on skills applicable worldwide that teach lawyers how to protect their clients’ rights. The curriculum provides relevant training on domestic laws relating to criminal procedure in target countries, enabling defenders to understand the implications their domestic statutes have for the practice of criminal law. The site currently offers specific courses targeted to IBJ’s country programs in Burundi, China, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe, as well as general courses on cross-examination, opening statements, and safety-awareness. Since the launch of the LTRC, more than 600 lawyers have registered to take a course and the site has received over 4,500 visits from 130 countries.

### Criminal Defense Wiki

Following the launch of the Legal Training Resource Center, IBJ piloted another important eLearning initiative by creating the world’s first Wiki dedicated exclusively to global criminal defense practice. This new site, the Criminal Defense Wiki ([defensewiki.ibj.org](http://defensewiki.ibj.org)) was created using the same



IBJ Fellow Ajay Verma viewing IBJ’s eLearning site

software behind Wikipedia, thereby creating an easy-to-use platform that facilitates the creation and discussion of global criminal defense practices. The site provides easy access to comparative criminal procedure and standards, thereby introducing lawyers to best practices of criminal defense systems from around the globe. In 2010, more than 70,000 individuals from over 206 countries around the world visited the site, and the numbers of visitors continues to grow each month. In 2011, IBJ will work to expand the number of pages and translate the most frequently visited pages into Arabic, French, Khmer, Mandarin, and Spanish.

software behind Wikipedia, thereby creating an easy-to-use platform that facilitates the creation and discussion of global criminal defense practices. The site provides easy access to comparative criminal procedure and standards, thereby

Photo courtesy of Tushar Kantli Mandali

# IBJ Opens First Regional Hub in Singapore

IBJ's first regional hub, the Singapore Justice Training Centre (SJTC), flourished during its inaugural year of operation. Program Manager Hilary Stauffer arrived in Singapore in January 2010, and she and her staff immediately began pursuing strategic partnerships essential to the venture's success.

oldest law practice); Subhas Anandan of Khattar Wong, the most prominent criminal defense attorney and pro bono advocate in Singapore; and Howard Hunter, then-President of Singapore Management University and former Dean of Emory Law School.

Soon after arriving, SJTC staff also met with their

large grant to support SJTC operations in Singapore for three years. IBJ's partnership with the Singapore government is complemented by its collaboration with the Law Society of Singapore and diplomats from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, all of whom have expressed interest in IBJ's innovative training model for Southeast Asia.

Understanding that partnering with law schools would be crucial to the success of IBJ's operations in Singapore, the SJTC established an internship program to accept law students from both Singapore Management University and National University of Singapore for short-term projects, helping to instill the value of pro bono work early in the students' legal careers.

In addition to working alongside government and educational stakeholders, the SJTC also moved to capitalize on connections in Singapore's private sector, collaborating with several renowned law firms in Singapore, including Khattar Wong, Shearman & Sterling, Clifford Chance, Latham & Watkins, and Drew & Napier, all of whom supported IBJ's Country and JusticeMakers Fellows summits, as well as our gala and auction in August.



IBJ Fellows Ouk Vandeth and Astère Muyango at the Fellows' Summit

One of their first initiatives was to meet with prominent members of Singapore's legal community to request their participation as judges for IBJ's 2010 Asia JusticeMakers competition. IBJ was delighted to secure the services of Philip Jeyaretnam, Managing Partner of Rodyk & Davidson (Singapore's

counterparts at Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB). IBJ was among the first wave of leading NGOs invited to operate in Singapore under the government's International Organizations Development Scheme. SJTC staff helped guide negotiations between EDB and IBJ headquarters, resulting in the award of a

*“IBJ’s training in Singapore was really beneficial for me. I not only clarified my various concepts about human rights issues, but also learned techniques for successfully implementing my project. The training put me on a proper track to move ahead in improving the criminal justice system in my country. I am really thankful to IBJ for improving my leadership skills and giving me knowledge and international exposure.”*

2010 JusticeMakers Fellow Muhammad Waqas Abid of Pakistan

## IBJ Country and JusticeMakers Fellows Summits Held in Singapore

From August 8 to 17, IBJ held its Country Fellows and JusticeMakers Fellows summits to celebrate the opening of the Singapore Justice Training Centre.

Five Country Fellows and three staff attorneys from IBJ’s six country programs gathered for a week of training, team-building exercises, strategic planning, and fellowship. Training topics included case theory and issue identification, opening and closing statements, direct and cross-examination, and standards for defense practice.

To foster motivation and commitment, several team-building exercises and discussions were undertaken. Topics ranged from aspirations for criminal justice systems to the specific successes and challenges that each country program had encountered in the past year. Every Fellow aspired to

have a strong justice system that upheld the rule of law and provided early access to competent criminal counsel for indigent accused persons.

At a dinner at the home of Subhas Anandan, a renowned Singaporean criminal defense attorney and founder and first president of the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore, Country Fellows discussed the challenges they face with experienced criminal defense practitio-

ners. The next day, Subhas discussed his career and provided impromptu instruction in cross-examination that captivated his audience. Additionally, at an event hosted by the international law firm Latham and Watkins, prominent Singaporean attorneys met both Country Fellows and JusticeMakers Fellows and learned about IBJ’s work.

Eleven 2010 Asia JusticeMakers Fellows attended the JusticeMakers Summit. They presented

their projects, participated in discussion groups and team-building exercises, and attended lectures and training sessions. Training topics included local fundraising techniques, leadership and fostering motivation, and media relations. In an especially noteworthy session, the JusticeMakers Fellows spoke about current trends in the criminal justice systems of their countries and, specifically about the realities and challenges they regularly confront.



Left and above: Country and JusticeMakers Fellows at the Fellows’ Summit



# A Message from IBJ's Chairman

## 2010 Brings Continued Progress toward Sustainable Criminal Justice Reform

*“...the fundamental question is whether we are building the institutional foundation of an accessible and predictable justice system that treats all individuals in a fair, impartial and accountable manner...”*

Daniel R. Fung was the first person of Chinese descent to serve as Solicitor General of Hong Kong. He did so both before and after Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. He is the President of the Hong Kong chapter of the International Law Association and Chairman of the Peace and Development Foundation, the official partner in Hong Kong of the United Nations Development Programme in China.

In 2010, I completed my first year as Chairman of the Board of Directors of International Bridges to Justice. It gave me enormous satisfaction to witness the significant progress the organization is making toward achieving sustainable criminal justice reform around the globe.

Some of the year's most exciting events occurred in Singapore, where IBJ opened its first regional hub, the Singapore Justice Training Centre. To celebrate, IBJ convened a Country Fellows Summit that assembled the leaders of IBJ's country programs and a JusticeMakers Fellows Summit that gathered eleven Fellows selected in its 2010 Asia JusticeMakers Competition. IBJ also held a successful fundraising gala during these summits.

In addition, major successes occurred in 2010 in IBJ's country programs:

❖ In China, IBJ trained over 2,000 police officers in investigative techniques to reduce their reliance on coercion to compel confessions.

❖ After two years of working to change the mindset of officials in Burundi, IBJ heard its own rights-awareness slogan, “Freedom is the Rule, Detention is the Exception,” invoked in the official announcement of a presidential decree releasing 1,300 prisoners from custody.

❖ Inspired by our trainings in Rwanda, several dozen lawyers banded together under the leadership of IBJ's

Country Fellow to initiate a movement to provide pro bono representation to impoverished criminal defendants.

❖ After five pre-trial detainee clients died in Zimbabwe, IBJ attorneys persuaded several Harare judges to waive bail for many of the poor criminal defendants they represent.

What is important about these successes is the significant contributions they are making to sustainable criminal justice reform in the countries in which they occur. For every activity we undertake, the fundamental question is whether we are building the institutional foundation of an accessible and predictable justice system that treats all individuals in a fair, impartial and accountable manner, or in other words, whether our interventions promote the development of the “rule of law” over the long term.

As the above examples indicate, I believe the answer to this question is a resounding “yes” in each country where we work. First and foremost, our defense services provide a concrete, on-the-ground example of best practice for how routine legal aid services can be provided. Additionally, through our roundtables and trainings we nurture the support, commitment and essential technical skills of the key stakeholders within the government whose support is crucial to building the political will needed to create a functioning and enduring legal

aid system. Finally, our rights awareness campaigns empower ordinary individuals with the knowledge they need both to participate effectively in the justice system and to demand systemic reforms within it.

Each of these three prongs is carefully implemented to build long-term support for legal aid reform and the rule of law. Furthermore, by implementing each in parallel, we achieve tremendous synergies for our overall effort. We acknowledge that this is a long-term process; however, as demonstrated elsewhere in this Annual Report, we are achieving clear and concrete results.

Of course, both financial resources and in-kind assistance are crucial to IBJ's continued success.

As IBJ works to create sustainable criminal justice reform worldwide, I ask you to contribute whatever you can to help us fulfill our mission. Thank you for your support.



Daniel R. Fung, Chairman of the Board of Directors of International Bridges to Justice

# IBJ Continued to Grow despite Challenging Economic Climate

In 2010 IBJ's total income increased by 48% from 2009 income to \$4.04 million.

Excluding in-kind donations, IBJ's income increased by 38% from \$2.20 million in 2009 to \$3.03 million in 2010. In-kind donations increased significantly to over \$1 million, due to the global economic climate, which prompted a general increase in applications from volunteers and enabled IBJ to secure the services of a number of deferred associates from US law firms for long periods of time.

In 2010 IBJ increased the share of funds received from government and multilateral agencies, which took over as IBJ's largest source of funds for the year.

After the success of our first fundraising event in 2009, IBJ organized a second event in 2010, this time in Singapore, raising over US\$120,000. Private individuals and law firms continued to support IBJ, contributing

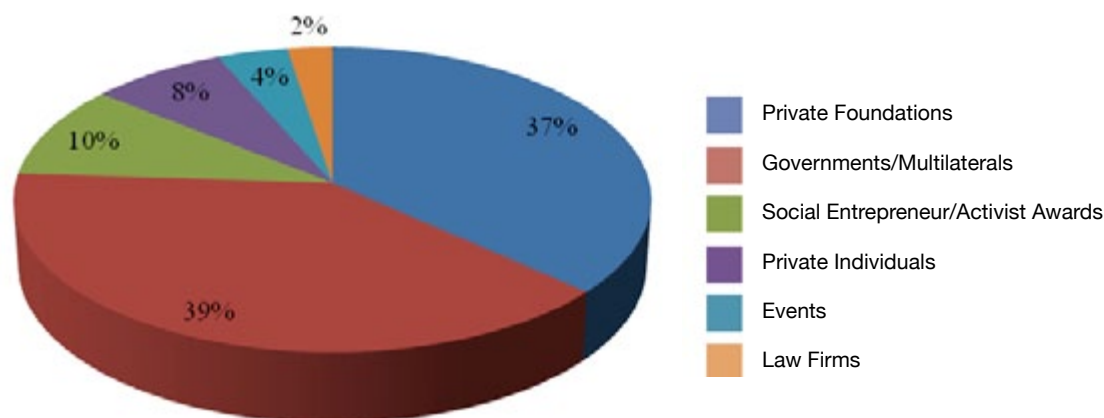
around 8% and 2% of our income respectively.

At the same time, the reality of the current global economic climate is clear; even as we continue to receive strong support from existing funders, securing new sources of funds is likely to present a challenge for some time to come.

Looking to the future, IBJ's first priority is to maintain existing programming at current levels. We actually expect to grow somewhat in 2011, albeit at a lower rate than in the last two years. In-kind donations will likely decrease from 2010 levels, as law firms have adjusted their recruitment practices, which decreases our access to deferred associates. We also have several key grant agreements ending in 2011, some of which cannot be renewed. Recognizing this, we are investing substantially in fundraising and development activities to ensure that we meet our income goals.

*“International Bridges to Justice’s strategy of supporting public defense lawyers around the world is high return on investment-giving.”*

Matthew Bishop  
US Business Editor and  
New York Bureau Chief,  
*The Economist*



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**IBJ Hosts Successful Gala in Singapore**

On August 12, 2010, IBJ hosted a successful fundraising gala and auction at the St. Regis Hotel in Singapore. More than 100 guests from law firms, academia, the nonprofit world, and prominent Singaporean families joined staff from IBJ's Geneva headquarters and the SJTC. IBJ's Country Fellows and its 2010 Asia JusticeMakers Fellows also attended.

Karen I. Tse, IBJ Founder and CEO, gave the opening address. Keynote speakers for the evening included Ong Keng Yong, the former Secretary-General of ASEAN and current Ambassador-at-Large for the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and a former Ambassador to the United Nations from Singapore; and Daniel R. Fung, Chairman of IBJ's Board of Directors. IBJ Country Fellows Ajay Verma (India) and Innocent Maja (Zimbabwe) and Legal Program Officer Zhao Hao (China) added to the event's cosmopolitan ambience with their inspirational and memorable speeches.



JusticeMaker Bijaya Chanda, IBJ Legal Program Officer Zhao Hao, and JusticeMakers Nana Chapidze, Harshi Perera, and Jae de la Cruz



IBJ staff and volunteers at the Gala

Table sponsors included the Apax Foundation, Mr. Fung, and Rohet Tolani, Managing Director of Tolani Shipping (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. Several Singaporean law firms also provided significant financial support.

May Lee, a prominent Asian television personality, conducted the live auction, which included luxury trips, dinners at several top Singapore restaurants, and artwork. Proceeds from the auctions and table sponsorships garnered more than SGD\$180,000 to support the SJTC.

The event helped IBJ to establish a strong presence in Singapore, its first regional hub. It also served as an opportunity to unite IBJ staff and supporters, spread across different continents, in celebration of IBJ's significant work and important achievements.

*The event helped IBJ to establish a strong presence in Singapore, its first regional hub.*

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Our work to advance the rule of law and improve access to legal representation would not be possible without the generous support of many people. In 2010, individual contributions to IBJ amounted to nearly \$250,000. This funding helped pay for JusticeMakers Fellowships, criminal defense trainings, roundtable discussions among police, judges, prosecutors, and defenders, and the operating costs of our offices in Asia, Africa, and Geneva.

Supporting the work of innovators operating at the grassroots level is the most effective approach to implementing legal reform. It puts resources in the hands of the actors who best know how to use them and directly offers tangible benefits to ordinary people around the world. Your support has made a real difference in IBJ’s efforts to carry out its mission to ensure access to justice for all. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

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*“To Karen and your army of public defenders, social defenders – the people who are changing the world and giving hope to the people who don’t have the ability to speak for themselves: You speak for them. You speak for their rights, you speak for their hearts, and you speak for their hopes. Thank you for everything you are doing, everywhere in the world. Injustice will be eradicated, and IBJ will be the tool, the army, the people who bring love and justice.”*

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