


# *Bridges/2015-2016*

*Biennial Report* International Bridges to Justice





*“International Bridges to Justice has taken on the hardest problem in the hardest places - and truly changed the system in place after place. Very, very few have accomplished anything like this.”*

**Bill Drayton**  
Founder of Ashoka

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

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International Bridges to Justice is a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

# Moving IBJ Forward

“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky's words resonate as much today as they did when he first wrote them over 150 years ago. For those who are arrested, tortured, and imprisoned indefinitely without access to a lawyer, human dignity may seem like an empty aspiration. Prisons remain our society's darkest corners, places where one's very humanity may be under threat. In consigning those incarcerated in metal cages to the deepest recesses of our minds, we have chosen to accept the darkness.

This environment of neglect is the space in which IBJ excels. As crystals form in darkness and under pressure, so, too, do IBJ's courageous defenders perform heroic efforts out of the public eye. Working in the darkest, most unglamorous circumstances, we have shed light on and tackled these painfully inconvenient truths: (1) if you are poor, you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer and (2) without adequate legal representation, you cannot enjoy the full protection of the law.

IBJ sheds light on the forgotten by providing systemic early access to competent legal representation for those accused of a crime. Since I founded IBJ in 2000, our tireless lawyers have pursued a unique approach to deliver free legal assistance to tens of thousands of people in more than 40 countries. We also have impacted over 25 million people through our rights awareness campaigns, roundtables, training workshops, and JusticeMakers program. These accomplishments illustrate an enduring conviction that guides IBJ's strategy to reduce torture and other abuse: systemic change is crucial to transforming criminal justice systems around the world. The complex infrastructure of criminal justice systems needs to be strengthened at every level to ensure widespread, systematic respect for due process rights. Institutions matter, therefore sustainable change requires improving the systems by which institutions operate.

IBJ is driving broad systemic change to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which is intended to “promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.”

We are building capacity among lawyers and justice officials on the ground and securing cooperative commitments from senior government officials, human rights organizations, and the private sector. A highlight of our SDG 16 activities is our 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) made up of 79 countries and regions. IBJ's partnership with the ACP offers us the opportunity to have unprecedented impact.

This year, we are especially proud to expand IBJ's activities into the Democratic Republic of Congo. The need for legal assistance in the DRC is profound: 75% of jailed Congolese are in pre-trial detention, meaning they have never had a fair trial. Overcrowding in these facilities poses serious safety and health issues for detainees. Violence at the hands of prison guards and other prisoners places detainees at further risk, all before ever actually having a trial. The conditions are ripe for IBJ's intervention. In South Kivu, where IBJ started working in June 2016, we are the sole legal aid organization. Having signed an MoU with

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*Karen Tse, IBJ Founder and CEO*



the Ministry of Justice in the DRC allows us access into prison facilities and paves the way for us to work collaboratively to strengthen rule of law and access to justice.

Safeguarding the rights of the criminally accused is not a glamorous job. It sits at the bottom of our societal priority list, a problem hiding in plain sight. A “band-aid” approach focusing resources and attention on the effects of failed justice systems has become the modus operandi of the international development community. Instead, those resources should be directed towards strengthening justice systems at their core.

The vitriolic and turbulent events of 2016 have highlighted the need for increased access to justice for all. Indeed, we are at a crossroads. We can only achieve SDG 16 through decisive, global collective action. Doing so creates new realities not just for prisoners, but for everyone: Everybody benefits when free individuals are empowered to fully participate in the development process. The darkness is indeed deep, which makes it all the more important that we let our light shine.

Thank you for all you are and all that we are doing together.

Warmest regards,



**Karen I. Tse**  
Founder and CEO  
International Bridges to Justice



# Access to Justice Protecting Due Process Rights

Every day throughout the world, thousands of individuals are detained arbitrarily, tortured, and denied access to counsel. Many never receive a fair trial. These systematic human rights abuses suffered by millions of individuals are a colossal injustice hidden in plain sight. IBJ believes that skilled defense attorneys, equipped with adequate training and support, are the key to unlocking the full potential of the access to justice movement.

## MISSION

In recognition of the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, IBJ is dedicated to protecting the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals in developing countries. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee all individuals the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

IBJ's mission is global in scope, marshalling a worldwide community of legal rights advocates to support the work of defense attorneys in developing countries. In each of its country programs, IBJ works at the national level influencing decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms, and on the local level, where IBJ fosters grassroots transformation through training sessions, justice roundtables, rights awareness campaigns, and the provision of legal protection to the indigent accused through Defender Resource Centres.

## COUNTRY PROGRAMS

### TRAINING LAWYERS

Currently, there are simply not enough skilled defense attorneys available to provide adequate representation to everyone accused of a crime. IBJ is a leading provider of training to both new and experienced criminal defense attorneys, increasing the number of lawyers taking criminal cases and improving access to competent legal 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. The rigorous global curriculum is designed to enhance lawyers' capacities as qualified advocates for their clients and ensure effective legal protection for everyone.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE

IBJ's intervention at the earliest possible stage of the criminal process ensures that even the poorest of the poor have the same level of protection under the law. Legal assistance is the backbone of IBJ's strategy to advance access to justice for the indigent accused and strengthen pro bono legal culture. Defender Resource Centers (DRCs), as the hubs of IBJ's in-country activities, serve as community legal centers that are the first stop for those seeking assistance for themselves or their family.

### JUSTICE ROUNDTABLES

To promote cooperation from the entire legal community and mutual respect among different stakeholders, IBJ regularly convenes roundtable meetings where government authorities, police, prison officials, lawyers, judges, community leaders, academics, and civil society organizations engage with one another to seek practical solutions and identify common ground. By providing a forum for these parties to communicate constructively, IBJ fosters a deeper understanding of the necessity to safeguard due process rights in a functioning criminal justice system.

### RIGHTS AWARENESS

Knowledge is a powerful tool in the fight for human rights. By equipping ordinary individuals with an awareness of their legal rights, IBJ greatly increases the likelihood that such individuals will assert their rights in case of arrest and demand representation. Furthermore, it widens the general public's understanding of their legal rights and obligations, and increases public support for access to justice initiatives.

## GLOBAL PROGRAMS

### JUSTICEMAKERS

Through the JusticeMakers program, we connect the best criminal justice defenders across the world to share intellectual capital and best practices. We fund projects to improve local criminal justice systems and award \$5,000 fellowships to innovative lawyers and legal activists to spread their initiatives around the world.

### ONLINE LEGAL RESOURCES

The IBJ eLearning platform and Criminal Defense Wiki provide vital assistance to human rights defenders worldwide. No matter where they are, lawyers and activists can access these resources and discover crucial information about everything from legal procedures, to the impact of new criminal codes, to how best prevent custodial torture. By making these resources easily accessible on a global scale, IBJ moves one step closer towards institutionalizing defender standards worldwide.

### LAWYER2LAWYER

Lawyer2Lawyer provides opportunities for law firms, bar associations and law schools to build links with courageous lawyers working on the frontlines in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Lawyer2Lawyer program provides unique learning opportunities for young lawyers to engage in human rights work and enables lawyers in developing countries with scarce resources to get access to first-class legal support.

### INTERFAITH

IBJ seeks to build a community of faith leaders across the world, coming together to form supportive partnerships and bridges of support. A key component is uniting faith-based institutions to stand unequivocally against the use of torture.

### YOUTH INITIATIVE

The IBJ Youth Initiative mobilizes young people to promote access to justice. Students and young social entrepreneurs with an interest in human rights take part in the Youth Initiative and engage in IBJ's mission to end torture as an investigative tool.

# Fifteen Years of IBJ in Cambodia

## Providing Country-Wide Legal Assistance

Over the last fifteen years, IBJ has developed a robust program in Cambodia that provides legal services to the most vulnerable populations through Defender Resource Centers (DRCs). Our work is the backbone of access to justice and is rooted firmly in the Cambodian legal landscape.

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ assisted over 1,500 detained individuals in 20 provinces. Roughly 1 in 12 of the 18,000 prison detainees in Cambodia receive legal assistance from IBJ. Of the 1,000 cases IBJ has closed, 62% have concluded with a positive result. Achieving dismissal, acquittal or a reduced sentence in a case mitigates the damaging effects of imprisonment on both the accused and their family.

IBJ's position in Cambodia as the main provider of free legal assistance in criminal cases is strengthened by the relationships it maintains with state institutions and civil society organizations. In May 2015, IBJ successfully registered with the Ministry of

Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia and created Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ), a local organization. IBJ and CBJ share the same mission, vision, and goals.

In June 2015, IBJ signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BACK). The MoU established a framework for cooperation to improve and sustain a comprehensive criminal legal aid system in Cambodia and establish effective working relationships between the three entities. As part of this strategy, IBJ is designing a mechanism for the government to effectively manage the delivery of access to justice services, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association.

Criminal defense is only effective if lawyers receive adequate training and support. To this end, IBJ hosted a Defender Training sponsored by AusAID through the Australian Embassy and the European Union Delegation to Cambodia in Phnom Penh in February 2015 for over 40 Cambodian defense lawyers. Training covered topics including

development of case theories, direct and cross-examination, investigatory skills, and fact-finding techniques for trial advocacy. Trainers emphasized the key role of lawyers in changing practice within Cambodia's judicial system, and participants were pleased to share insights with their peers. Marie Guiraud from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia echoed this sentiment in her remarks, stating "Lawyers can be very instrumental in making things change and improve...Lawyers have a great responsibility to make such change."

In 2015, IBJ hosted seven roundtable discussions in Cambodia led by the General Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal and the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice. They were attended by nearly 200 justice officials, including prosecutors, police officers, prison officials, civil society organizations, and local authorities such as commune chiefs, mayors, and provincial governors. Bringing together justice sector stakeholders to discuss obstacles to justice and steps to improve the justice system, the roundtable discussions helped break down communication barriers, promote relationships between stakeholders,

**JUSTICE FACTS:**

*Cambodia*

**Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:**

17.3

**2015 Prison Population:** 17,522

112 out of 100,000

**Justice Facts sources (all countries):**

*Rule of law indicator*

World Bank, Worldwide Governance Indicators

*Prison populations and rates:*

International Centre for Prison Studies



Lawyers and IBJ staff gather in February 2015 for a Defender Training Session



and develop solutions for access to justice. For example, roundtable participants developed strategies to better implement the Criminal Procedure Code and Criminal Code. Many officials still rely on forced confessions as the main source of evidence to convict defendants, emphasizing the need to use alternative non-violent techniques to conduct investigations. In discussing strategies to strengthen Cambodia's legal system, IBJ emphasizes government ownership of solutions to ensure national-level progress.

A roundtable bringing together key NGOs in March 2016 focused on legal aid funding in Cambodia. The meeting was attended by several organizations including: the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC), Cambodia Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR), Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW), and the Cambodia Women's Crisis Center (CWCC). The roundtable concluded with an action plan on how to promote the sustainability of legal aid organizations as vehicles for continued advocacy and judicial reform.

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ brought over 2,500 Cambodian citizens together in community legal awareness campaigns. With over 50 community legal awareness campaigns held in towns and provinces across Cambodia, the direct engagement between community members and legal practitioners provides a unique opportunity for participants to

*“Lawyers can be very instrumental in making things change and improve...Lawyers have a great responsibility to make such change.”*  
*Marie Guiraud, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia*

ask questions about their rights. The IBJ provincial lawyer and the Village Commune Chief lead each event, explaining the right to counsel, as well as basic legal principles like time periods of detention, contract disputes, and how to write a complaint. As a result, after the event citizens feel empowered and informed if faced with arrest.

In addition to community rights awareness campaigns, IBJ also conducted 37 prison legal awareness campaigns (PLAs) which were attended by nearly 1,000 detainees. The PLAs were conducted in prisons across the country by IBJ lawyers, who explained to detainees

the rights of the accused, the procedures of provisional detention, and the procedures related to criminal and civil complaints.

Ultimately, IBJ Cambodia's Defender Resource Centre model has proven to effectively advance access to justice for detained individuals and increased the confidence placed in IBJ by state institutions such as the Ministry of Justice in Cambodia. In response to IBJ's thorough, inclusive, and systematic approach to implementing human rights, the Government of Cambodia has offered IBJ free office space in the courts of all 25 of Cambodia's provinces. IBJ's dedicated team of lawyers have persevered in assisting Cambodian citizens in need of legal representation despite significant financial constraints.



## IBJ Defends Wrongfully Detained School Director in Takeo Province

Keo Dara lives in a small village in Takeo Province of southwest Cambodia with his wife and nine-year-old son. He is well liked in his community, as he is both the director and a teacher at the local primary school.

Dara cares deeply about his students and their wellbeing. Therefore, when he found out that fifty-five year old Sok Davuth had attempted to sell his students narcotics, he promptly alerted the authorities. Unfortunately, it took many reports by Dara to the police until action was taken against Sok Davuth.

On June 1, 2015, the police arrived at Dara's home and asked him to come into the station to help clarify the details of the case. Happy to oblige, Dara went willingly with the police to the station. He thought that he was going to identify Sok Davuth as a drug trafficker to children and provide more evidence the police. Instead, he was arrested under Chapter 10, Section 6 of the Cambodian Law on the Control of Drugs as an accomplice to Davuth and charged with drug trafficking!

While in disbelief that he was arrested under drug trafficking charges, Dara was confident that he would be released soon as he knew he was innocent. However, after five days in police custody, his confidence began to waver upon realization that he was facing up to five years in prison. Incredibly frightened and overwhelmed when police sent him to prison to await further discretion by the prosecutor, Dara was unsure of what to do and who to contact. He began to feel hopeless in the small room alongside 80 other prisoners.

Luckily, he saw one of IBJ's posters in the courthouse: now, he knew how to contact a lawyer.

Dara called the IBJ office and Mr. Ly Kosal, IBJ's provincial lawyer in Takeo, agreed to take the case and began to prepare for Dara's defense. Dara was relieved and hopeful that IBJ's representation would lead to the dropping of his charges so that he could return home to his wife, son, and students.

Within five days, Kosal prepared testimonies from local leaders that showed Dara's good standing in the community and presented that evidence alongside the fact that the police had no evidence against Dara. After hearing Kosal's well-prepared defense, the prosecutor dropped all charges against Dara and he was released from prison.

Dara is grateful for IBJ's willingness to represent him and the successful outcome of his release. However, this is not always the case. Many Cambodians face several months of pretrial detention on charges as weak as those leveled against Dara due to lack of representation. IBJ continues to focus on reaching defendants as quickly as possible in order to reduce prison overcrowding, expedite cases that congest the court system, and return innocent individuals to their family, friends, and community.

*By Clay Coffey*

*Names have been changed for this story. The client and his family consented for their story to be shared.*



Keo Dara with IBJ lawyer Sim Dalis





# Improving Access to Justice for China’s Most Vulnerable

*“IBJ’s partners in China always rise to the challenge, collaborating with us to inspire the next generation of attorneys to promote the rights of the accused within an increasingly complex legal system.” Aurora Bewicke, IBJ China Program Manager*

**JUSTICE FACTS:**

**China**

**Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:**  
43.8

**2015 Prison Population:** 1,548,498  
118 out of 100,000

**A**fter 15 years of work in China, IBJ has observed important developments in the criminal justice system. Representation rates have moved from around 10 percent to around 50 percent or higher currently. More and more accused persons have legal representation at an early stage in their case. Lawyers, furthermore, can more easily access the evidence against their clients, make procedural challenges, and move to exclude evidence obtained illegally, for example through coerced confessions. The acquittal rate rose by 33 percent in 2015 compared to total acquittals in 2014, which can be attributed to skillful and strategic defense by the defense lawyers in China. With the legal system becoming increasingly complex, IBJ and our partners continue to rise to the challenge to raise the bar on access to justice.

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ China operated three regional hubs: The National Defender Resource Center (NDRC) in Beijing, the Southeast Defender Resource Center (SEDRC) in Wuhan, Hubei Province, and the Northwest Defender Resource Center (NWDRC) in Xi’an, Shaanxi Province. Facilitated by seven China-based staff, IBJ China’s programming reached every province and autonomous region with its live and online trainings, rights awareness campaigns, community building activities, and pilot projects in local districts, all aimed at improving the rights of the accused and promoting a fair and

functioning criminal justice system.

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ trained over 1,600 defense lawyers through 10 live trainings, held seven community building events gathering 140 judicial stakeholders, reached thousands of individuals through seven rights awareness campaigns, developed 50 new virtual learning courses accessed over 3,000 times, provided legal aid for hundreds of individuals, and carried out two pilot projects for persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system.

Under the umbrella of IBJ’s Defending



▲ A lawyer poses a question during the RELM training in Kunming, Yunnang Province



▲ Students at Yushan Secondary School participate in a rights awareness event in December

Marginalized Populations Project, IBJ carried out four major initiatives, improving access to equal and effective justice for the most vulnerable groups in China, specifically, for ethnic and linguistic minorities, women, and people with disabilities. Through the Rights of Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities (RELM) Initiative, IBJ focused on expanding our defender training and rights awareness efforts to remote regions. The Female Accused Improved Representation (FAIR)

Initiative focused on reducing gender-based discrimination and improving the treatment of female accused. Through the Defendants with Disabilities Initiative (DDI), we developed and implemented comprehensive standards for treatment of disabled accused. Lastly, the Advanced Defender Initiative (ADI) helped strengthen the capacity of China's criminal defense attorneys, in order to better protect the rights of all defendants.

### Rights Awareness Campaigns Advance Access to Justice for Youth in Shaanxi Province

Each year, IBJ China holds a range of rights awareness events throughout the country, empowering individuals with basic knowledge of the legal system and how to access legal aid. In December 2015, IBJ's annual rights awareness campaign focused on youth in rural areas of Western China. In light of recent developments in the Chinese juvenile justice system, along with the increased risk, real and perceived, of delinquency among "left-behind" and migrant youth, youth in China today are in critical need of targeted legal informational campaigns.

These campaigns not only equip children and youth with legal knowledge, but also provide law students, China's next generation of lawyers, an opportunity to engage with the community. One such campaign was held on December 25, 2015, by law school students from Shaanxi Province who hosted an event for 250 students from a rural vocational school. The youth were mainly teenagers who had not qualified for entry into high school.

As one law student shared, "Through these events, we realized that the majority of Chinese teenagers are still lacking basic legal awareness...." While she initially perceived a large gap between her experience and that of her rural counterparts, she soon found "when we shared our stories, similar to theirs, in daily life... their attention was caught by us." She recalled one boy who suddenly stood up and talked about a story from his own life, admitting that, before the event, he "had thought the law was too far away from me or even irrelevant to me," but, "your speech totally changed my mind." Similarly, after the event the teachers at the vocational school said it was the "first time they felt the law so close to them and so useful in their life."

Through legal training initiatives, pilot projects in the justice sector, community building activities, and rights awareness events such as this one, IBJ China is building the capacity of defenders. More importantly, the work of IBJ China helps inspire the next generation of lawyers to commit themselves to public service, equipping individuals with the tools to ensure access to justice for all.



Specifically, under the RELM Initiative, IBJ enhanced the capacity of over 800 legal aid workers and justice professionals in China's remote regions through four live trainings. Through the same project, we also reached 5,400 community members through seven rights awareness events, and provided free legal consultations to 29 individuals. Under the FAIR initiative, IBJ trained over 150 justice sector personnel on gender-based issues in the criminal justice system. Under the DDI Initiative, IBJ carried out two pilot projects improving conditions for persons with disabilities in the criminal justice sector and held a national symposium to scale up the project results. Through the ADI Initiative, we published 31 new courses to our online eLearning platform, and provided individuals with access to a lawyer at the earliest stage in a case.

Lastly, we began our Next Generation Chinese Rights Defenders, Youth Rights Awareness, and Justice Defenders projects to complement our existing initiatives and provide continuous support to defenders. Notably, we developed a mobile app to host our online eLearning modules, publishing an additional 19 audio-casts made specifically for the app. We held three, multi-month Series of Trainings (SoTs), graduating 88 new rights defenders and training an additional 561 legal professionals through related events under the program. We also hosted an Experts Conference for 16 senior level professionals. Recently, at the end of 2016, we expanded upon our work in the area of disabilities, holding our first live DDI training for 34 individuals.

Not only have thousands of defendants benefited from our work over the past two years, but partners and attendees at our events have found inspiration, confidence, and a professional community that will support their work for years to come. One young defender noted, for example, that IBJ's training "can light up the way for a lawyers' future development." At a different training, another stated: "It increased my confidence and since I know so many lawyers who are interested in criminal defense gathered here, I am very thrilled about that." Moving forward, IBJ looks forward to continuing to be a bridge connecting lawyers to resources as well as to one another in order to ensure all individuals have access to effective and rights-based representation.



# Building Partnerships to Advance Access to Justice

## IBJ India Assists Prisoners in Delhi and Rajasthan

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ India continued to advance access to justice for the poor and the vulnerable. IBJ India works primarily in Tihar Prison in New Delhi, which is Asia's largest jail. IBJ India is one of the few non-governmental organizations allowed to conduct activities inside the prison.

IBJ has developed partnerships with both Tihar Prison and Ajmer Central Jail and has established a reputation as an effective organization committed to providing legal rights awareness and legal representation. Thus, the foundation has been laid for IBJ to scale up its provision of legal assistance to hundreds of detainees in need of legal representation in India.

In 2015, IBJ conducted 14 legal rights awareness events in Tihar Prison. By educating inmates on key legal procedures and principles, IBJ India was able to assist over 2,500 inmates in Jail #1, 3, 4 and 6 of Tihar Prison. In particular the rights awareness campaigns inside the jail benefited pre-trial detainees, women, and children.

Increasing legal awareness has also been a programmatic priority in Rajasthan, where prisoners were trained as paralegals in a workshop led by Mr. Ajay Verma in

Ajmer Central Jail in 2015. Organized in collaboration with the Prison Ministry of India-NGO, Ajmer Unit, over 200 prisoners, including 150 pre-trial detainees, benefited from the activity. Ten inmates were trained to assist in providing legal services inside the prison to pre-trial detainees, in particular to help them prepare their bail applications and petitions. During the workshop, IBJ India identified a large number of inmates needing legal representation. This resulted in IBJ India providing legal representation to 40 individuals in 2015, of which 67% were acquitted or released on bail. IBJ's actions allowed dozens of individuals to regain their freedom and be reunited with their families and communities.

In 2016, IBJ India continued to build on its work to increase access to justice by forgoing partnerships, educating prisoners, and taking on cases of legal representation. This included working with civil society organizations to monitor prisons, organize civil society consultations, and host events such as the 3rd National Convention on Prisoners Rights, Legal Aid and Monitoring in March 2016. Partners included the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the Human Rights Law Network and the Tata

Institute of Social Sciences.

IBJ India also actively contributes to national criminal justice reform efforts, notably through participation in the National Conference of Heads of Prisons on Prison Reforms in New Delhi hosted by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) at the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India.

With a total of 40 pro bono cases taken on, IBJ India achieved a 25% success rate in 2016, defined as an outcome where acquittal, provisional release, or a reduced sentence was obtained. Notably IBJ India represented three prisoners before the Supreme Court of India. Furthermore, IBJ India played a crucial role in informing new policies and initiating judicial reforms. IBJ is also working with the National Legal Services Authority to demonstrate how lawyers in India can benefit from IBJ's eLearning platform, and with the Paralegal Centre of Ajmer to conduct legal right awareness programmes. The Paralegal Centre of Ajmer was created with the assistance of IBJ India and Prison Ministry India, a national voluntary organization that works for the release and rehabilitation of prisoners.

### JUSTICE FACTS:

#### India

#### Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:

55.8

#### 2015 Prison Population: 332 112

30 out of 100,000



◀ Led by Ajay Verma, IBJ India visits Delhi Prisons to conduct educational sessions on fundamental rights and duties on November 23, 2016 (Constitution Day)



### Justice in Delhi Women's Prison: The Story of Fatima

IBJ organized monthly legal rights awareness events with prisoners in pre-trial detention in Tihar Jails of Delhi Prison in 2016. This included observing Constitution Day by conducting interactive sessions on issues of trial procedure, the right to an attorney, the provision of bail, constitutional rights and duties for prisoners, and legal education. Police and prison staff at the Delhi Police Academy received training. Lastly, IBJ provided crucial legal support following the opening of a jail in Mandawali at the request of the Director General of Delhi Prisons.

Engaging youth to advance access to justice has been a priority in 2015 and 2016. Country Manager Ajay Verma represented IBJ as a panellist in an annual seminar on Criminal Behaviour in Juveniles organized by the Department of Psychology at Indraprastha College for Women at the University of Delhi in March. He shared insights and solutions into juvenile justice issues. Since then, IBJ has established a partnership with the college to conduct awareness activities in prisons.

Furthermore, IBJ India has worked to advance access to justice in general, and youth in particular, not only in India but also in the South Asian region. At a workshop organized in partnership with Prisoners Assistance Nepal

and the Nepal Bar Association in Kathmandu, IBJ India led discussions on the problems facing juvenile and women detainees, the lack of adequate health and sanitation facilities in many Nepalese prisons, and how to bridge the gap between civil society, legal and penal groups. Lastly, participants discussed the great potential that pro bono legal assistance has to change the life of prisoners and positively impact the legal profession. The workshop was a valuable opportunity to share best practices about how to ensure justice for all within the criminal justice system.

Ultimately through its work at both the grassroots and national level, IBJ India has impacted the lives of individuals imprisoned unjustly and of lawyers working to improve their justice system. Despite a challenging funding environment, IBJ India has set up a strong foundation to build a sustainable legal system, and continues to work advancing access to justice for all.



IBJ volunteer lawyer Katyayni with Fatima

In Delhi, the need for affordable legal assistance is enormous. Two out of three prisoners in India are in pre-trial detention; that is, they have not appeared before a judge or received a fair trial.

Fatima is among the many women who have been arbitrarily detained in Prison No.6, a women's prison that is part of Tihar Central Jail in Delhi, the largest prison in Asia. A young mother, Fatima was arrested in March after being wrongly implicated in a case of theft. As is the case for most people in India, Fatima was unable to afford a private lawyer. Without access to legal representation, she remained in jail unable to care for her 4-year-old son, who was left in the care of her ailing mother.

Through a rights awareness camp organized by IBJ India in the Delhi Women's Prison, Fatima found out about IBJ's pro-bono work. After reaching out to an IBJ volunteer lawyer, Fatima received free legal assistance and was successfully granted bail. She is now back living with her mother and her son while her trial takes place.

IBJ, by providing free legal assistance and conducting rights awareness camps, was able to intervene early on and end Fatima's detention in chronically overcrowded conditions. IBJ is one of the few organizations that give ordinary individuals the chance to access justice and reclaim their freedom in an environment where many prisoners cannot afford legal assistance and are unaware of their legal rights.



# IBJ Opens a New Country Program in Democratic Republic of Congo

## Bringing Hope and Free Legal Assistance to South Kivu

The opening of a seventh country program in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016 is among IBJ's proudest achievements in the last two years. Supported by a generous grant from Global Affairs Canada, IBJ's new DR Congo program is part of a larger torture prevention project in Francophone Africa that IBJ is implementing in partnership with *Equitas - International Center for Human Rights Education*, based in Montreal, Canada.

The visit of IBJ Founder and CEO Karen Tse and International Program Director Sanjeewa Liyanage to Bukavu and Kinshasa in May 2016 set the project in motion. Key to IBJ's activities in the DRC was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice in Kinshasa, which greatly facilitates the building of relationships with partners and institutions, including prisons. In June 2016, IBJ's Defender Resource Center was opened in Bukavu, South Kivu, which borders Burundi and Rwanda.

IBJ held extensive consultations with key government officials, including the Minister of Justice of South Kivu, the Director of the Cabinet, the Legal Advisor to the Governor of South Kivu, the Director General of

Bukavu Central Prison, the Batonnier of the Bar Association of Bukavu, the Batonnier of the Bar Association of Kinshasa, and the Prosecutor General of Bukavu. Providing valuable insights into the criminal justice system, these partnerships laid the foundation for IBJ to conduct its work in the DRC with the goodwill and cooperation of key partners.

In August, lawyers started taking on legal cases. In only five months, the small team of dedicated lawyers at the IBJ Congo office provided legal representation to 118 women, men and children. Providing free legal assistance is a central part of IBJ's strategy to prevent torture and reduce human rights abuses in prisons.

In its first year of operation, under the direction of country coordinator Charles

Mugaruka Mupenda, the IBJ Congo program has made a significant impact on access to justice for the most vulnerable in Bukavu. In addition to taking on over 100 legal cases, IBJ Congo has developed a program to monitor detention centres with a view to prevent torture, identify individuals in need of legal assistance, and sensitize police and prison officials on the need to respect due process rights. Carrying out weekly visits in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Civil Service, Chiefs of the Prosecutors Offices' in the relevant jurisdictions, and the Justice Support Section of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), IBJ interviewed defendants to identify whether detention was justified and lawful. Through these visits, IBJ has identified several cases of torture and ill-treatment, and

### JUSTICE FACTS:

### DR Congo

**Rule of Law (Percentile Rank):** 3.4

**2015 Prison Population:** 20,550  
29 out of 100,000



Two young boys & their mothers with lawyer Crispin Sangara outside the Children's Court of Bukavu after their release. They were accused of stealing a bicycle.



ensured the release of dozens of individuals who have been unjustly detained.

There is an urgent need to strengthen justice mechanisms not only in Bukavu, but also in rural areas of South Kivu. Thus, IBJ Congo has expanded its activities to Kavumu and Kabare, organizing roundtables and rights awareness campaigns in the two towns to build collaborative platforms with justice officials and the public about their legal rights, identify challenges in the justice system, and find ways to strengthen the public's trust in justice authorities.

In Kavumu, a roundtable was held on December 8 to diagnose the causes of the crisis of confidence between the people of Kavumu and the justice authorities that resulted in the demolition of the courthouse and the buildings housing the Congolese National Police in Kavumu and Katana in September 2016. Attended by 17 officials, including magistrates of the Tribunal, members of the Prosecutor's Office in Kavumu, police officials, members from the Ministry of Justice, and civil society representatives, the roundtable was highly appreciated by all participants as a means of reducing the climate of mistrust in Kavumu. A week later in Kabare a second roundtable looked at how to improve cooperation between different justice authorities and traditional chiefs to aid the proper administration of justice.

IBJ is bridging the lack of trust between the public and justice officials through a two-pronged approach: 1) Roundtables sensitize justice officials to pressing problems within the justice system, and 2) rights awareness campaigns educate the public about their rights, obligations, and the functioning of the justice system. With justice officials at the roundtables recommending organizing regular public awareness sessions to combat mistrust in justice institutions, IBJ carried out four rights awareness sessions in the DRC in 2016. The street campaigns were organized on the themes "Together for a good administration of

justice: our rights and duties" and "Understanding the role of judicial power in Kabare." The campaigns covered the commercial centers of Mudaka, Murhesa, Miti and Kabare near Kavumu, and the towns of Cirunga and Mudusa near Kabare.

Ultimately, IBJ's first year in the DRC revealed massive challenges in criminal justice and human rights. Nevertheless, there is vast potential to address these challenges through targeted, creative and original interventions. IBJ's efforts to ensure widespread respect for legal rights are bearing fruit, and already hundreds of individuals have been impacted by IBJ's work to make free legal representation widely accessible for all. The Defender Resource Center has become popular and well-known in the community, and many cases are referred to IBJ. Furthermore, authorities in the region have shown themselves open to engaging in constructive discussions about the state of criminal justice. The President of the *Tribunal de Grande Instance de Bukavu*, Luc Mushagalusa Basedeke, has stated that since IBJ started working in Bukavu, there has been a noticeable impact on the speed at which cases are being processed. However, many challenges remain: in Bukavu Central Prison alone, over 1,000 individuals are held in pre-trial detention in need of legal assistance. On the national level, the pre-trial detention rate in the DRC is a staggering 73%. Abuse and torture in prisons, especially among women and children, remains endemic.

In the face of these challenges, IBJ's work shines a light upon those who otherwise would be left without assistance. There is an urgent need for IBJ to scale up its operations in the DRC and ensure that every woman, man and child accused of a crime is fairly judged in a court of law. In the year to come, IBJ is doubling its efforts to provide legal assistance to those in need, monitor detention centres to prevent torture, sensitize authorities through justice roundtables, and organize street campaigns to improve the public's knowledge of their rights.

### Law Students from the Catholic University of Bukavu and UCLA Work Together to Advance Access to Justice

The involvement of youth is a key component of IBJ's DRC program. With students from the Faculty of Law at Bukavu Catholic University working with IBJ to organize rights awareness events, document stories, and prepare material for roundtables, this collaboration gives young people with a keen passion for justice and human rights the opportunity to make a direct impact in their community. A team of law students from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) have partnered with Bukavu Catholic University students as part of IBJ's Youth Initiative, allowing students to share ideas and creative solutions on justice issues across borders.



▲ Lawyer Dieudonné Munguwampaga Birere and volunteer Mireille N'sili Binwa in Kavumu during a monitoring session



▲ Justice officials, lawyers & civil society members gather during a roundtable



▲ Law students and IBJ staff speak with a young girl and her family during a community rights awareness event

## IBJ Congo Secures Release of Burundian Mother of 6, Detained in Bukavu

The African Great Lakes region has for centuries been the scene of vibrant cross-border exchanges and trade. Despite conflict and instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and Rwanda in recent decades, many of the region's inhabitants enjoy friendships across national borders.

Belyse (not her real name), a young mother of six from Bujumbura in Burundi, is one such individual. With the Congolese province of South Kivu only a short bus ride away, Belyse crossed the Burundi-Congo border on June 14 and headed to Bukavu, to visit an old friend. Little did she know that before arriving at her friend's house, she would become a victim of a false accusation.

Having made her way to Bukavu, Belyse was approached by a stranger on the street who accused her of cheating her out of money. Belyse had never seen the woman who accused her before. The stranger started to cry and scream, pulling at Belyse's clothes and gathering a crowd of angry onlookers, who joined the stranger in hitting and punching Belyse.

Terrified and surrounded by a hostile crowd, Belyse asked to be taken to the nearest police station for safety. When she arrived at the nearby Muhungu La Voix Police Station, however, rather than offering her protection, the police detained Belyse after the unknown woman who had instigated the attack told the officers that Belyse had swindled her out of money.

As a native Kirundi speaker, Belyse was unable to communicate properly with the prison guards and prosecutors, as the main language spoken in eastern Congo is Swahili. Detained in police custody then imprisoned in Bukavu Central Prison, Belyse had her legal and travel documents taken from her by a police officer - a common practice throughout the DRC.

At the moment when her situation looked hopeless, IBJ lawyers stepped in and intervened on her behalf. Meeting with prosecutors and investigating magistrates, IBJ's lawyers obtained her legal documents from the police officer and won her release from detention, demonstrating that the charges against her were groundless. After her release, she was brought to IBJ's office where she shared food and tea with the IBJ Congo team. IBJ then provided her with the money to purchase a bus ticket to return home to Bujumbura, where she was reunited with her six young children.

Belyse was overcome with immense joy at being freed. She expressed her sincerest thanks to IBJ not only for helping to release her from prison, but also for making sure she was able to safely return to her country and her children. As a widow, Belyse is their sole caretaker. Furthermore, the IBJ Congo team put Belyse in touch with the IBJ team in Burundi, to whom she can turn for help once she is back home. Calling the IBJ Congo office upon her return to Bujumbura, she sends her blessings to all of the IBJ team.



▲ Belyse seen off by country coordinator Charles Mupenda and lawyer Dieudonné Birere at the bus station in Bukavu after obtaining her release.







# Providing Legal Assistance IBJ in Burundi in 2015 and 2016

**I**BJ continues to play a central role in strengthening the justice system in Burundi. Providing legal assistance to accused people, educating the public about their rights, and training lawyers and justice officials, IBJ's Burundi program has made crucial impact. Since 2009, IBJ's Defender Resource Center in Bujumbura has provided a space where defense lawyers can work, prepare their cases, and meet with clients.

During an increasingly challenging period, IBJ is among the few NGOs that has continued providing legal representation to detained persons. With the support of the Government

of Canada, Pro Victimis, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, IBJ Burundi is delivering expeditious legal assistance projects to the poorest and most vulnerable in Burundi's criminal justice system.

IBJ Burundi has assisted over 650 detained individuals in the past two years, many of whom were in pre-trial detention or arbitrarily detained following political protests. Remarkably, of the 270 cases closed, every single case has resulted in a positive outcome – that is, a reduced sentence, acquittal, or dismissal. With approximately 400 ongoing cases that are either awaiting judgment or awaiting trial, however, there is an urgent need to reduce case backlogs in the Burundian justice system.

IBJ's soft-governance approach is key to successfully implementing activities in an increasingly delicatened environment. The Burundi team has developed and maintained constructive relationships with the Ministry of Justice – with whom it signed an MoU in 2013 – the Burundi Bar Association, and civil

society organizations. IBJ regularly gathers high-level justice sector stakeholders for round-table discussions to promote cooperation and coordination among different actors to address common concerns. In 2015, IBJ lawyers obtained the registration of Burundi Bridges to Justice (BBJ), a local NGO which is now an implementing partner of IBJ's Burundi program. The creation of this legal entity enables IBJ to expand its program in Burundi and more easily conduct its activities.

IBJ also maintains productive relations with human rights organizations including the National Human Rights Commission of Burundi, Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS), the Association des Femmes Juristes du Burundi (AFJB), and the Association of Catholic Jurists (AJCB). The main work of these leading Burundian human rights organizations is to monitor prisons, report human rights violations, and advocate against arbitrary detention.

In the face of these challenges, IBJ has designed programs aimed to increase the en-

## JUSTICE FACTS:

### Burundi

#### Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:

11.5

#### 2016 Prison Population: 10 049

86 per 100,000



In celebration of International Human Rights Day, IBJ lawyers organized a campaign in Buhonga on fundamental rights.

## IBJ IN BURUNDI

agement of young people to strengthen rule of law and the implementation of due process rights. Providing legal assistance to arrested individuals and at-risk youth and visiting police lockup stations and prisons, IBJ in all its activities strives to foster more effective implementation of human rights principles and encourage a pro-bono culture among the legal profession. As Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with over 70% of the population below the poverty line, most people cannot afford a lawyer upon arrest and formidable barriers exist to people accessing justice. In the past two years, the number of people in prisons dramatically increased and prison conditions deteriorated. Many of the people provided with assistance are young, poor, and bear marks of torture.

Educating the public about their legal rights, IBJ's social media, SMS and Street Law campaigns have effectively prevented individuals from becoming entangled in the justice system without proper protection. Generally, the Burundian population has limited awareness of fundamental rights, and high levels of illiteracy. Development will occur in Burundi only if there is high-level support for justice reform and broader understanding of individual rights. Organizing rights awareness events reaching hundreds of individuals, IBJ made



Volunteer lawyers Jean Claude Barakamfitye, Fortunate Niyonkuru and Fides Nibasumba at the BBJ office

significant strides towards improving the legal awareness of ordinary citizens in the province of Bujumbura, particularly in Buhonga area. 16 rights awareness events have been organized since IBJ started working in Burundi in 2008.

*“Remarkably, of the 270 cases closed, every single case has resulted in a positive outcome – that is, a reduced sentence, acquittal, or dismissal.”*

More lawyers need to be trained in providing a competent defense to ensure a high standard of legal protection. Since 2008, IBJ has trained 91 lawyers in Burundi. The “train the trainer” approach used by IBJ creates a sustainable model for legal skills sharing and

is an efficient means for the dissemination of criminal defense practices throughout Burundi's defender community. Furthermore, it encourages lawyers to commit to assisting people in need of legal aid as part of their duty as a legal professional. Through IBJ, lawyers share good practices and defense strategies to draw key lessons that can be disseminated with the many legal actors involved in IBJ's work. An intensive training session is planned for July 2017.

Ultimately, through a series of interlinked activities IBJ continues to work to improve the justice system in Burundi with the ultimate goal of providing comprehensive legal protection to all individuals in Burundi.

### Under 15 Years Old, but Put in Custody

The political instability that arose in April 2015 has had serious repercussions on the rights of the child in Burundi. Several children were caught during or after public demonstrations. Some were imprisoned; others killed.

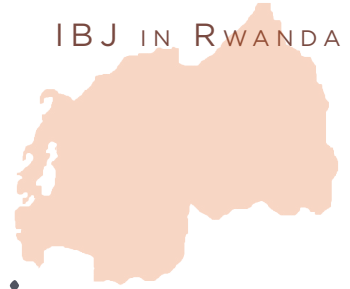
Among the children put in jail following the political turmoil are two young children, Elvis and Cyriaque. They were arrested following an incident in September 2015 in Musaga, a zone in Bujumbura, where a car was set on fire during political demonstrations. One of the children described it “like a scene out of a movie.” As National Intelligence Services descended upon the crowd, most of the demonstrators ran away while the children were left behind. They were arrested and brought to the Special Bureau of Investigation, where they were interrogated and accused of malicious damage against property.

Elvis (13 years old) and Cyriaque (14 years old) were arrested when they were just three days into the academic year and detained for seven days. While in custody, they repeatedly pleaded with the guards to let them go because they missed attending school.

Provided with legal assistance by IBJ volunteer lawyer Jean-Claude Barakamfitye, Elvis and Cyriaque appeared before a prosecutor for investigation on October 1, 2015, a week following the arrest. Jean-Claude was able to successfully argue for their unconditional release based on several principles. First of all, neither child was of the age of criminal responsibility, which is 15 years in Burundi. Secondly, the principles in the Criminal Code concerning “the best interest of the child” and “the imperative to safeguard the right to education of any child in conflict with the law” had clearly been violated. Thirdly, as the police conducted an examination of the children with no lawyer present upon their initial arrest, they had also violated the right to legal representation of any child in all proceedings which is enshrined in the 2013 Criminal Procedure Code. Ultimately, the clear presentation of the irregularities in the children's case, and most importantly the fact that the children concerned were less than 15 years old, were critical factors in securing their release. Elvis and Cyriaque were released unconditionally. They were very happy to be able to go back home to their families and go back to school.

The case demonstrates how competent legal representation at the earliest time of arrest is a crucial safeguard against human rights violations, especially for children. With hundreds of children imprisoned in the wake of the political violence in Burundi, there is a great need for IBJ and other organizations to ensure that they are provided with legal protection. Confronted with an escalation in the use of torture and ill-treatment during detention across Burundi, an important lesson for IBJ is the necessity to sensitize both police officers and prosecutors to the need to fully respect the rights of the accused, no matter the circumstances. It is crucial that IBJ continues its work in Burundi for human rights protection.





# IBJ Expands Legal Assistance to All Rwandan Provinces

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ has done remarkable work in Rwanda, with a Task Force of volunteer lawyers created by Rwanda Country Manager John Bosco Bugingo providing criminal legal aid to over 250 individuals throughout the country. IBJ expanded its reach to cover Gicumbi in Northern Province, Huye, Nyamagabe and Nyanza in Southern Province, and Kigali, thus ensuring that even in rural areas accused people have access to comprehensive legal assistance.

The provision of legal representation to the poorest people in Rwanda helps to ensure that fewer people are arbitrarily detained, subject to torture, or denied legal counsel. The majority of individuals assisted by IBJ are either in pre-trial detention, or previously sentenced without meaningful legal representation. IBJ works across a wide number of prisons in Rwanda, including in Nyarugenge, Gasabo, Rusizi, and Rwamangana. In addition to developing partnerships with prisons, IBJ has developed key partnerships with the Rwanda Bar

Association (RBA), Association des Jeunes Avocats du Rwanda (Aja-Rwanda) and the Legal Aid Forum. Lawyers commit to maintaining partnerships with existing partners, and to fostering collaborative dialogue with justice officials and policymakers through roundtable discussions.

IBJ's approach of working collaboratively with government institutions has allowed our program to thrive and overcome challenges. Furthermore, the Rwandan government has made gradual progress to strengthen the judicial infrastructure to process criminal cases, notably through electronic filing and use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), reviewing the penal code to institute legal reform, and enacting a special law on legal aid. Primary among the government's efforts to enhance access to justice and provide legal aid are the *Justice, Reconciliation, Law and Order Plan* and the National Legal Aid Policy. With the aim to strengthen rule of law and address issues such as overcrowding in prisons, case backlogs and lack of awareness of rules and procedure, the two policies recognize that poverty, limited access to lawyers and lack of knowledge about legal procedure significantly limit access to justice to indigent and vulnerable citizens. They aim to improve access to justice for all Rwandans and strengthen rule of law by expanding legal aid provision, establishing a legal aid fund, and streamlining the alternative dispute resolution system.

A notable milestone which will allow IBJ to expand its work in Rwanda further is the

*“A pro-bono legal culture, pioneered by IBJ in Rwanda, has ensured that even the poorest members of society get the legal help they need and that ordinary individuals are not detained for excessive lengths of time.”*

## JUSTICE FACTS:

### Rwanda

**Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:**  
60.1

**2015 Prison Population:** 54 279  
434 per 100,000



Elissa Goldberg, Canadian Deputy Minister - Partnerships for Development with Sanjeewa Lyanage, Karen Tse and the RBJ team



Lawyers at a mentoring session hosted by IBJ in November 2016

successful registration of a local IBJ Rwanda chapter, Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ). This was achieved in November 2016 following the official recommendation from the Mayor of Nyarugenge district for IBJ to implement its activities in Rwanda.

The backbone of IBJ Rwanda's program are the mentoring sessions and training workshops organized at the Defender Resource Center in Kigali. With the aim of sensitizing and educating lawyers on court advocacy, human rights issues, and defense strategies, IBJ is preparing the next generation of legal talents and future justice sector leaders in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region.

In 2015 and 2016, IBJ mentored over 350 volunteer and Task Force lawyers. This training is especially crucial considering the scarcity of lawyers in Rwanda, one of the main challenges the justice system faces: A report from the United Nations Development Program from 2014 shows only one lawyer available for every 9,800 people in Rwanda.

These efforts directly contribute to reducing case backlogs and preventing the use of torture as punishment in cases against ordinary citizens. Providing much-needed training to young legal professionals, IBJ pushes for cultural change within the legal system, supporting the creation of a pro-bono legal culture that encourages lawyers to assist indigent people. The sessions have had a significant impact on improving legal skills and promoting community spirit among Rwanda's legal professionals, building a long-term foundation for improved access to justice. IBJ now has 40 lawyers on its Task Force in Rwanda.

In the years ahead, IBJ Rwanda is renewing its efforts to strengthen the foundation for rule of law and respect for justice in Rwanda. IBJ's interventions have proven extremely effective in mitigating the negative consequences of imprisonment, giving hope to the accused and their families that they will access justice. The growing corps

of lawyers who volunteer to take on criminal cases of the indigent accused on IBJ's behalf continue to demonstrate that, through hard work, it is possible to deliver legal aid to those who need it most.

### John, Father of Two, Freed after 8 Months in Prison

Volunteer lawyers working on behalf of IBJ have given hope to hundreds of women, men and children imprisoned in prisons across Rwanda. With indigent detainees in dire need of legal assistance to go through the rigorous process of the justice system, yet unable to afford a lawyer, regular visits by IBJ volunteer lawyers have changed the lives of these detainees, and the lives of their families through timely counsel and legal representation.

A pro-bono legal culture, pioneered by IBJ in Rwanda, has ensured that even the poorest members of society get the legal help they need and that ordinary individuals are not detained for excessive lengths of time.

One such individual is John, a 32-year-old who had languished in prison for 8 months before IBJ discovered him and appealed his case at the High Court. Grace, the IBJ volunteer lawyer who assisted John, had taken part in a number of workshops and mentoring sessions organized at IBJ's Defender Resource Center in Kigali. She met John during one of her regular visits to prisons and subsequently took on his case. While John did not disclose that he was a victim of torture, he bore obvious marks of abuse and mental distress, as is still all too common among prisoners in Rwanda.

John a father of two, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the lower and intermediate courts for a crime he did not commit. As his family's sole breadwinner, his wife and children were put in an extremely vulnerable situation by his detention. Due to IBJ's timely assistance, however, John was able to regain his freedom.

Grace represented him before the High Court of Rwamagana, where she was able to demonstrate that the charges he was accused of were unfounded in facts and the law, and that all evidence was insufficient to incriminate the accused. This led to John being cleared of all charges and released from detention a week and a half after the appeals court hearing.

IBJ's work in Rwanda is creating a path to a community of equitable justice. It is a blessing to the community that looks for equal opportunity in one of Africa's fastest growing nations.



# System Change through Capacity-Building

## IBJ Provides Essential Legal Services in Zimbabwe

*“IBJ has found that a large number of individuals are detained with little to no evidence against them, imprisoned for excessive periods of time without access to a lawyer.”*

In Zimbabwe, IBJ has reinforced its efforts to provide legal representation to ordinary individuals, in particular to young defendants accused of petty crimes. Thanks to the continued support of the City of Geneva, in 2015 and 2016 IBJ provided legal representation to over 100 persons in the Harare area. This led to dozens of individuals being acquitted, dismissed, provisionally released or granted a reduced sentence. IBJ’s intervention yielded a 35% success rate and allowed individuals imprisoned without due process to regain their freedom at an earlier stage, thus facilitating reintegration into the community and reducing exposure to mistreatment and trauma.

The prevailing harsh economic climate in the country, characterized by unprecedented high rates of unemployment and poverty, is a continuing challenge. IBJ has found that a large number of individuals are detained with little to no evidence against them, imprisoned for excessive periods of time without access to a lawyer. The average wait time of 26 days to access legal advice is a worrying statistic, and excessive pre-trial detention is a widespread problem. IBJ has made inroads towards addressing this problem in Harare by securing the release of dozens of individuals. Nevertheless, there remains a great need to expand legal assistance outside the capital.

Fostering a strong relationship with the Law Society of Zimbabwe has allowed IBJ to magnify its impact. Out of this collaboration, IBJ has become part of the Law Society’s Continuous Professional Development Program, through which IBJ and the Law Society jointly conduct capacity-building

workshops for Zimbabwean lawyers. In October 2016, a workshop was organized by the two organizations on national litigation techniques and advocacy skills. Attended by 60 legal practitioners from across the country, the training focused on pre-trial procedure, trial pre-preparation, cross examination, legal analysis, legal drafting, closing submissions, ethical conduct and team-building. This gave legal professionals in Zimbabwe a valuable opportunity to build up their skills and capacities to provide competent representation over the two-day training.

IBJ and the Law Society continue to explore different areas of collaboration beyond these activities, including working jointly to establish legal assistance programmes in other major urban centres modeled on IBJ’s program in Harare and together organizing rights awareness programmes.

Complementing its efforts to provide legal representation, IBJ also regularly carried out rights awareness campaigns in Harare Central Prison that have advised over 200 pre-trial detainees of their rights. Rights awareness campaigns are a key part of IBJ’s programs, as increasing both prisoners’ and the public’s knowledge and awareness tends to reduce instances of abuse.

Furthermore, in addition to visiting prisons, two radio broadcast campaigns were conducted in November 2016 in partnership with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation’s SFM radio, where IBJ lawyers were interviewed on air. IBJ lawyers outlined the constitutional principles that guarantee the rights of individuals, in particular the rights of detainees - including the right to be

### JUSTICE FACTS:

#### Zimbabwe

#### Rule of Law (Percentile Rank) 2015:

6.3

**2015 Prison Population:** 18,857  
145 out of 100,000





Participants discuss strategies to increase right awareness in Zimbabwe at a Justice Roundtable in November 2016

informed of the reason for arrest and the right to contact their family. Each broadcast was heard by over 1 million people.

With many prisons operating at or above full capacity, IBJ has seen significant willingness on the part of prison authorities to facilitate the work of IBJ to represent persons detained without lawyers. Discussions between prison authorities, state officials and lawyers were organized by IBJ through three roundtables in 2016 to discuss best practices within the criminal justice system. Bringing together about 30 senior justice officials, topics ranged from the effect of corruption on access to justice, to how to improve the prison rehabilitation system, to improving rights awareness in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas.

and November, were invaluable in engaging major stakeholders in the criminal justice system to create a common understanding of prevailing challenges. Identifying issues such as poor prison conditions, lack of training opportunities for young lawyers, and a culture of fear and impunity hindering rights from being properly safeguarded, several recommendations issued from the roundtables. These recommendations included enforcing anti-corruption measures in the judicial system, systematizing lawyers' visits to prisons, increasing training opportunities for judicial officers, and more effectively disseminating information on due process rights and legal aid. The roundtables mobilized state officials and lawyers to recognize the importance of upholding the rights of citizens before the law.

greater respect for and adherence to human rights in Zimbabwe. Key to this is continuing and increasing legal assistance for detained persons, educating the public, lawyers and state officials on proper implementation of laws, and building the capacity of actors within the justice system to promote the rule of law. Finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Zimbabwe is a priority to ensuring IBJ's programs in the country continue to run unencumbered. Lastly, establishing legal assistance programs in other major urban centres, modeled off of the one in Harare, would greatly expand IBJ's impact on strengthening the justice system in Zimbabwe.

The roundtables, held in May, August,

Going forward, IBJ continues to push for

### *IBJ Frees Arbitrarily Detained Father*

Ensuring that legal rights are protected in Zimbabwe remains an enormous challenge. Against the backdrop of political challenges, staggering rates of poverty and unemployment, rule of law continues to be put under pressure.

Among the thousands of individuals left without adequate legal protection is Tapona, a husband and father of a three-year-old child who was arrested for unlawful entry and theft in November 2015, despite lacking evidence. IBJ was able to provide Tapona with legal assistance after he had been in prison for one and a half months. During that time, Tapona had been tortured by the police. They had tied him up, forced him to the ground, and beat him repeatedly with batons. When Tapona told the court about the abuse he suffered at the hands of the police, the court ordered that the state investigate the allegations. Meanwhile, Tapona remained in custody deprived of freedom. His trial was continually postponed, keeping him indefinitely in pre-trial detention.

Once IBJ volunteer lawyers discovered him and took on his case, they immediately started working to get him out of custody. On the basis of the extraordinary amount of time that he was detained without trial, IBJ lawyers applied to have Tapona immediately released. Thanks to the intervention of IBJ lawyers, the court cleared Tapona of all charges and released him from custody two months after his imprisonment.

# IBJ's Singapore Justice Training Centre

## The role of young lawyers in increasing access to justice

The Singapore Justice Training Centre (SJTC) played a lead role in conducting IBJ's sixth JusticeMakers Competition in 2015. The IBJ ASEAN Youth JusticeMakers Competition was supported by the National Youth Council (NYC) of Singapore and apVentures.

Focusing on lawyers below the age of 35 in the ASEAN region, the competition recognized young lawyers as key actors in improving criminal justice systems in Asia. Four lawyers with innovative legal outreach projects were selected from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. This brings the total number of IBJ JusticeMakers Fellows to 59, spanning 38 countries.

The SJTC in 2015 and 2016 made the provision of comprehensive programmatic support to the four new JusticeMakers Fellows a key priority. Integral to this programmatic support was the establishment of a partnership with nine lawyers from Hogan Lovells Singapore as mentors for the four new JusticeMakers Fellows. Hogan Lovells lawyers supported the JusticeMakers in areas including legal research, content management and media outreach. The partnership program was established for a six-month period.

The full profiles of the four new JusticeMakers Fellows can be read on the JusticeMakers page.



# Advancing Access to Justice Through a Global Network

In 2015 and 2016, International Bridges to Justice continued to build the movement to advance access to justice and end torture at a global and local level. Through partnerships with lawyers, human rights organizations, governments, civil society, universities and law firms, IBJ has built upon the success of previous years and moved one step closer to institutionalizing defender standards worldwide.

As the chairman of IBJ's Board of Directors, I would like to thank those who have contributed to our work during this period. We are grateful for the support of numerous backers, from international development agencies to human rights foundations to many private individuals for their ardent support. IBJ in particular extends its thanks to Global Affairs Canada, whose support kick-started IBJ's Prevention of Torture Program in Francophone Africa, the US State Department, the City of Geneva, and contributors to IBJ's annual Holiday Crowdrise. Lastly, we thank our volunteers for their invaluable support, our dedicated lawyers for their enduring passion, and our courageous staff for making our programs possible.

Access to justice is fundamental for ensuring respect for human rights and sustainable growth in countries with limited resources. This year, three developments stand out that have moved us forward on the long road to justice:

First, with the advent of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, we have a unique opportunity to advance a stronger, more effective development agenda with concrete actions to support basic access to justice. Sustainable Development Goal

16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - recognizes access to justice as fundamental to achieving strong and stable societies. The launch of the Access to Justice Index by JusticeMaker Basavanagouda Patil in August 2016 moves us one step closer to measuring the root factors of how the government, judiciary, the legal profession and legal education contribute to accessing justice. Preparations are underway for the launch of the Declaration on Access to Justice to Prevent Torture in Davos in January 2017, signalling a shift to a new equilibrium in justice.

Second, the increasingly complexity of the civil society space IBJ works in reinforces our conviction that partnerships at all levels must be built to ensure long-term system change in justice systems around the world. In February 2016, IBJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 79-member African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States for the advancement and concrete implementation of UN SDG 16 in the region. With the roll-out of an ambitious torture prevention project in francophone Africa in April 2016, new partnerships at the local and regional level have emerged, and existing partnerships have been strengthened. Notably, the signing of an MoU with the Ministry of Justice in DR Congo has enabled IBJ to kick-start its seventh country program and provide legal representation to over 100 people in the province of South Kivu.

Third, in the last year IBJ has realized that, for the international community to effectively mobilize on the issue of access to justice and investigative torture, we need to leverage digital technologies. A collaborative digital platform is key to transforming our existing network into a global community of action. Already, the IBJ Criminal Defense Wiki and the Legal Training Resource Center

provide invaluable resources to lawyers in over 75 countries who otherwise have extremely limited access to comprehensive training material. Looking forward, IBJ seeks to build a collaborative platform for solutions exchange on access to justice enabling real-time global information gathering and collaboration.

The mission of IBJ resonates with lawyers, human rights defenders, government officials and ordinary individuals throughout the world. This has facilitated the extension of IBJ's programs into even the most challenging spaces, all the while combining the principle of local leadership with global coordination. The magnanimity and generosity of spirit of IBJ's numerous supporters has allowed for incredible accomplishments in 2015 and 2016. For this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,



**Daniel R. Fung**  
Chairman, IBJ Board of Directors

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.



# Online Legal Resources

## Using Technology to Improve Defender Standards Worldwide



Our online training tools are an important addition to the training sessions that are conducted through our Country Programs. The online materials are easily accessible and provide in-depth, country specific training tools for defense lawyers in over 75 countries.

IBJ’s core mission to end torture and guarantee due process rights can be achieved through strengthening the capacity of lawyers on the ground. Connecting defenders from all around the world and creating a network of lawyers helps to develop transparent legal systems and gradually institutionalize defender standards. Our online programs harness the power of the Internet to deliver country-specific and topic-based materials around the world. Since launching these online resources in 2010, IBJ has focused its attention on developing content, building and supporting a global legal community, and increasing international awareness of defenders.

Our dedicated staff and legal volunteers around the world have developed these interrelated web-based programs that have provided vital assistance to human rights defenders in all corners of the globe. IBJ’s extensive eLearning and Criminal Defense Wiki platforms continue to provide a vital source of legal knowledge and resources across physical and political barriers.

### CRIMINAL DEFENSE WIKI

Since its creation, IBJ’s unique Wikipedia-styled legal database, the Criminal Defense Wiki (<http://defensewiki.ibj.org>) has received more than seven million views. The Defense Wiki provides comprehensive legal information for over 75 countries worldwide

and consists of 1,112 pages of content in five languages; English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian. Our Defense Wiki platform provides information that enables and empowers lawyers in their daily criminal justice work, as well as providing training the basic legal principles that are essential to all defense attorneys.

In the past two years, IBJ has focused its efforts to develop Defense Wiki content for francophone Africa. With the goal of adding comprehensive content for 15 countries in the region by 2018, in 2016 IBJ published pages for 5 new countries: Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal, and the Central African Republic. Content development for eight more countries in the region is in the drafting stage. In addition to efforts by IBJ team members, this progress is made possible with the assistance of many academics, law students, lawyers, and IBJ JusticeMakers.

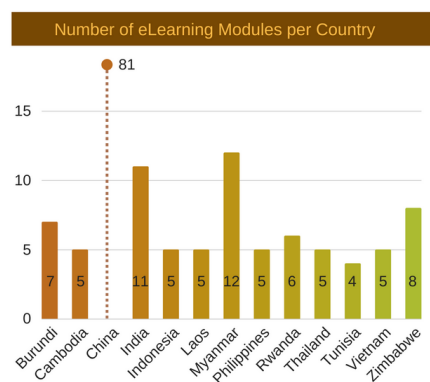
### eLEARNING & LEGAL TRAINING RESOURCES

Since 2010, IBJ’s Legal Training Resource Centre (LTRC) (<http://elearning.ibj.org>) has offered interactive eLearning courses, training lawyers to represent defendants in the criminal justice system. The LTRC Global Curriculum is designed to train lawyers worldwide and focuses on skills-building including client

interview skills, cross examination tactics, and legal intervention for prevention of custodial torture. They are designed to provide a common, consistent level of understanding and knowledge among defenders throughout the world.

Today, IBJ has over 160 eLearning modules available through the LTRC for lawyers in 13 different countries. New content is in the process of development with the assistance of IBJ JusticeMakers and law firms offering their pro-bono legal services, including DLA Piper and the Thomson Reuters Foundation (TrustLaw). As part of its Francophone Africa program, IBJ will be adding 30 modules for countries in the region in the next two years.

The LTRC not only provides eLearning modules honing lawyers’ legal skills, it also contains an extensive database of IBJ-developed resources. These include Defender Resource Manuals designed for Burundi, China, Rwanda and Zimbabwe; Defender Scorecards; Criminal Justice System Scorecards; and Legal Needs Assessment reports. All resources can be downloaded by any lawyer for free.





# JusticeMakers

## Heroes of Criminal Justice

**I**BJ's JusticeMakers program is the first global justice competition seeking to empower defenders across the globe. The JusticeMakers community connects passionate members of the criminal defense community, facilitates discussions, and hosts competitions to fund innovative projects seeking to curb torture and abuse within the justice system. It is a crucial component of IBJ's strategy to tip the balance of justice in our favour and to ensure respect for due process rights worldwide.

In 2015 and 2016, the JusticeMakers program saw the implementation of the 2014 JusticeMakers Fellows' projects; the announcement of four new Fellows in the ASEAN region; and, in December 2016, the launch of the 2017 JusticeMakers Competition.

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION OF 2014 JUSTICEMAKERS FELLOWS

In 2014, IBJ initiated a global call for proposals that resulted in nine courageous individuals being awarded JusticeMakers

Fellowships. These innovative projects were rolled out in 2015 in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ivory Coast, India, Myanmar, the United Kingdom and Albania. The projects encompassed a diversity of social justice challenges, including assistance to individuals living with HIV/AIDS, pre-trial detainees, improving access to justice through a smartphone App, and addressing torture, abuse, and lack of legal representation in prisons.

Some of the most notable achievements of the 2014 JusticeMakers Fellows include securing the release of several unjustly detained juveniles, LGBT prisoners, and prisoners living with HIV/AIDS. Yvon Mabofe in the Ivory Coast, through the creation of the "Advocacy Group for the Protection of Human Rights Violations concerning HIV/AIDS Infected Prisoners," created a platform to facilitate exchange of information related to prisoners with HIV/AIDS between lawyers, prison officials, and judiciary staff and obtained the acquittal of several vulnerable individuals. In Myanmar, Tin Ko Ko successfully imple-

mented a project, Kings N Queens, aimed at preventing abuse towards transgender people and overcoming the prejudices they face in the legal sector, and is actively involved in the Stop Gender Violence Movement in Yangon. In Nigeria, Lilian Ada Adakole created a network of lawyers and other professionals to promote and protect the rights of detainees against unlawful detention and coercion.

These locally-driven initiatives, and many more, have significantly advanced access to justice and ensured better protection of legal rights in communities across several countries and continents.

### 2015 ASEAN YOUTH JUSTICEMAKERS COMPETITION

In 2015, IBJ hosted the ASEAN Youth JusticeMakers Competition for young lawyers and human rights defenders between the age of 20 and 35. Open to 10 ASEAN countries plus East Timor, the competition sought to empower young actors in the justice system who have innovative ideas for advancing access



to justice for defendants whose legal rights have been violated.

Recognizing the power, enthusiasm, passion for justice and innovative potential among young has been a key part of IBJ's vision. Thus, in JusticeMakers and our other programs, IBJ seeks to build a network among young people to support the movement towards institutionalizing change within justice systems to prevent human rights violations.

Conducted by IBJ's Singapore Justice Training Centre (SJTC) the 2015 Justice-

Makers Competition was sponsored by the National Youth Council (NYC) of Singapore and apVentures. IBJ was pleased to select four winners of the 2015 JusticeMakers Competition, to whom we awarded \$5,000 to strengthen local criminal justice systems in the ASEAN region. The profiles of the four JusticeMakers Fellows can be viewed on the following page.

### 2017 JUSTICEMAKERS COMPETITION FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN FRANCOFONIE AFRICA

On December 1, 2016, IBJ officially

launched the 2017 JusticeMakers Competition. Funded by Global Affairs Canada, the 2017 Competition has the theme: Prevention of Torture in Francophonie Africa. From Burundi to Senegal to Morocco to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Francophonie Africa has the vast potential to make rapid advances in the realm of access to justice. Through the 2017 JusticeMakers Competition, IBJ will give 10 innovative individuals the opportunity to make change in their local criminal justice system and prevent the use of torture as an investigative tool.

## 2015 JusticeMakers Fellows



### Naila Rizki Zakia, Indonesia

#### *Project: "Underage Legal Mentors for Underage Detainees"*

Ms. Rizki Zakia's mentorship program trained underage inmates in children's rights awareness. These inmates became youth mentors, who were then able to help other detainees in the legal process. This project increased the confidence and skills of the mentors and facilitated their reintegration into society. It educated the juvenile prison population and authorities about legal rights and contributed to eradicating abuse in the prison system. Her work is geared primarily at implementing Indonesian Law Number 11, a child protection law enacted in 2012. This law has been applied since 2014, but has been

poorly implemented.



### Arianne Reyes, Philippines

#### *Project: "Juvenile Justice for the Philippines"*

Ms. Arianne Reyes built a project to raise awareness of juvenile justice issues within the law enforcement system of the Philippines. She produced a short instructional video that showed the needs of children who were in conflict with the law. Furthermore, she trained social workers and paralegals to correctly handle legal cases involving children. A social media campaign was used to raise awareness. This work helped bridge the gap between legislation and enforcement in the legal system of the Philippines. She

also created a juvenile justice website with resources and materials. The purpose of this site is to be a one stop shop for all relevant resources on the Philippines' juvenile justice welfare act and a starting point for advocates and researchers.



### Pawinee Chumsri, Thailand

#### *Project: "Protecting Human Rights during Martial Law"*

Pawinee Chumsri's project delivered a human rights hotline center, which provided access to basic legal assistance after the imposition of Martial Law in 2014. Her team litigated strategic cases and documented human rights violations under military rule. In 2014, the National Council for Peace and Order seized ruling power of the country by coup in violation of the criminal code. The work of Ms. Chumsri protected vulnerable individuals from torture, indictment and false trial.



### Laofang Bundidterdsakul, Thailand

#### *Project: "Indigenous Rights Awareness"*

As part of his JusticeMakers project, Laofang Bundidterdsakul's took on cases where the legal trials were accessible to villagers and community leaders, who were invited to witness and learn from the process. The case of Mr. Su Wangpoh was a native Hmong villager asserting tribal land rights in a case against local authorities. Four local Hmong villagers and their leaders observed the trial as an educational instrument. held a Bachelor of Law degree Since 2006, Mr. Bundidterdsakul had been working with indigenous people on land and citizenship rights. As an ethnic Hmong native, he has worked to

ensure legal access rights to indigenous people in Thailand and protect natural resources in the country.

# Engaging Youth Around the World for Access to Justice

*“The young law students with a passion for justice and human rights that I met in Bukavu really embody the amazing energy that has the potential to cross boundaries and achieve change.” Karen Tse, IBJ Founder and CEO*

2016 saw the regeneration of IBJ’s Youth Scholars Program into the IBJ Youth Initiative. The Youth Initiative mobilizes a network of young people from around the world to promote and support access to justice. The students, young professionals and entrepreneurs who are part of the Youth Initiative, are engaged in IBJ’s mission to end torture as an investigative tool and to advance efforts to implement United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Young people who are part of the Youth Initiative are called Justice Advocates.

Whether in secondary school or university, IBJ Justice Advocates have the opportunity to work together with IBJ on a range of activities: fundraising, research, rights awareness or contributing to IBJ’s global or country programs. This provides invaluable opportunities for youth not only to engage with their local communities on human rights issues, but also to forge bonds with other youth working on justice issues across the world.

## CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF BUKAVU & UCLA STUDENTS WORK TOGETHER

One of these partnerships was established

between law students at the Catholic University of Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). One of the highlights of IBJ’s newest country program is the involvement of youth. Together, they are finding new creative ways to raise awareness about legal rights and complement IBJ’s legal assistance efforts in the DRC.

The Bukavu students have formed an IBJ Youth Initiative - Bukavu chapter. Their assistance is an invaluable help for IBJ lawyers to successfully defend their clients and prevent detainees from being imprisoned for prolonged periods.

The students from the UCLA School of Law, who are involved with IBJ as part of the International Justice Project, an extracurricular club, have connected with IBJ’s DRC program and worked with local students to share challenges and solutions to justice reform. A key part of UCLA’s involvement with IBJ is content creation for IBJ’s Criminal Defense Wiki. The legal research project taken on by the student team from UCLA has given the students the chance to further develop their knowledge of criminal justice. Ultimately, students at both universities have the opportunity to develop their legal and

Law students from the Catholic University of Bukavu with the IBJ Congo team at the Defender Resource Center in Bukavu prepare for a rights awareness campaign ▶





advocacy skills, while actively engaging to find solutions to criminal justice issues.

**COLLABORATE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT**

This year, IBJ was pleased to work with Collaborate for Social Impact (C4SI) in an 8-week experiential learning program connecting groups of master’s students with local and international organizations based in Geneva. Four students from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) worked on a challenge entitled:

“How do we develop Geneva’s position as a global soft-governance Hub, while bringing the international community together to shine a spotlight on Access to Justice under UN SDG 16?”

After three months of consultations, meetings and workshops, the students came up with the idea of a Youth Justice Festival. The Festival aims to engage and inspire youth in Geneva to become agents of social change, using entertainment and creative outlets to showcase issues related to pre-trial detention and investigative torture in an informal environment.

On C4SI’s Demo Day in November, the IBJ team was selected as the winner by a panel of judges. As the winning team, the IBJ team will receive funding to put their proposed solution into action in 2017.

**SAMD WORK WITH IBJ ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16**

Students from SAMD (Schweizerische Alpine Mittelschule Davos) started working with IBJ in September 2016 on the topic of advancing access to justice and preventing torture. The SAMD students, with support from the Lego Foundation, worked with IBJ to build models of SDG 16 out of Lego in 2017 as part of IBJ’s annual event at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Furthermore, the students are working with IBJ to improve their knowledge of justice and human rights issues and raise awareness about the challenges detainees face around the world.

**2017 AND BEYOND**

Looking ahead to the next two years, IBJ is excited to see the Youth Initiative developed further and engage with students through three principle objectives: building awareness, engaging across communities, and facilitating change from the bottom-up.



▲ SAMD students with the IBJ Geneva team at the Davos Town Hall



▲ The IBJ C4SI team present their winning solution at Demo Day in November 2016



▲ Students at the Catholic University of Bukavu meet Karen Tse to discuss torture prevention & early access to legal counsel



# Interfaith Connecting to Purpose

**I**BJ believes that the collective voices of religious and spiritual leaders have the power to bring the issue of torture to the world's attention. Religions worldwide speak to the importance of mutual respect, denouncing cruelty and brutality whilst praising kindness and compassion. IBJ has built an interfaith movement that bridges the differences between religious groups to come together around one common goal: to unequivocally denounce the use of torture as an investigative tool. Their commitment to justice has the power to bring about great change in critical human rights matters.

As part of the interfaith movement, IBJ hosted peace vigils to end torture in Davos at the World Economic Forum in both 2015 and 2016. Furthermore, Karen Tse spoke at the Bicentennial Colloquium of Harvard Divinity School about the link between spiritual education and global efforts to end torture.

## 2015 DAVOS INTERFAITH PEACE VIGIL

For its third year in a row, IBJ united religious leaders with the aim of ending torture and promoting justice in an Interfaith Peace Vigil to End Torture in Davos, Switzerland. Gathering leaders from a multitude of different faiths, the Vigil was held at the English Church in Davos during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.

Hilde Schwab, the Chairperson and Co-Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, started the vigil by welcoming the leaders of different religious backgrounds, which was followed by reflections by IBJ CEO Karen Tse.

The vigil solemnly deplored the severity of torture and called for the end of suffering of individuals living imprisoned around the world. Bani Dugal, the Principal Representative of the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office, captured the true scale of the problem in a compelling speech resonating with the congregation; "The practice of torture degrades everyone involved, the perpetrators, the victims and even the citizens of the country in whose name it is done."

The participants - whether Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic, Anglican, Jewish, or Baha'i - committed to come together to eradicate torture. Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Archbishop and Metropolitan, Anglican Church of Southern Africa, stated, "torture never works because the victim will say anything they think the torturer wants to hear, to stop their suffering."

Others in attendance included David Rosen, Rabbi and International Director, Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee (AJC); Ahmad Irvani, President and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East (CSIME); Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners; and Shoukei Matsumoto, Buddhist Priest and Managing Director, Japan Fellowship of Buddhists. They all spoke about the need for humanity to act with compassion, especially at a time with so much hatred in the world. The various faith groups represented all shared their passion and commitment to ending torture. The ceremony came to an end with a powerful chant from Shoukei Matsumoto and candles being lit around the church, creating a peaceful atmosphere.



2016 Peace Vigil: Karen Tse, David Rosen, Hilde Schwab, T



2015 Peace Vigil, top, left to right: Roland Jenni, Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Archbishop and Metropolitan, Anglican Church of Southern Africa, David Rosen, Rabbi and International Director, American Jewish Committee (AJC); Ahmad Irvani, President and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East (CSIME); Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners; and Shoukei Matsumoto, Buddhist Priest and Managing Director, Japan Fellowship of Buddhists. Bottom, left to right: Bani Dugal, Karen Tse, Hilde Schwab,



Karen Tse, 2015 Peace Vigil





Thabo Cecil Makgoba, Bani Dugal, Ahmad Iravani



Rabbi David Rosen,  
American Jewish  
Committee



Thabo Cecil Makgoba, David Rosen, Matthieu Ricard,  
Ahmad Iravani, Shoukei Matsumoto



Thabo Cecil Makgoba

## 2016 DAVOS INTERFAITH PEACE VIGIL

In January 2016, International Bridges to Justice gathered faith leaders at the Herz-Jesu Church in Davos for its Annual Interfaith Peace Vigil. Attendees gave their blessings and showed support for IBJ’s mission to end torture as a method of investigation, and to ensure the fair treatment and trial of the accused worldwide. Opening words were given by Hilde Schwab and a member of the Advisory Board of IBJ. The candlelit vigil, with an organ, cello and harp music, was a welcome rest from the typically corporate and political atmosphere of Davos.

“Growing interreligious tensions must be met with strong demonstrations of inclusive communities and interfaith cooperation” said Reverend Karen Tse, who founded IBJ 16 years ago. “We lead by example to show that people can come together and pray for justice and peace, no matter who they are.”

Religious leaders of several faiths shared their religious appeals against the use of torture, including Cardinal Peter Turkson, Rabbi David Rosen, Ayatollah Ahmad Iravani and Bani Dugal, who collectively represented the Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic, Anglican, Jewish and Baha’i faiths. They were joined by the Davos religious community, who came together to offer blessings and condemn the practice of torture. Participants signed ribbons with messages to be projected onto the IBJ Virtual Wishing Wall for Justice and Peace.

A fence with ribbons remains outside the Herz-Jesu Church, Promenade 123, Davos for anyone to visit and give their support by signing a ribbon.

## PREACHING FOR JUSTICE

“It can be done.”

This is the message that Professor David Little, Karen Tse’s thesis advisor, wrote at the top of her master of divinity thesis about her dream to found an organization to end the use of torture back in the late 1990s. In 2000, when IBJ was founded, this dream was brought one step closer to becoming reality.

Karen Tse revisited the spiritual roots

of IBJ at the Bicentennial Colloquium of Harvard Divinity School (HDS) at Andover Hall in October 2016. She spoke about the the need “to hear the cries of the world...in order to save the world,” and of her journey from divinity student to international human rights leader. The fall of 2016 also brought her to Washington D.C. to preach at All Souls Church Unitarian, giving a sermon titled *Prophetic Imagination on the Long Road to Justice*. She shared her reflections on the movement to end torture as an investigative tool through early access to counsel. “Tenacious generosity of heart sometimes makes the seemingly impossible possible,” she said to her audience.

# Financial Report

## Expanding IBJ's Programs with New Sources of Funding

Deeper partnerships, growing engagement and a gradual shift in the access to justice landscape are the defining elements of the past two years for International Bridges to Justice. We opened a new country program office in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016 and are on schedule to open our Myanmar office in 2017. The two new offices are the result of enhanced support for our legal protection work, increasing IBJ's presence to eight permanent country programs, four in Africa and four in Asia.

Although the funding environment for non-profits remains a challenge, IBJ continues to benefit from generous contributions from existing funders as well as new ones. In 2015 and 2016, USD 4.8 million in total income, including donations from governments, multilateral organizations, private individuals and in-kind donations supported IBJ's in-country and global programs. Total income was USD 2.43 million in 2015 and USD 2.42 million in 2016. Most notably, contributions from Global Affairs Canada support the project *Preventing Torture in La Francophonie*, primarily implemented in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In China, restrictions imposed on NGOs have resulted in a momentary reduction of IBJ's activities, namely the *Next Generation Chinese Rights Defenders Project* and the *Defending Marginalized Populations Project*. These phenomena, combined with currency fluctuations, resulted in a reduction of funding in 2015 and an increase in 2016.

The largest funding sector for IBJ continues to be governments and multilaterals. This is indicative of the trust they place in IBJ, and the value they see in our work. Our newest country programs are further evidence of our growing reputation as a trusted partner. IBJ's program in the Democratic Republic of Congo is the result of a generous grant from Global Affairs Canada, in partnership with Montreal-based Equi-

tas. In addition, IBJ will open Defender Resource Centers in Myanmar in 2017 thanks to a generous grant from the European Union through the British Council.

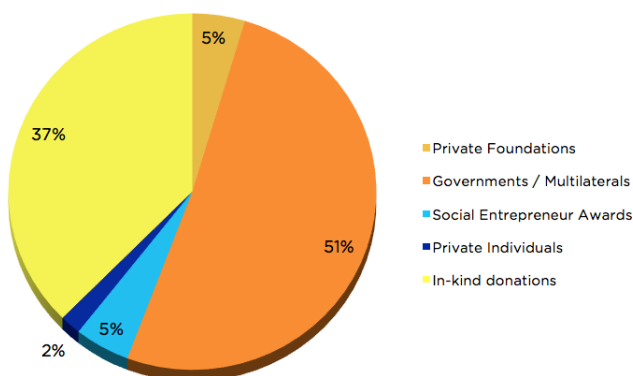
Total donations from governments and multinationals in 2015 and 2016 were 1.24 million and 1.47 million respectively. This compares to 1.71 million and 1.47 million in 2014 and 2013 respectively. With official development assistance (ODA) peaking in 2014, these figures echo the sector-wide drop in ODA in 2015 and 2016.

We are particularly grateful to the Skoll Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, the City of Geneva, AusAid, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Kingdom of the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Hilton Foundation and the US State Department. We also extend our gratitude to the many private individuals who have made contributions. IBJ is continually working to secure additional sources of funding, thus ensuring all programs have robust support.

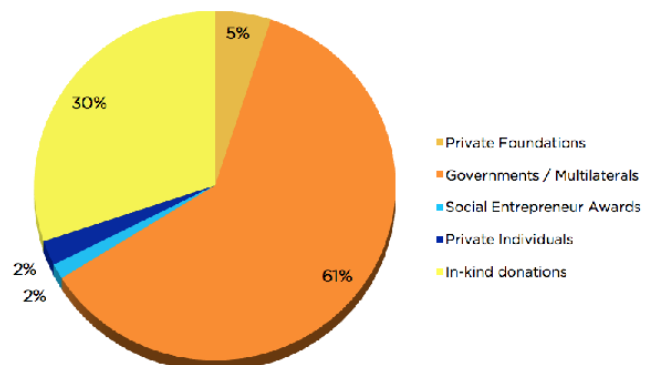
IBJ continues to benefit from a large team of generous volunteers. These dedicated professionals include university graduates, attorneys, and management consultants. It is noteworthy that these challenging funding periods have not hindered our dedicated team members.

On behalf of the many marginalized individuals, for whom we strive to ensure early access to counsel and broader protection under the rule of law, we would like to convey our sincere thanks to our donors and team members. To our donors, we are extraordinarily grateful for your support. To our team members, we salute your dedication and thank you for your time and expertise. To our beneficiaries, we dedicate our achievements to you, and commit to strive to continue improving the implementation of our vision to secure your legal rights.

IBJ 2015 Income Breakdown



IBJ 2016 Income Breakdown





# YOU CAN HELP IBJ END TORTURE

We ask for your commitment to help in whatever way you can to make **access to justice** and the **elimination of torture** a reality.

**Thank you for your invaluable support!**

## **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 its efforts. Your donation or in-kind gift is invaluable to IBJ's global mission.

## **Join our Team**

With offices in Switzerland, Cambodia, China, India, DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe and Singapore, IBJ welcomes passionate, entrepreneurial people. Whether you are a lawyer seeking to make a contribution to human rights, a communications guru, a tech expert, or a university student looking for an internship, we would love to speak with you.

## **Partner**

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

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Search for Common Ground  
South Kivu Ministry of Justice, Civil Service and Human Rights  
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The Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Bukavu  
The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO)  
The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)  
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