

# *Bridges*/2017-2018

*Biennial Report /*  
International Bridges to Justice





*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 and to shedding light on and stopping these human rights abuses.*

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64 Rue de Monthoux  
1201 Geneva  
Switzerland  
[www.ibj.org](http://www.ibj.org)

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2018

# IBJ: Strength in Numbers

## from CEO, Karen Tse

On a recent trip to Sri Lanka, I met family members whose loved ones had been arrested and not seen in months. Something struck me as I was in the midst of witnessing their tragedy. Despite the very real possibility that they might never see their loved ones again – and their horror of imagining them being tortured while in arbitrary detention – the mothers, fathers, wives, and sisters I met all showed an incredible inner strength. I was astounded. I couldn't stop myself from asking out loud, "How do you keep on going?" One mother signaled to the room we were sitting in, surrounded by committed lawyers and human rights defenders, and replied, "I can because of this community. It supports me. It gives me hope." Later that year in Sri Lanka, we were able to open a program. It gave me great joy, as did the start of two other new Country Programs in Syria and Myanmar.

Our new Country Programs have already provided concrete results by directly reducing the risk of torture and protecting the due process rights of tens of thousands of individuals.

As IBJ enters its third decade of pioneering access to justice, we have seen unprecedented developments that reflect the strength of our teams and defenders around

the world. Step by step, we see signs of change, from the thousands of arbitrarily detained prisoners that have been released to the system and policy changes that have occurred, including Memorandums of Understandings signed with justice sector authorities, which symbolize the collective effort to uphold rule of law.

Through IBJ, lawyers and justice sector stakeholders bring light into the darkest corners of prisons by providing the protection of access to justice and bringing wholeness to broken justice systems. Since its founding in 2000, IBJ has moved the needle of international human rights by making access to justice a global priority, as evidenced in 2015 by the promulgation of SDG 16. With this worldwide spotlight on the work we do, we are once again poised to move the needle even further – from responsive action to proactive prevention, from defender manuals to enforced criminal law procedures, from memorandums of understanding to technology platforms connecting our partners worldwide. Every day, our lawyers courageously enter police stations and court rooms with the prophetic imagination to create a new future. Through their individual and collective efforts, we are all succeeding.

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When considering IBJ's challenges and achievements in 2017 and 2018, we are especially proud of the growing success of our work. We have now impacted over 30 million people through legal representation, rights awareness campaigns, roundtables, training workshops, and our JusticeMakers program. We have worked to strengthen every aspect of complex justice system infrastructures to ensure systematic respect for due process rights. In Burundi we trained newly qualified Judicial Police Officers on effectively upholding due process rights and in Cambodia we strengthened our partnerships, renewing our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice and the national Bar Association. In Syria our work has moved forward despite the difficult current landscape. We have developed modules there that are now formally part of the Aleppo Bar Association's mandatory legal training.

Innovation, science, and technology now provide a critical focus for IBJ as it continues to drive transformative change to reach our collective goal of realizing UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. We embrace the power of technology to ensure early access to justice for all and we have envisioned a technological solution by creating the JusticeHub, a digital home and platform that systematically activates the power of the networks we have built. After a two-year development and trial period, the JusticeHub will provide a global justice solution exchange and will enable access to justice, rule of law development, information gathering, training, and support. It will help us move toward a new age of implementation and further our mission to protect due process rights and end the use of torture as an investigative tool.



As the mother in Sri Lanka said, it is because of our community that we have the strength to continue. You are an important part of our global community: we could not do any of this without your support.

On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Warmest regards,

Karen  
CEO and Founder

# Executive Summary

## from Chairman of the Board, Daniel Fung

In 2017 and 2018, International Bridges to Justice made astonishing progress on the fundamentally important goal of putting justice within reach of everyone. For almost twenty years now, I have witnessed first-hand IBJ's effective methods of bringing reform to existing legal systems as well as developing legal aid programs that promote pro bono ethics in Africa, Asia, and beyond. Sometimes creating, sometimes reinforcing, legal infrastructures in order to ensure access to counsel, the right to a fair trial and the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, IBJ brings all the key stakeholders to their roundtables to discuss each and every aspect required to make the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 a local, national, and global reality.

IBJ is committed to furthering its vision and mission by tackling the issues of access to justice and prevention of interrogative torture from every conceivable angle. Significant moments in IBJ history during this time period included the 2017 signing of a memorandum of understanding with Burundi's National Police. This resulted in a series of training sessions for judicial police officers on due process, rule of law, and protecting the rights of the accused. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), IBJ lawyers are now able to make regular visits to one of the country's most overpopulated prisons to assist pre-trial detainees. Furthermore, a lawyer training attracted such eminent trainers as the president of the Human Rights Commission of the Bar Association of the Canton of Vaud, DRC legal scholars, and a lawyer from the International Criminal Court. In India, at Tihar Jail, one of the world's largest and most notoriously overpopulated prisons, IBJ lawyers impressively succeeded in procuring a decision from the Delhi High Court that not only occasioned the immediate release of 300 pre-trial detainees who had previously been granted bail, but also required prison authorities to ensure that no such detainee be kept in prison. IBJ also had a particularly fruitful year in 2017

*“One of the many reasons I was proud and honored to accept the responsibility as Chairman of the Board was due to IBJ’s fearlessness in implementing projects in places where they are most needed, which are often the most dangerous.”*

in Myanmar, with the launch of the country program and its impressive growth, marked by the establishment of four Justice Centers and two satellite offices, through partnerships with the Attorney General's Office, local Chief Justices, and the Supreme Court.

IBJ's country program in Rwanda also experienced landmark achievements. With the support of the Minister of Justice, IBJ signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rwanda Bar Association. In 2018, groundbreaking human rights training sessions for criminal defense lawyers and prosecutors underlined how torture during interrogation destroys the credibility of a case. But by far the most cutting-edge program to be launched in Rwanda was the Women Lawyers Network, which coordinates monthly meetings for female lawyers to share experiences, challenges, and ideas critical to their professional growth.

IBJ encourages its country programs to implement innovative solutions, particularly those that take the long view toward prevention. In India, IBJ collaborated with a jewelry artisan council to create a workshop

in a Delhi prison that provides female inmates with vocational skills to promote rehabilitation and prevent recidivism caused by poverty. Another creative initiative instigated in Myanmar was a theater production promoting legal rights awareness that presented and discussed the story of a person who was illegally searched after being accused of theft. IBJ recognizes the immense value of showing youth the transformative power they can wield, particularly concerning systems of justice and ending the use of torture as an investigative tool. In accordance with this idea, IBJ's Youth Initiative is creating and mobilizing a network of young people around the world to promote and support their efforts to implement SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. In 2017, IBJ brought together students, government officials, and corporate and faith leaders in Davos to discuss how early access to justice can prevent torture. In 2018, IBJ's signature event at the UN Human Rights Council focused on the idea that youth are some of the principal actors capable of advancing IBJ's vision around the world.

One of the many reasons I was proud and honored to accept the responsibility as Chairman of the Board was due to IBJ's fearlessness in implementing projects in places where they are most needed, which are often the most dangerous. IBJ began development of Syria's first-ever national criminal defense law manual and organized roundtables in Aleppo and Idlib, bringing together defense lawyers, judges, police officers, prosecutors, and other government officials. These trailblazing meetings focused on improving respect for the accused's right to silence, early access to justice, and other fundamental human rights principles.

In its role as an NGO super-connector, IBJ believes it has a responsibility to engender and support partnerships between every person and organization and entity it has touched over the last two decades. An efficient way to achieve this goal is to create a technological solution that will provide space for justice makers around the world to connect. Thus, IBJ broke the ground on development for country-specific JusticeHub apps, beginning in Syria, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka, and culminating in a JusticeHub platform to connect them all. These technological solutions can provide any service that the mind can imagine,

from enabling individuals to find trained lawyers to providing a platform for trainings, legal resources, and rights awareness events. In this modern era, the use of technology in providing and ensuring justice is critical to protecting and saving lives.

Reflecting back over the obstacles overcome and the accomplishments achieved over the past two years, I am, as always, proud of the enormously positive impact of IBJ's work not only in the domain of legal system reform but also in the lives of individual detainees. With the generous assistance of our worldwide network of partners and supporters, we will continue to grow our impactful and innovative projects, such as our Defender Resource Centers, our JusticeMakers Fellows, our Criminal DefenseWiki and our Lawyer2Lawyer program, to name a few. Thank you all, for being there at our side in our efforts to spread justice, well-being, and hope to as many people as possible, and to more of them every year.



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.

# Ending the Use of Torture as an Investigative Tool

Every day, around the world, thousands of individuals are detained arbitrarily, tortured, and denied access to counsel. Many never receive a fair trial. Many languish in prison for months, sometimes years, before they even appear before a judge. Children are detained with adults who are hardened criminals. The systematic human rights abuses suffered by millions of individuals around the world 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 and to shedding light on and stopping these human rights abuses.

## 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, particularly in developing countries. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee everyone the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

IBJ's mission is global in scope, marshaling 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 policy- and decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms. Working at the local level, 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 Centers.

## SYSTEM CHANGE

Structured and sustained implementation of due process as the new norm requires system-wide change. IBJ believes that systemic problems need systemic solutions implemented in the policies, mindsets, and practices throughout any given legal system. The responsibility of upholding rule of law and ensuring due process should not, and cannot, fall upon the shoulders of defense counsel alone. For an approach to be systemic, it must include all stakeholders as they each have a part to play – be it a prosecutor who exercises discretion by dropping a case with insufficient evidence or a judge who excludes evidence illegally obtained through torture. Involvement and investment in our programs by the relevant authorities, and the justice power structure as a whole, is critical not only to short term impact, but also to long-term sustainability.

## COUNTRY PROGRAMS

### Training Lawyers

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, free 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. IBJ's rigorous global curriculum, which is also tailored to the criminal laws of each country, 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 promotes the assurance that even the poorest of the poor have the same level of protection under the law. Legal



Pictured: Myanmar Taunggyi team peace vigil



assistance is the backbone of IBJ's strategy to advance access to justice for the indigent accused as well as strengthen pro bono legal culture wherever it serves. Defender Resource Centers (DRCs) are the hubs of IBJ's in-country activities, serving as community legal centers that are the first stop for those seeking assistance.

### 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 and collaborate constructively, IBJ fosters a deeper understanding of the necessity to safeguard and ensure due process rights in a functioning criminal justice system.

### Rights Awareness

Knowledge is a powerful tool in the fight for human rights, both individually and collectively. By equipping ordinary people 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 around the world to share intellectual capital and best practices. We award projects developed by innovative lawyers and legal defenders to improve local criminal justice systems, and empower them to join our community of defenders and grow their initiatives in order to promote innovative solutions to access to justice problems around the world.

### Online Legal Resources

The IBJ eLearning platform and Criminal DefenseWiki provide vital assistance to human rights defenders worldwide. No matter where they are, lawyers and activists can access these resources and obtain crucial information about everything from legal procedures to the impact of new criminal codes to how to prevent custodial torture. By making these resources easily accessible on a global scale, IBJ moves one step closer to 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, the Middle East, and Latin America. The Lawyer2Lawyer

program provides unique learning opportunities for young lawyers to engage in human rights work, and gives lawyers in developing countries with scarce resources access to first-class legal support, particularly regarding criminal law and procedure.

### Interfaith

IBJ seeks to build a community of faith leaders across the world by assisting them in coming together and forming supportive partnerships. A key component of this movement is to unite faith-based institutions to stand unequivocally against the use of torture in any circumstance. We believe that the voices of religious and spiritual leaders have the power to highlight this important issue in the world agenda.

### 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. IBJ has incentivized hundreds of young people to launch multiple projects such as grassroots fundraisers, online awareness campaigns, peace vigils, and innovating ideas to further IBJ's mission

# Strengthening the Legal Infrastructure in Burundi

IBJ's Defender Resource Centre in Bujumbura has become a lifeline for people seeking legal advice or representation in Burundi. Thanks to the generous support of Global Affairs Canada, The British High Commission, Pro Victimis, NED, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bujumbura, our local entity, Burundi Bridges to Justice (BBJ) was able to continue to support those unable to afford a lawyer. Moreover, IBJ made significant headway in promoting reforms within the Burundi justice system, through training initiatives for police officers and defenders, justice roundtables, and awareness campaigns.

*“A human-rights based criminal justice system is more than good laws in books. It is the result of hard work, passion, and dedication of every single justice stakeholder, such as magistrates, legal defenders and human rights defenders.”*  
 – BBJ Country Manager, Jean-Claude Barakamfitiye.

## Legal Aid

In 2018–2017, BBJ provided legal representation to a total of 1,614 people. Through visits to prisons and police stations, BBJ lawyers were able to provide legal assistance to detainees within hours of their arrest, guaranteeing protection of their due process rights at the earliest stage of the judicial process.

## Training of Judicial Police Officers

BBJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Inspectorate of National Police (GINP) in September 2017, with the goal of building a strong foundation for lasting legal reform throughout the justice system in Burundi. IBJ and the GINP agreed to work together to organize a series of training sessions for judicial police officers on the rights of the accused. The first training session, attended by 154 newly qualified judicial police officers, took place from February to April 2018. Its aim was to foster a better understanding of due process rights and the importance of following them.





Pictured: judicial police officer training in Burundi

### Defender Training Session

In August 2017, criminal defense lawyers attended IBJ's intensive training session in Bujumbura. The course focused on access to justice and strengthening rule of law. In his opening speech, the President of the Burundi Bar Association, Salvatore Kiyuku, expressed a need for more training of this kind. The objective was to equip participants with the technical skills they need to implement new legal strategies in their casework, while strengthening links and cooperation between defenders in order to encourage the emergence of a pro bono legal culture. Topics covered during the training included: upholding the rights of the accused, the rights and responsibilities of the criminal defense lawyer, and assisting clients who have been tortured.

### Rights Awareness Campaigns

Over the past two years, IBJ rights awareness events in Burundi have focused not only on legal rights education, but also on fostering community spirit and rebuilding trust between the public and the police force, which has been eroded since the beginning of the political crisis in 2015.

In August 2018, BBJ began working with a local radio station, Radio Isanganiro, on a rights-awareness campaign to inform citizens about their right to a lawyer and legal assistance. As of December 2018, a total of three radio programs have been recorded, the first of which has already been broadcast six times. Radio Isanganiro's transmission covers 70% of the country, and it is estimated that IBJ's program reached approximately 1 million people. In the context of the current volatile political climate in Burundi, BBJ was careful to collaborate with a radio station that is perceived as neutral and promoting peaceful dialogue. Additionally, BBJ

continues to hold regular, on-the-ground rights awareness events in communities in and around Bujumbura.

### Justice Roundtable

Following changes to the Burundi Criminal Code that came into effect in May 2018, BBJ partnered with the Ministry of Justice to bring together justice sector stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Justice, lawyers, judges, prosecutors and police officers. These stakeholders discussed these statutory amendments, particularly those that directly affect the rights of the accused, such as allowing for the use of specific investigative techniques that potentially allow police officers to violate international human rights standards. After analyzing the changes to Burundi's criminal code, the participants made recommendations to prevent future human rights violations.

### Continuous Learning for Legal Professionals

Critical to IBJ's mission is providing ongoing legal training to criminal defenders. This is achieved through our Defender Training Manuals, which include practical skills, a checklist of steps to take when interviewing a client, as well as tips to increase knowledge of various defense methods, including how to cast doubt on the credibility of evidence presented by the prosecution and how to identify mitigating factors. Prior to the August 2017 training sessions (see above), a Defender Training Manual was created to serve as an everyday resource for Burundian lawyers. The manual was handed out to trainees and can now be downloaded for free from IBJ's e-learning platform. Additionally, the six existing Burundi e-learning modules were updated, and several videos were created to accompany the modules and facilitate understanding.

## *The work of a newly qualified female JPO restores trust between security forces and the population*

From February to May 2018, a group of 154 newly qualified Judicial Police Officers (JPOs) followed an intensive training course designed by BBJ and the GINP to ensure that they began their career with the necessary skills and knowledge to uphold the rights of the accused.

Burundian JPOs have been under enormous pressure in recent years, due to a heavy caseload and limited resources. Unfortunately, these conditions have led to a myriad of corrupt practices within this branch of the security forces. BBJ's intensive training was planned to educate a new generation of brigadiers entering the workforce, not only to relieve some of this pressure, but also to bring an end to violations of the rights of the accused, and ultimately rebuild the trust lost between the population and the security forces during the 2015 political crisis.



Philo Nk, a newly qualified female JPO in Mugami commune, Bururi district, spoke to BBJ staff during the fourth follow-up training session, in Makamba province. Ms. Nk described the challenges she faced during the first few weeks and months on the job, explaining how she was initially disregarded by the local community because she is a woman. Their attitude changed, however, when she refused to accept a bribe from a family who came to her about a conflict over land. She explained to the family that the case was a civil matter which she did not have the competence or training to handle. As had been the practice in the area for many years, the family offered her money to take on the case, but she refused, instead following the proper police procedure by directing them to the civil courts.

The 75-year-old family member who had offered Ms. Nk the bribe approached her and said, “I have lived here since I was born, and this is the first time I have heard of a police officer who refuses money. I have a pending court case that dates from 1965; I will submit it to you. I think maybe now I can get justice.”

Two days later, Ms. Nk was met at her office by a queue of people waiting to submit their complaints to her, a direct result of her integrity and determination to improve human rights standards in Burundi, eschew corruption and uphold the rule of law.

Philo Nk is not an exception: the BBJ team spoke to another young JPOs who, with his team, succeeded in arresting and charging a gang that had committed numerous murders in Gitobe commune, Kirundo district. Rather than accepting bribes from the gang like previous JPOs, the new team put the gang members in prison, restoring peace to the community.

# Making Strides Toward a National Legal Aid Policy



Pictured: rights awareness training in Cambodia

The overarching theme for 2018–2017 in Cambodia was “communication and collaboration”. IBJ’s continued presence in 22 out of 25 provinces, and foundational work amongst defense lawyers, police, prison officials, prosecutors, and judges, has fostered key relationships and understanding of IBJ’s mission. IBJ lawyers observed that cooperation between lawyers, court clerks and prison officials has increased noticeably over the past two years, and that communication between justice stakeholders has improved significantly. In December 2017, IBJ’s local entity, Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ), renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia, demonstrating the will for continued collaboration in the future. In addition, IBJ lawyers continue to work pro bono despite the limited resources available to support them. Their generosity is testament to their deep commitment to ensuring access to justice to as many detainees as possible.

Despite the challenges posed by limited funding, program implementation continued unabated, with IBJ lawyers providing legal representation to bring the total number of persons assisted by IBJ lawyers to over 8,000 since the opening of our first Defender Resource Center in Cambodia. Through a joint project with the United

Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), an additional 152 individual cases were taken on in 2018–2017 with the aim of reducing the country’s backlog of appeals cases.

There was some positive news on the funding side, in the form of a grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) to support the launch of CBJ’s innovative iConnectJustice project. Beginning in January 2019, the project aims to develop a mobile application and hotline to pair users looking for legal representation with lawyers willing to take their cases.

## Justice Roundtables

Several justice roundtables were held in Cambodia, focusing on how to include stakeholders within the justice system at the provincial level, and developing solutions to the problems faced by local courts, prisons, and police stations. One of the main topics discussed was proper evidentiary procedure at both crime scenes and in the courtroom. In 2017 alone, these events attracted 135 participants to discuss issues critical to ensuring justice in the provinces, including, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, prison officials, and civil society organizations.



Pictured: rights awareness training in Cambodia

### Rights Awareness Campaigns

Maintaining a focus on rural communities, CBJ organized community and public legal awareness sessions aimed at informing some of Cambodia's illiterate and marginalized communities of their legal rights. Rights awareness campaigns can be life-changing for many, as the people who are most vulnerable to human rights abuses are often those who are least aware of their rights, and least likely to be able to assert them.

***IBJ's continued presence in 22 out of 25 provinces, and foundational work amongst defense lawyers, police, prison officials, prosecutors, and judges, has fostered key relationships and understanding of IBJ's mission.***

### Legal Aid to be Enshrined in National Policy

In August 2017, CBJ participated in a conference held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, along with other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Justice and legal aid NGOs, to discuss the current legal aid strategy in Cambodia. CBJ/IBJ has been advocating for policy-level changes to implement comprehensive legal aid in Cambodia for many years, as legal aid is currently provided only through non-profit organizations such as CBJ and Legal Aid Cambodia. During the conference, stakeholders agreed that legal aid advocacy and casework are invaluable instruments in the justice system and must be included in domestic policy. Consequently, the drafting of a new legal aid policy began in 2018 with the formation of the Legal Aid Working Group. Additionally, the Ministry of Justice invited legal aid NGOs to contribute to the process by sharing lessons learned and best practices for a more comprehensive legal aid policy. Following the conference, the Ministry of Justice pledged to increase the legal aid budget for 2018 to 220,000\$, which is a huge step toward achieving justice for all Cambodians.

# Supporting Criminal Defenders in China

Since the launch of IBJ's China program in 2001, the country's criminal justice system has made significant strides. After almost two decades of training and supporting Chinese lawyers, in 2018–2017 IBJ saw long-term local partners leading the way in establishing justice-oriented grassroots institutions, developing sophisticated representation strategies and hosting interactive trainings for the next generation of young defenders. However, Chinese lawyers continue to face numerous challenges, including a lack of confidence in the legal system, low pay, limited opportunities for skill development, and weak support networks. To assist Chinese criminal defense lawyers, IBJ has continued to make available and improve our vast library of Chinese legal resources and training materials.

## Supporting Chinese Lawyers Through eLearning

Throughout 2018–2017, IBJ continued to provide and distribute our library of online resources to Chinese criminal defenders through our WeChat (Chinese social media) account and our Geneva-based JusticeHub and eLearning website. A total of 103 articles, videos, podcasts and sample pleadings were published on the IBJ WeChat platform. In keeping with our goal of training lawyers to better represent clients from marginalized or vulnerable groups, many of these podcasts related to topics such as how to represent defendants with disabilities, protect women's rights within the criminal justice system, or represent juvenile defendants. The JusticeHub now includes a dedicated portal for Chinese defenders, providing access to 80 self-directed eLearning modules, 21 podcasts, and all the training materials we have developed over almost two decades of work in China.

IBJ is honored and humbled to work alongside and support China's criminal defense lawyers who continue to inspire us with their skill, creativity, and persistence.



Pictured: Screenshot of WeChat resource

## IBJ-Trained Chinese Lawyers Passing on Skills to the Next Generation

One example of an IBJ-trained lawyer now leading the way in raising up younger lawyers is Zhou Ren, an attorney and law professor in China's northwest, who graduated from IBJ's train-the-trainers program in 2013 and received additional support through our Experts Conference in 2016. In addition to the many training courses for young lawyers that Mr. Zhou has delivered with IBJ support over the years, more recently he has gone on to independently offer four to five trainings sessions per year for young lawyers in Shaanxi Province, each of course attracting around 500–400 participants. According to Mr. Zhou, the training he received from IBJ equipped him with a fresh way of thinking, as well new teaching methods. His recent courses covered topics such as meeting and interviewing clients, risk avoidance, the plea leniency system, advocacy skills, and basic skills for newly qualified lawyers. He receives numerous notes of thanks from participants and stays in touch with many of the young lawyers he has trained.



Picture: DRC BJ staff and Volunteer lawyers outside Bukavu Central Prison

## Combating Overcrowding in DRC Prisons Rebuilding Trust in the Justice System

Following the opening of the Defender Resource Centre in Bukavu in June 2016, IBJ's country program registered as a local entity under the name "DR Congo Bridges to Justice (DRC BJ)", in September 2017. Thanks to the support of Global Affairs Canada, DRC BJ lawyers provided legal representation to 738 individuals in South Kivu between the opening of the Defender Resource Center in 2017 and December 2018, providing legal assistance to some of the region's most indigent citizens. Significantly, DRC BJ lawyers have been granted authority to conduct regular visits to Bukavu Central prison, one of the most overpopulated in the country. Given that more than 73% of detainees in Congolese prisons are pre-trial, ensuring access to a lawyer means that cases can be brought to trial more quickly, thus relieving some pressure on the justice and penal system. DRC BJ has also focused on strengthening relationships between justice system stakeholders in the South Kivu region in order to identify common challenges. In May 2017, DRC BJ facilitated a roundtable with the purpose of determining the

causes of delays in processing cases. The conclusion was that trials are often delayed because witnesses fail to attend court hearings. Participants therefore recommended increasing public awareness of the importance of giving evidence at trial when requested. As a result, DRC BJ organized a rights awareness campaign on the theme "Testimony in Court: A civic duty and right of the accused", in partnership with the Bukavu Professional Body of Judicial Defenders and students from the Catholic University of Bukavu. Together with the DRC BJ team, students handed out leaflets in both French and Swahili to more than 4,000 people, informing them of the rights of the accused and the importance of giving testimony in court. Selected members of the public were asked to complete a questionnaire assessing their awareness of these rights. The responses indicated that many people are afraid to testify in court because they fear being arrested themselves, but are unaware that not testifying could result in an individual being left to languish for many months in detention awaiting trial.



Pictured: Group work at the Defender Training in 2017



Pictured: Students from the University of Bukavu outside the police station in Ibanda

In parallel, a three-part radio campaign entitled “Under the Law” was broadcast on Radio Mandela and reached an estimated 1.65 million listeners. The first part, produced in partnership with the NGO Social Vision, focused on explaining who, under Congolese law, has the right to arrest someone. The second part discussed the right of the arrested to be informed of the reason for the arrest, and the obligation of the arresting authority to do so in a language that the arrestee can understand (over 200 languages are spoken in the DRC).

### Defender Training Sessions

In October 2017, IBJ held its first Defender Training Session in Bukavu, a three-day course attended by 43 lawyers from the South Kivu region, which covered the same core modules as similar sessions held in Burundi and Rwanda earlier the same year. The course was formally opened by the Minister of Justice of South Kivu, Dieudonné Manegabe. Participants were provided with a Defender Resource Manual tailored to Congolese law. Additionally, six new e-learning modules were created ahead of the course to enable the lawyers to continue strengthening their knowledge and skills in the following months.



Pictured: Rights Awareness event for female prisoners

## Equipping Prisoners with Skills for a Crime-free Life after Release

IBJ's work in India in 2018-2017 focused on providing legal representation, educating prisoners on their legal rights, and enhancing living conditions for detainees and prisoners, whose poverty makes them particularly vulnerable. IBJ India strives to implement programs and initiatives to equip detainees with skills they can use to earn a living once they are released from prison. Through dedication and commitment to the access to justice movement, IBJ India has made significant advances in helping the many individuals who have fallen through the cracks in the criminal justice system.

Funding challenges have not discouraged our determined volunteer lawyers, led by IBJ India Fellow and Country Director, Ajay Verma. Working from the IBJ India's headquarters in New Delhi, the team have focused on providing early access to competent counsel for pre-trial detainees across the country, but particularly in Tihar Jail, one of the world's largest and notoriously overcrowded prisons.

IBJ India fights for justice for the most vulnerable in society. IBJ India continued to fight courageously to protect the rights of the most vulnerable communities in Indian society. Following the alleged sexual assault of children at the National Association of the Blind, Mr. Verma appeared at the Delhi High Court in September 2017 on behalf of social worker Prashant Kumar. Mr. Kumar, a courageous whistleblower, had highlighted the absence of due care and lack of a clear policy framework for appointing personnel and volunteers at the home for visually impaired minor inmates in South Delhi. As a result, the bench of the Delhi High Court directed the relevant authorities to "ensure that every step is taken to ensure the welfare, security and safety of children." The Court also requested that the Delhi State Legal Activities Services investigate the matter immediately and submit a report to the Court regarding compensation to victims.

Mr. Verma's commitment to assisting the urban poor in India also extends to his work inside the courtroom. In March 2018, he appeared before the Delhi High Court to advocate for over 300 pre-trial detainees who were still languishing in prison even though bail orders had been passed in their favor. The High Court not only released the prisoners with immediate effect, but ruled that it is the responsibility of prison authorities to bring to the attention of the Trial Courts and the secretary of the District Legal Services Authority any instance of a prisoner being unable to secure release from prison even though a bail order has been passed.

### Rights Awareness and Legal Aid Camp

In June 2018, IBJ India visited eight prisons in the Tihar and Rohini jail complexes to work with inmates and facilitate a "Legal Rights Awareness and Legal Aid Camp". The program provided essential rights awareness and legal information to over 1,500 detainees and prisoners. These sessions focused on educating inmates about their rights and obligations within the prison. Topics included how to access free legal counsel, how to file for bail, and the role of legal aid in a just society. IBJ India's lawyers ensured that no question from prisoners was left unanswered. Prisoners raised issues relating to poor communication with their lawyers, difficulty understanding courtroom protocols, and delays in processing charge sheets. It is unfortunately not uncommon in India for legal aid lawyers to demand payment from clients to take on their cases, thus tarnishing the reputation of the legal profession as a whole. IBJ India's rights awareness campaign seeks to re-establish prisoners' trust in legal-aid lawyers by empowering them to report exploitative practices. By fighting corruption in the legal profession, IBJ India is doing its part to advance both its own work and the work of advocates across the country.

# Advancing Access to Justice with the launch of IBJ Myanmar

IBJ's presence in Myanmar since 2012 culminated in the launch of its country program in 2017. This has enabled IBJ to further develop its activities and expand access to justice across the country. The program's hallmark achievements since then include the opening of four Justice Centers and two Satellite Offices.

In May 2017, IBJ carried out the preliminary set-up for its Justice Centers, meeting with important actors in Myanmar such as the Attorney General's Office, local chief justices and the Supreme Court. This work was widely acknowledged, with one particular meeting with the Union Attorney General broadcast on national television.

In September 2018, IBJ celebrated the opening of its fourth Justice Center in Myanmar. IBJ now boasts Justice Centers or Satellite Offices in Mandalay, Taungoo, Hpa-An, Taunggyi, Kalaw, and Naypyidaw. By the end of 2018, IBJ had built a robust team of 31 staff providing legal representation in Myanmar.

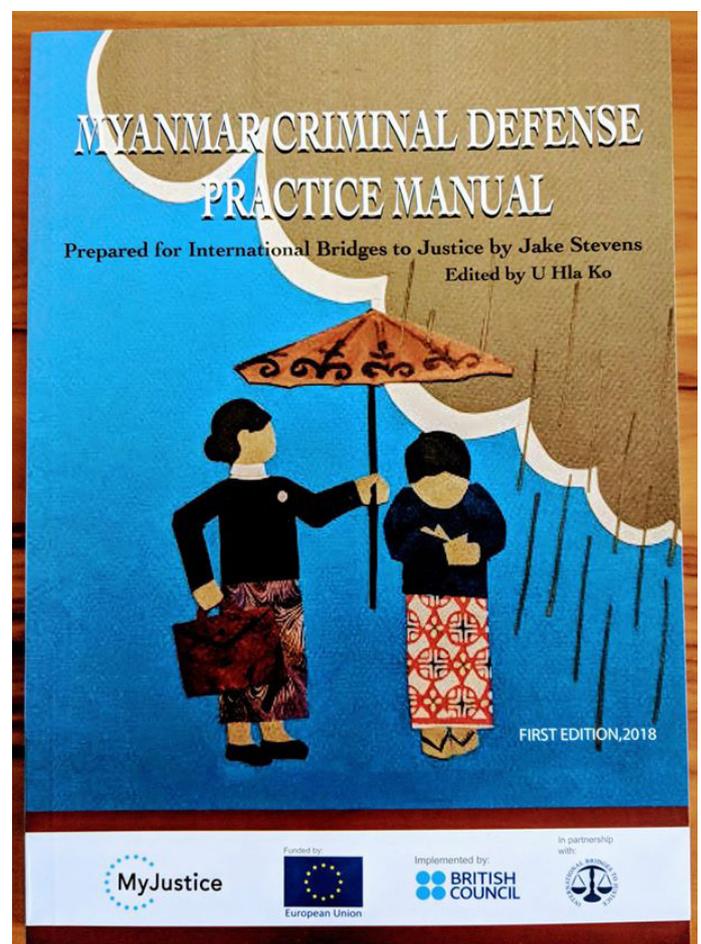
Each of the Justice Centers hosted a first roundtable discussions in November and December 2017. Discussions focused on techniques for interviewing witnesses in criminal cases and were extremely constructive, providing IBJ with valuable insights into the legal culture in Myanmar. The issues highlighted during the roundtables were subsequently included in IBJ's training courses in the country.

All four Justice Centers reported an increase in the number and complexity of cases referred to them, a clear indicator that they are becoming part of the justice culture in their respective communities. A Senior Criminal Law Advisor also noted that the "Justice Centre lawyers [do] a great job in making police torture stop."

IBJ Myanmar's focus on training has been remarkably successful, with an impressive 288 lawyers trained by the end of 2018. In July 2017, 120 lawyers attended a first "National Criminal Defense and Legal Aid Training Program" hosted by IBJ. This was followed by four further national-level workshops between May and October 2018, covering topics such as cross-examination, detainee outreach, and collaborative case analysis. To ensure that participants got the most out of the sessions, course materials were continuously adapted to meet their needs, and subsequently tailored for use in regional training sessions.

*All four Justice Centers reported an increase in the number and complexity of cases referred to them, a clear indicator that they are becoming part of the justice culture in their respective communities.*

*A Senior Criminal Law Advisor also noted that the "Justice Centre lawyers [do] a great job in making police torture stop."*



Pictured: Criminal Defense Manual



Pictured: Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and Shan State Advocate General U Tin Oo visit the Taunggyi Justice Centre in April 2018

The publication of IBJ’s Defender Practice Manual, in September 2018, the first of its kind in Myanmar, was an important milestone. The -120page manual was downloaded over 8,100 times in the first 12 days after its release and a further 2,000 hard copies were distributed, with demand continuing to increase. In November 2018, IBJ also hosted two training sessions in Mandalay and Taunggyi on how to use the Manual, followed by two more in Taungoo and Hpa-An, in January 2019.

Additionally, IBJ Myanmar launched a Know Your Rights awareness campaign to educate the public about their legal rights and the IBJ resources available to them. As of September 2018, over 5,490 flyers and 1,786 posters had been distributed and the campaign has been estimated to have reached at least 7,300 people.

Also as part of the campaign, IBJ Myanmar partnered with Future Light Drama on producing a short play about a person of who is illegally searched after being accused of robbing a fruit vendor. The play has been performed at multiple events, followed by a discussion on the rights of the accused and a question and answer session. This is an innovative and fun way to promote rights awareness and ensure the message reaches people of all ages and backgrounds.

The dedicated teams of lawyers working from the IBJ Justice Centers in Myanmar have set a strong foundation for a sustainable legal system, whilst providing comprehensive legal representation to hundreds of indigent detainees.

# Bolstering Female Leadership in the Legal Profession

## Rwanda Bridges to Justice Drives Equality in the Justice System

During 2018–2017, IBJ continued to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders in the Rwandan justice system, while focusing on improving working conditions for female advocates. Notably, IBJ’s local entity, Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ), received a letter from Minister of Justice, Johnstone Busingye, in December 2017, supporting our activities and encouraging us to continue working to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice in Rwanda. Following this, in November 2018, RBJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rwanda Bar Association. These achievements embody the deepening cooperation amongst vital stakeholders within the justice system, and have enabled the RBJ team to provide legal assistance to over 250 individuals, most of whom were in pre-trial detention, arbitrarily detained, or had been subjected to torture.

### Defender Training Sessions

Ongoing legal training is essential to ensure that lawyers have the skills to deliver comprehensive legal aid. Accordingly, IBJ held several Defender Training Sessions in Rwanda in 2017 and 2018. The first took place over two days in Kigali in August 2017, with a team of experts leading the session including Rwandan Judge Johnson Kabera and John Bosco Bugingo, Rwanda Bridges to Justice Country Manager, alongside John Ryder, an esteemed UK judge and common law expert. The session was opened by the President of the Rwanda Bar Association (RBA), Julien-Gustave Kava, and the Minister of Justice, Johnstone Busingye, who spoke at length on the importance of criminal defense and training of lawyers. The course was accredited by the RBA, which enabled all participating lawyers to receive “continuous education points” (CEPs) for their participation.

As part of the “Protecting Human Rights within Rwanda’s Criminal Justice System” project, two groundbreaking training sessions were held on 9–7 November, 2018, specifically tailored to address the needs of two different, yet interrelated, groups of key stakeholders within the

Rwandan justice system: criminal defense lawyers and prosecutors from the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB). Forty lawyers took part in the criminal defense training sessions, which focused on building trial advocacy skills, interview techniques, and dealing with clients who had been coerced into a confession by investigators.

In the second session, RIB prosecutors were coached on technical investigation techniques, including how to conduct an effective interview and how to gather forensic evidence. A major aim of the workshop was to underline how physical and psychological abuse during interrogation can jeopardize case file credibility. A total of 40 investigators and prosecutors from Kigali and the Eastern Province joined the workshop, which included a number of modules taught by international trainer and former FBI agent Emmanuel Johnson Jr., from the USA.



Pictured: RBJ Country Manager John-Bosco Buginga signing and MoU with the President of the Rwanda Bar Association, Julien Gustave Kararuganda

## Women Lawyers Network

Discussions during the August 2017 training sessions highlighted the challenges faced by women in the legal profession. This led to the emergence of an exciting new organization: The Women Lawyers Network (WLN). Around the world, women remain underrepresented in the justice system, and in Rwanda, women comprise just 22 percent of Bar Association members. In addition, female detainees are some of the most vulnerable to abuse and are at greatest risk of gender-based violence whilst in prison. Acts of sexual violence in overcrowded, mixed-gender prisons often go unreported due to the stigma attached, or the fear of disclosing the abuse to a male lawyer.

during which the group offered advice on how to resolve them. One WLN meeting involved a Skype call with a group of female lawyers in Sri Lanka, which led to a discussion about the challenges that both groups had had to overcome throughout their career.

## Rights Awareness in Rwanda

IBJ and RBJ have strengthened relationships with both local and international partners in Rwanda. We are collaborating with two local NGOs, Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (iPeace), and Dignité en Détention (Fondation DiDé) on our ongoing “Know Your Rights” campaign, during which IBJ created and distributed flyers containing information



Pictured: Roundtable held in October 2018

Beginning in October 2017, the network’s monthly meetings provide an opportunity for female lawyers to explore access to justice and the obstacles faced by young professionals in the context of female leadership. The meetings have become a platform for members to seek advice from their peers and share experiences, challenges and ideas, while growing stronger as legal professionals. The topic of the meetings have so far included a discussion on how to prepare for court, a presentation from a member who had attended a conference on women’s rights, and a session focusing on the difficulties that one lawyer was facing in a specific case,

on legal rights throughout the country. The campaign, which is particularly focused on informing people of their right to legal representation, has reached over 300 people directly and more than 1,200 indirectly.

The success of this rights-awareness campaign was magnified when the national television station RTV filmed a report about legal aid at Nyagatare Juvenile Detention Center, where IBJ and partner organization DiDé distributed flyers and posters created by IBJ as part of the campaign. A number of the young detainees were interviewed about

their experiences in front of IBJ's poster promoting the right to legal counsel, enabling our campaign to indirectly reach thousands more people than expected.

RBJ also partnered with Contact FM 89.7 to broadcast a rights-awareness campaign on 25 August 2018. The content of the pre-recorded segment was developed by Rwanda Bridges to Justice Country Manager John Bosco Busingo, with assistance from two members of the Rwanda Bar Association and lawyers from the Defender Resource Center. The focus was on informing citizens about the rights of the accused at time of arrest, during investigation, and in court. Contact FM covers %80 of the country, making it one of the most listened-to radio stations in Rwanda, with more than 4,000,000 people across the country tuning into the station each day, according to Contact FM statistics. Feedback from listeners was extremely positive, with many requesting that the show be rebroadcast.

### Justice Roundtables

On 6 July 2018, RBJ and partner organization DiDé gathered key justice sector stakeholders at a roundtable entitled "Making the use of pre-trial detention the exception in Rwanda's criminal justice system". The objective was to foster dialogue between participants – which included representatives from the National Prosecution Authority, Courts, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, the Bar Association, and several civil society organizations – on how to make pre-trial detention the exception rather than the norm. Participants reached a common understanding

on articles 97 ,96 ,89, and 37 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and identified alternative measures to pre-trial detention and how to implement them.

At a second High-Level Roundtable, in October 2017, RBJ welcomed a number of key justice and technology stakeholders to discuss the topic of "Catalyzing systematic changes within the justice sector in Rwanda and Pan-Africa through the use of technology". Guests of honor included the Minister of ICT and Youth, Hon. Jean Philbert Nsengimana, and the Minister of Justice, Hon. Johnston Busingye, both of whom saluted the initiative and the innovative use of technology in the justice sector. Among the 25 participants at the roundtable were the president of the Rwanda Bar Association, the rector of the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD), two representatives from the Rwanda Correctional Services (RCS), a representative from the Supreme Court, as well as a number of international development agencies, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Participants unanimously saluted the progress made possible by the use of technology over the past few years, illustrated by the launch of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) in 2016. The roundtable also provided a vital opportunity to discuss the challenges associated with IECMS, identify areas of improvement and discuss ways of enhancing collaboration between justice stakeholders.



Pictured: Women Lawyers Network



Pictured: Karen Tse with committed team of female lawyers from Mannar during December 2017 field visit

In 2017, IBJ launched the “Advancing Transitional Justice” project, aimed at addressing the challenges facing Sri Lanka’s justice system. Unlike many existing initiatives whose work has been heavily focused in and around Colombo, IBJ is targeting regions most in need of legal services, including the North and East, to build and sustain a movement of change and to prevent injustices before they occur.

To assess the legal landscape in Sri Lanka, a field visit was conducted in December 2017, during which IBJ met with key justice sector stakeholders, including the Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission, Rohan Sahabandu PC; the Attorney General, Jayantha Chandrasiri Jayasuriya PC; and the Commissioner General of Prisons, H.M.N.C. Dhanasinghe. IBJ staff found that while legal aid is widely available for indigent accused in civil cases, those facing criminal charges encounter significant barriers when seeking legal aid.

### Legal Representation

To address this access gap, IBJ has conducted activities throughout the country aimed at fostering the presumption of innocence and creating a culture of pro bono legal representation. Working with local partners Janasansadaya and the Human Rights Office Kandy, as well as several legal societies, IBJ has been able to provide no-cost, competent legal representation to 70 individuals, including victims of torture and forced disappearance.

### Capacity-Building

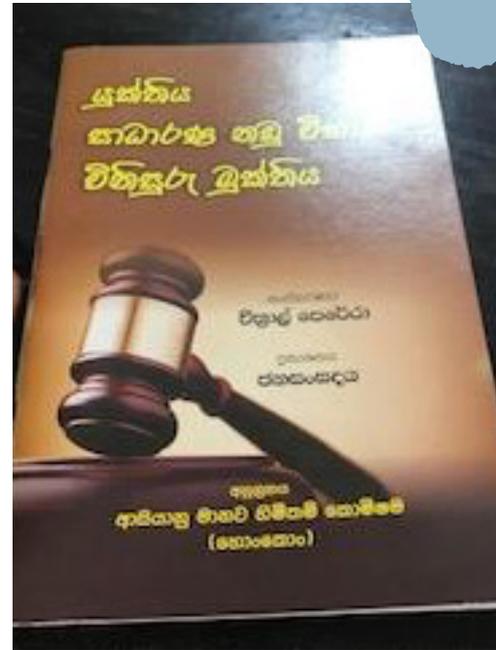
A crucial component of IBJ’s project in Sri Lanka is capacity building for lawyers and law enforcement officers. To this end, IBJ has published a -175page Practitioner’s Manual for Sri Lankan lawyers. The Manual aims to help lawyers provide the best possible service to their clients in the context of Sri Lanka’s transitional justice process, and covers topics

such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In addition to the Manual, IBJ worked with students from the UCLA School of Law to develop several eLearning modules to share rights knowledge, legal best practices, and strategies for client defense with lawyers throughout the country. As part of IBJ's ongoing efforts toward inclusion and reconciliation, the Manual and eLearning modules have been published in English, Tamil, and Sinhalese.

### Rights Awareness

IBJ has partnered with local organization Janasansadaya to conduct rights awareness campaigns in the district of Anamaduwa Kurunagala. These meetings typically focus on combating corruption within the criminal justice system by improving knowledge of individual rights. In June 2018, a meeting was held for 35 local participants to discuss torture in detention centers and the process for filing a complaint of torture. These campaigns have received highly positive feedback, and IBJ is planning to expand them to an additional seven districts.

Although transitional justice is a complicated path, IBJ remains firm in the belief that stability and reconciliation can be achieved when everyone is treated fairly under the law.



Pictured: Rights Awareness material





## Support and Strengthening a Justice System for the Post-Conflict Era

Pictured: Roundtable in Idlib

IBJ's country program in Syria, launched in November 2017, has grown from strength to strength, successfully adapting to quickly changing circumstances in an active warzone. Thanks to the generous support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), IBJ has worked toward creating a safety net for rule of law in Syria, protecting access to justice and the integrity of the justice system against the ravages of war. Courageous defenders provided 225 people with life-saving legal representation within a criminal justice system under constant threat of collapse. Three of these cases involved children who were unjustly imprisoned and ultimately released after IBJ intervention.

To help support the incredible work of these lawyers, IBJ published Syria's first-ever Criminal Defense Law Manual, a critical resource for veteran and junior lawyers alike. IBJ also developed 10 new eLearning modules, which have been accessed over 1500 times since going online in 2018. In close partnership with the Aleppo Bar Association, these modules have been formally included as part of the Bar Association's mandatory legal training, increasing legal capacity for future generations of Syrian defense lawyers. IBJ's digital strategy in Syria is key to sustainable development in the region. IBJ has begun developing the JusticeHub Syria App, a platform that uses end-to-end encryption to connect people in need of legal aid with lawyers willing to represent them pro bono. The app will also act as a document repository for key legal resources – both for

public rights awareness and defender skill building. The use of technology will help minimize the risks associated with moving across war-torn Syria, while also protecting beneficiaries by ensuring their anonymity.

IBJ's work in Syria began in 2017 with a Legal Needs Assessment conducted from the Syrian borders with Turkey and Jordan. Memoranda of Understanding have since been signed with the Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Homs, and Daraa bar associations, as well as with the Syrian Authority for Aid and Transitional Justice, helping to solidify IBJ's relationships and collaborative efforts with key actors within the Syrian Interim Government justice system.

*when peace returns to the country, IBJ's efforts will ensure Syria's legal system is better equipped to work through a challenging transitional period and rebuild strong, stable, and independent institutions that provide access to justice for all.*

## Advancing systemic change

Strengthening relationships between key justice sector stakeholders is the first step on the road to systemic change. In November and December 2018, IBJ conducted two breakthrough roundtables in Aleppo and Idlib, which brought together lawyers, judges, Free Syrian Police (FSP) officers, members of the Aleppo Free Bar Association, prosecutors, the head of Judicial Inspection in the liberated areas, and many other justice sector stakeholders.

The roundtable in Aleppo was widely reported throughout Syrian media and was described by participants as the “first of its kind” in the country. Part of the discussion at the roundtable on the right to silence was included in a report broadcast by the Syrian TV channel Orient. Discussions during the roundtable focused on how to reinforce aspects of Syrian law to improve respect for the right to silence, early access to justice, and other fundamental human rights principles. The dialogue was extremely effective, as those in attendance decided to assign a public defender to all individuals accused of a crime and to ensure that the district attorney oversees the police’s pre-trial investigatory work. As a result of the roundtable in Idlib, stakeholder teams were set up to oversee the establishment of specialized juvenile courts, rehabilitation centers for juvenile delinquents, and initiatives to improve public awareness of the legal rights of women and children. Issues addressed during the roundtable ranged from the lack of inclusion of women in the justice process to the absence of separate incarceration facilities. The event was instrumental in promoting the participation of women, as prior to this there had been very



Pictured: An IBJ lawyer providing pro-bono consultation to an individual in need of legal assistance

little discussion of gender issues in the context of access to justice. This milestone was also publicized on al-Jisr TV, raising community awareness and trust in the justice system.

IBJ’s work in Syria today actively mitigates the further erosion of the rule of law and lays the foundation for a fair, transparent, and accountable criminal justice system. In the future, when peace returns to the country, IBJ’s efforts will ensure Syria’s legal system is better equipped to work through a challenging transitional period and rebuild strong, stable, and independent institutions that provide access to justice for all.



Pictured: Karen, Sanjee and Queenie meeting with Syrian lawyers in Irbid, Jordan

# JusticeMakers

Justice Can't Wait.

## Sparking Innovation in the Justice System

*The 2017 JusticeMakers competition awarded 10 JusticeMakers Fellowships to five men and five women across Francophone Africa, empowering them to implement innovative projects to strengthen the justice system in their respective countries.*

Launched in 2008 and celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2018, IBJ's JusticeMakers program is the first global justice competition supporting the implementation of access to justice projects and empowering defenders across the globe. Every two years, the selection committee chooses 10 laureates to join its growing JusticeMakers community, which in 2018 numbered 69 Fellows in 42 countries.

The 2017 Prevention of Torture in Francophone Africa JusticeMakers Competition received a total of 36 applications from defenders in 10 different countries, and recognized 10 Fellows in Burkina Faso, Togo, Guinea Conakry, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Mauritania for their courageous and groundbreaking projects.

Dealing with larger issues of social justice, both in a local and global context, our JusticeMakers program is about inspiring and enabling ordinary people to do extraordinary things. The program is a crucial component of IBJ's strategy to ensure respect for due process rights worldwide. It connects legal activists around the world and provides them with financial support and visibility for innovative, grassroots projects that aim to remove barriers to justice for the accused, improve access to justice for juvenile defendants, or tackle gender discrimination in the criminal justice system.

The online JusticeMakers platform ([justicemakers.ibj.org](http://justicemakers.ibj.org)) and JusticeMakers Facebook page connect lawyers and legal activists across the world, enabling them to share knowledge and best practices in the field of criminal justice, and to support each other in their work. This online effort is complemented by a partnership structure that brings the website's tools and knowledge-base to those living beyond the digital divide. This unique online community has proved its effectiveness in mobilizing the collective energies of criminal defenders worldwide in helping to realize the vast potential of international human rights agreements.

Pictured: Charlotte Tchakounte speaking during a radio rights awareness campaign



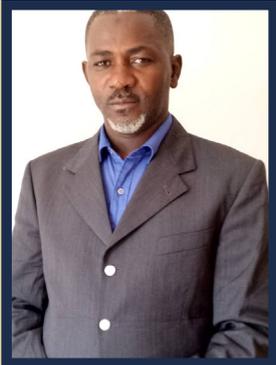
## 2017 JusticeMakers



**Papa Amadou, Mauritania**

*Project: Joining by Justice*

Mr. Amadou organized rights awareness workshops on issues that came to his attention while researching civil and political rights in Mauritania. He visited prisons to monitor conditions inside, and generated statistics on prison overcrowding. Additionally, he provided legal assistance to a number of women and minors at the Dar Naim Prison and at the Reception and Reintegration Center for Children in Conflict with the Law.



**Ibrahima Diallo, Guinea Conakry**

*Project: National Conference on Torture and Unlawful Detention*

Mr. Diallo launched a series of national conferences on torture and illegal detention in Guinea Conakry to raise awareness of the rights of the accused amongst the police and judiciary. These events brought together representatives of several human rights organizations and national institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Security. Mr. Diallo organized two roundtables, one led by the minister of justice, and the second at the Ministry of Security to facilitate discussions on a number of issues, including combating torture during police investigations and pre-trial detention.



**Thérèse Donu, Togo**

*Project: Justice for All*

Ms. Donu spearheaded a project targeting vulnerable minorities, particularly women and LGBT rights defenders. She organized several roundtables, seminars, and rights awareness workshops on equality and non-discrimination in access to justice, which enabled participants to identify the legal tools that protect their right to justice. Ms. Donu also organized several radio campaigns, which were broadcast by Pyramid FM, one of the most popular radio stations in Togo, and was interviewed about her work by a local newspaper.



**Noéllie Gaglo, Togo**

*Project: Action for Efficient Legal Representation*

Ms. Gaglo developed training modules on human rights and the various national, regional, and international legal instruments that uphold them, as well as modules on criminal procedure in Togo. The project focused especially on impoverished detainees. During case study sessions, Ms. Gaglo informed 86 inmates of their legal rights and the legal mechanisms in place to protect accused persons and ensure their right to a fair trial. Her project contributed to the release of 22 detainees and the closure of seven cases.



**Francis Kone, Côte D'Ivoire**

*Project: Combating Abusive Pre-Trial Detention through Accelerating Judicial Procedures*

Mr. Kone's project aimed to increase respect for the fundamental rights of prisoners by reducing prison overcrowding and accelerating judicial procedures. His work led to the ratification by the government of Côte D'Ivoire of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT). In addition, he conducted prison visits and secured the provisional or definitive release of 40 pre-trial detainees.

## 2017 JusticeMakers



### Sy Khadi, Burkina Faso

#### *Project: Women and African Prisons*

The focus of Ms. Khadi's project was on assisting female detainees and improving prison conditions for incarcerated women and children. Ms. Khadi and her team forged connections with the Ministry of Justice and Prison Officials, and worked tirelessly to provide legal assistance and improve conditions inside the prison. She provided meals for undernourished mothers who were breastfeeding newborns, and arranged for broken showers and toilets to be repaired. Additionally, she opened a center to support women released from prison who are rejected by their families, providing them with counseling and support to restart their lives.



### Birere Dieudonné Munguwampaga, DR Congo

#### *Project: Providing Legal Assistance to Women and Child Victims of Torture in South Kivu*

Mr. Munguwampaga's project provided judicial assistance to women and children who had been tortured or suffered ill treatment in prisons and detention centers in South Kivu. He took a collaborative approach, co-organizing a training session for policemen, civil society organizations, and local authorities, as well as prison officers and the General Commander of National Police, which was broadcast on radio and television by RTNC Bukavu. He also assembled a team of volunteer lawyers to visit prisons and monitor conditions in cooperation with the Kabare prosecutor's office. Mr. Munguwampaga subsequently provided legal assistance to 35 inmates and successfully secured the release of 22 detainees.



### Gisele Sangua, DR Congo

#### *Project: Access to Justice for All*

Having identified a problem of severe overcrowding in DR Congo prisons, Ms. Sangua wanted to find ways to improve prison conditions for detainees. Together with her tea, she developed a process for monitoring the cases of all detainees in Kassapa Prison in Lubumbashi. The prison has since adopted this to register all newly admitted detainees.



### Gontran Wale Some, Burkina Faso

#### *Project: Joining by Justice*

Mr. Wale Some established an innovative computerized filing system for the management of inmates in Diébougou prison. He developed a detailed document to compile the specifics of each inmate's case, which enables clerks to easily manage court dates, as well as monitor release dates and mediation schedules, in order to alleviate overcrowding within the prison. He also tackled the issue of illiteracy, which prevents many prisoners from filling out bail request forms and other documents, creating 18 pre-filled forms that prisoners only need to sign. He also led soap-making workshops to equip prisoners with new skills to earn a living after release.



### Charlotte Tchakounte, Cameroon

#### *Project: Association of Jurists of Social Integrity*

Ms. Tchakounte's project aimed to provide legal representation to pre-trial detainees and raise awareness amongst inmates, prison guards, and high school students. Ms. Tchakounte and her team organized a workshop for lawyers and justice officials to exchange best practices and revise legal texts that are contrary to the UN Convention against Torture. She also organized rights awareness campaigns that were broadcast on local TV and radio stations, and was interviewed about the project by local radio station Vie Nouvelle.



Pictured: Francis Kone and his team during a visit to a detention center in Bouake, Cameroon

## JusticeMakers 2.0

The JusticeMakers 2.0 Competition was launched in 2017 to enable existing JusticeMakers Fellows whose have demonstrated exceptional effectiveness, innovation, and ability to inspire others to develop similar local initiatives, to extend the scope and deepen the impact of their project.

IBJ reviewed the projects of all previous JusticeMakers winners in Francophone Africa to identify two outstanding candidates as recipients of a special IBJ grant of 15,000\$ to support the continued implementation of their projects. Thérèse Donu from Togo and Yvone Mbofe from Cameroon were selected as winners of the JusticeMakers 2.0 in February 2018, in recognition of their outstanding work and dedication to improving access to justice and strengthening the rule of law in their respective countries.



Pictured: Dieudonné Munguwampaga hosts a rights awareness campaign in Bukavu, DR Congo.



# IBJ Youth Initiatives Harnessing the Power of Youth to Drive Transformative Changes

Pictured: Group Photo Human Rights Council

IBJ's Youth Initiative mobilizes a network of young people around the globe to support access to justice, advance IBJ's mission to end torture as an investigative tool, and advance efforts to implement United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

During 2018-2017, IBJ invited a number of students to participate in events and share their innovative ideas on how to bring about systematic change in the world.

In January 2017, IBJ brought together students, government representatives, and industry and faith leaders at an event during the World Economic Forum in Davos to reflect on how early access to justice can prevent torture. Students from the Schweizerische Alpine Mittelschule (SAMD) in Davos created models representing SDG 16 from Lego blocks donated by the Lego Foundation, which were displayed during the event. Trevor Winstal, a student at SAMD, gave an inspiring speech acknowledging IBJ's mission:

“In the world I see problems that appear too big to tackle. Each solution offered seems to have an insurmountable impediment, whether that be money or power, or something else. The only type of solution I can see possibly working is a solution in which the problem is concretely defined, and which appeals to basic human values. IBJ is one such solution. When I see an insurmountable obstacle, IBJ sees the solution, IBJ sees hope.”

Trevor was joined by IBJ Youth Scholar Bhavani Khemka, who has been involved with IBJ since high school. She shared her experience of working in six different locations in Cambodia to create video stories about people who have been wrongly accused.



Pictured: IBJ Youth Scholar, Bhavani Khemka



Pictured: Trevor Winstral addressing the audience at IBJ's event during the World Economic Forum

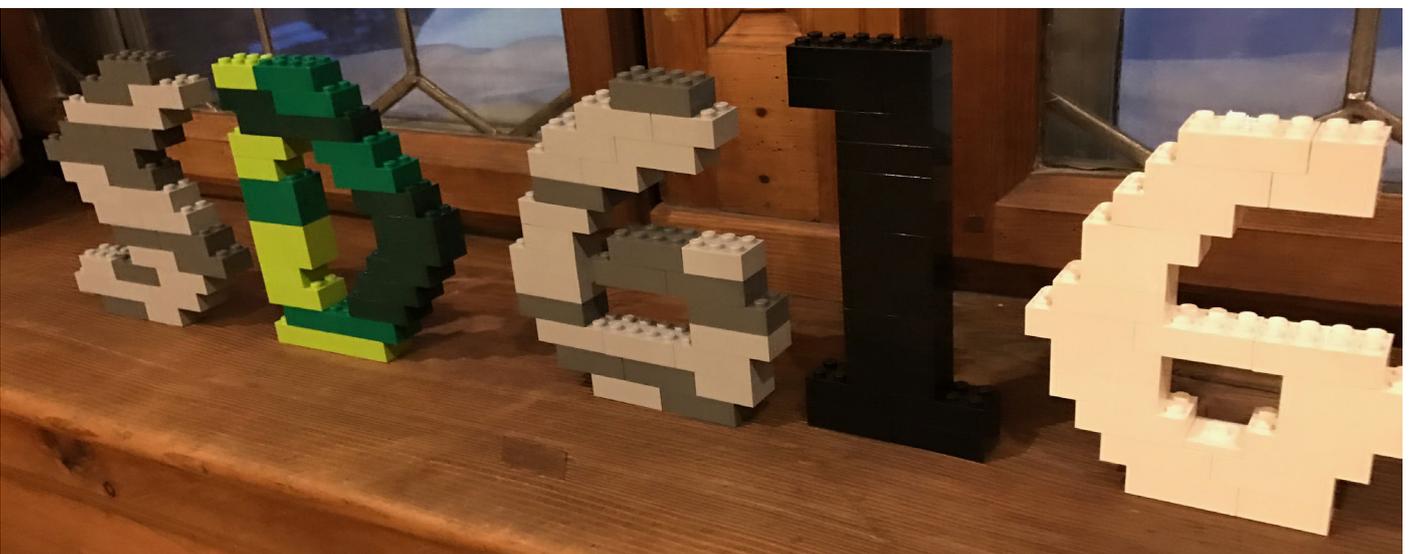
*“... The only type of solution I can see possibly working is a solution in which the problem is concretely defined, and which appeals to basic human values. IBJ is one such solution. When I see an insurmountable obstacle, IBJ sees the solution, IBJ sees hope.”*

Meanwhile, IBJ India formed a partnership with students from the Department of Psychology of Indraprastha College for Women to provide legal and psychological assistance to incarcerated women in Tihar Prison in Delhi. And DR Congo Bridges to Justice strengthened their partnership with the Law Department of the Catholic University of Bukavu by collaborating to organize a rights awareness campaign on the importance of giving testimony in court when called as a witness.

Back in Geneva, on 25 June 2018, IBJ held a landmark event at the 38th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which focused on how youth and technology are key drivers to realize our vision to end torture. The dynamic session was held in collaboration with the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and brought together a variety of key groups working to ensure access to justice. The session was attended by over 60 people, including students from local international schools, legal professionals, and ambassadors from several Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG).

IBJ and ACP invited participants to take part in four breakout roundtables. The students were invited to share their energy and insights on key issues such as providing early access to counsel, ending corruption within the criminal justice system, capacity building of defense lawyers, and harnessing the power of youth to advance early access to justice.

IBJ is excited to continue engaging youth around the world to promote and support access to justice.



Pictured: Lego SDG 16 made by students from SAMD on display at IBJ's event at the World Economic Forum

# Interfaith Worldwide Vigils for Peace

## 2017 Davos Peace Vigil

On the occasion of the World Economic Forum’s 47th Annual Meeting, IBJ brought together government, industry and faith leaders from around the world for the signing of the landmark Declaration on Access to Justice to Prevent Torture at the event “From Fear to Hope: Leadership on the Road to Justice.” The signing of the Declaration took place during our annual peace vigil, held at the historic 16th-century Grosse Stube in the Town Hall of Davos, where leaders have gathered for hundreds of years. The event marked a renewed global commitment to implement Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Among the signatories of the declaration were Tarzisius Caviezel, Mayor of Davos; Hilde Schwab, Chairperson and Co-Founder, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship; Ayatollah Dr. Ahmad Iravani, President of the Centre for the Study of Islam and the Middle East; Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan, Pakistan Minister of State for Information Technology & Telecommunication; Nasereldin Haghamed, CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide; Swami Agnivesh, President Emeritus, World Council of Arya Samaj; Ally Martina Clark, Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace; Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office, Geneva; Peter Gabriel, singer-songwriter, musician, and humanitarian activist, Pablo de Greiff, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantee of non-recurrence; Sally Osberg, President and CEO, Skoll Foundation; Mark Thompson, Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture; Shinichi Kitaoka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency; Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International; Mathieu Ricard, French writer and Buddhist monk; and Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch.



Pictured: Geneva team at the Davos peace vigil



Pictured: Human Rights Office Kandy (HROK) team in Sri Lanka peace vigil



Pictured: DR Congo team peace vigil



Pictured: India team peace vigil



Pictured: Mexico team peace vigil



Pictured: Rwanda team peace vigil



Pictured: Burundi team peace vigil



Pictured: Cambodia team peace vigil

## 2018 Davos Peace Vigil

In 2018 IBJ once again held a special Worldwide Vigil for Peace and Justice in Davos, celebrating our 10th year of events during the World Economic Forum.

Reflecting IBJ's community of hope, our teams around the world joined the Peace Vigil in spirit, sending their prayers and blessings from afar.

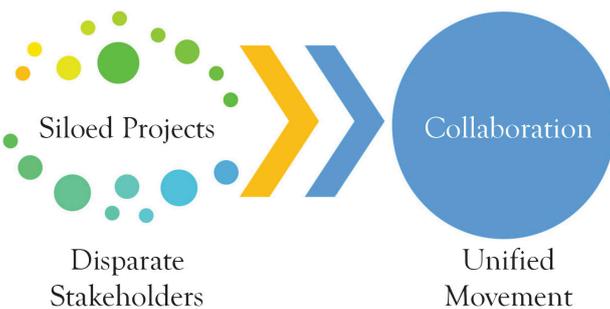
While lawyers around the world participated in the Peace Vigil, in Davos IBJ once again brought together government, industry, and faith leaders to reflect on how each and every person can influence peace and justice worldwide. Moving words and prayers were shared by a number of speakers, including Tazsius Caviezel, Mayor of Davos; Hilde Schwab, Chairperson and Co-Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Enterprise; Ayatollah Dr. Ahmad Irvani; Reverend Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit; and Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt.

This ever-strengthening community of hope reflects how, year after year, we come one small step closer to ending the use of torture as an investigative tool.

# Justice Hub: IBJ's Digital Revolution

The digital revolution we have witnessed in the last 10 years, alongside the rise of 'platform' based super networks, has vast potential to help IBJ scale up its work with the power of technology.

The demand for our model is fast outstripping IBJ's ability to scale impact among the existing stakeholders already involved in IBJ's work. Equally challenging is the need to respond to and manage interest from the numerous new groups and individuals who have approached IBJ to collaborate. After many years planning, our digital solution, JusticeHub, is transitioning from design to development in 2018. JusticeHub will help IBJ overcome these problems through better use and sharing of existing tools and materials, and by creating an open platform that allows all interested stakeholders to connect, interact, and develop new features and services that benefit all parties involved.

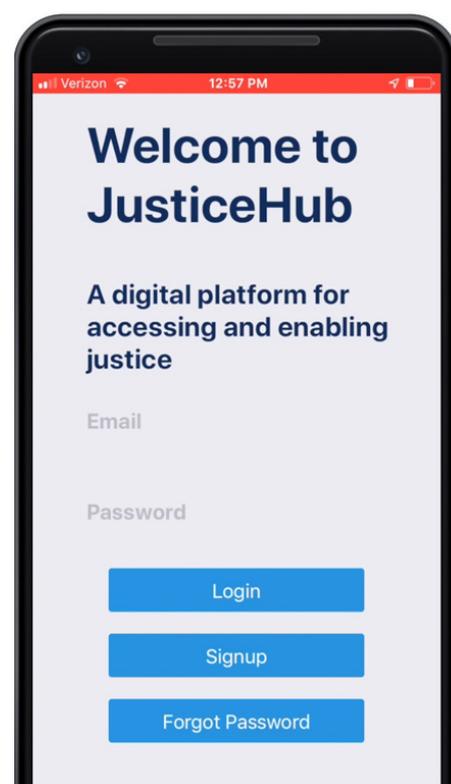


## THE SOLUTION

Current global development efforts have demonstrated the power of collaborative community structures to create long-lasting and sustainable impact on a large scale. The principle feature of the JusticeHub will be to create an open platform that allows all "access to justice" stakeholders to connect, interact, and cooperate, enabling information-gathering and collaboration around the world in real time. Just as Wikipedia devised a way to enable anyone to contribute information to the world's stock of knowledge, and GitHub let's teams of people find each other and work together to create and improve open-soft software, so too JusticeHub will be central coordination for an ecosystem for access to justice.

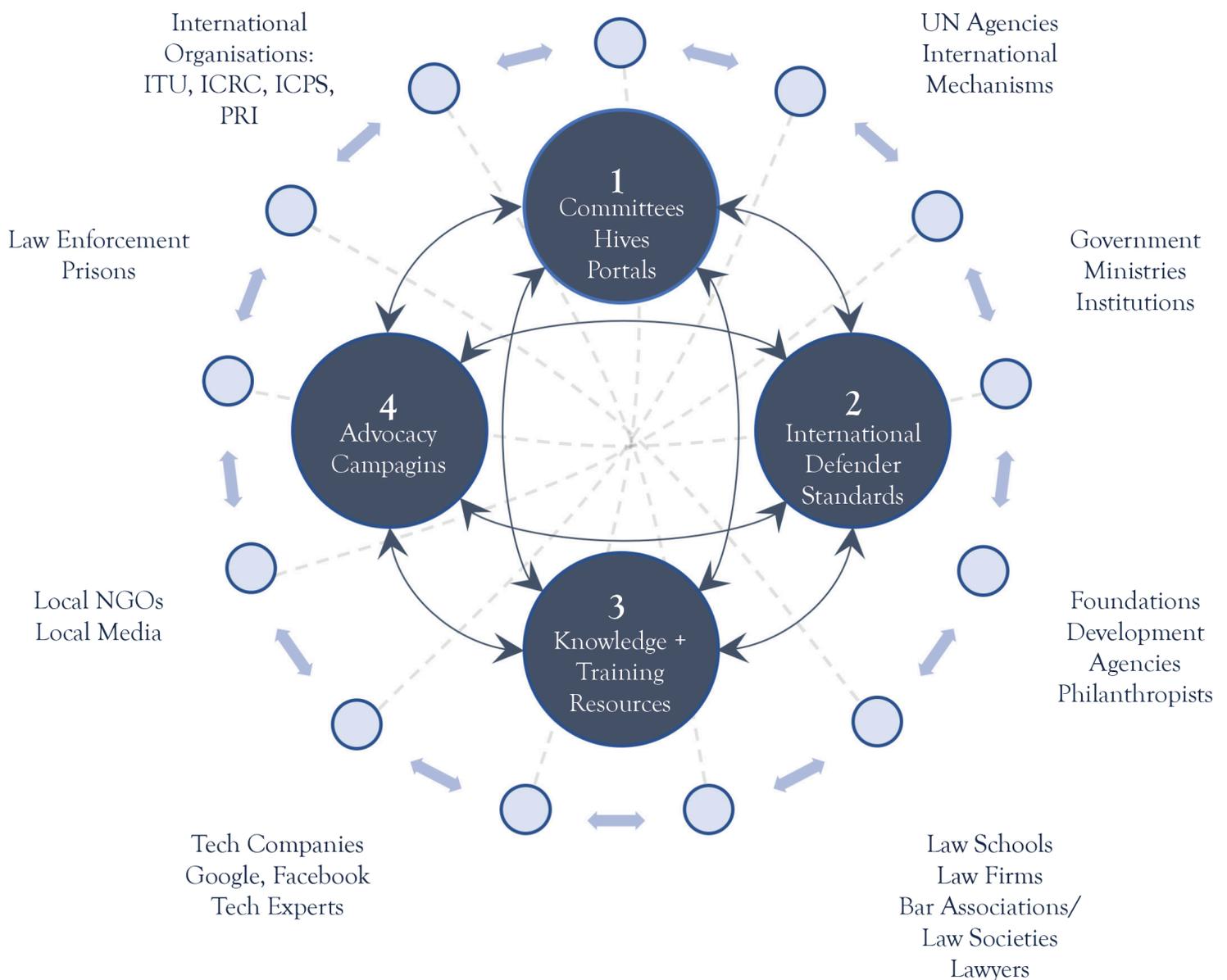
JusticeHub's initial core functionalities will build on IBJ's already proven analogue counterparts:

- I. **A Platform for Community Cooperation** through the connection of justice stakeholders for collaborative projects
- II. **Accelerate Early Access to Counsel** through the connection of criminal defenders to citizens who stand accused. One example is the development of a Smartphone app to facilitate citizens to lawyers.
- III. **Legal Resources and Capacity Building for Criminal Defenders** through the development of e-Learning modules, DefenseWiki, and other tools.
- IV. **Data Curation and Analysis** through the systematic collection and analysis of data collected in IBJ's daily operations.



JusticeHub’s open platform design will allow and encourage stakeholders to create additional new tools and value-added services for other stakeholders on the platform. For example, new uses of data curation may result in a digital prisoner tracking system based on a blockchain ledger. Another example can involve the leveraging of the probono volunteer hours that international lawyers can provide and match with the direct and indirect development of new tools and services.

**THE JusticeHub NETWORK of PARTNERS**



JusticeHub enables groups working in legal-rights, access to justice and judicial reform to collaborate and advance their mission as part of a global movement. The hub is a “force multiplier” for efficiency and effectiveness in support of UN SDG 16 for peace and justice.

# Online Legal Resources: Using Technology to Improve Defender Standards Worldwide

Since 2010, our online legal resources have expanded, providing in-depth, country-specific training tools for legal practitioners around the world. Developed by dedicated legal volunteers and IBJ staff, the online tools are free and easily accessible for all, from legal professionals and law students to individuals seeking information about their legal rights.

IBJ's online tools are designed to strengthen the capacities of lawyers and gradually institutionalize defender norms and standards to guarantee due process rights for all. By harnessing the power of technology, our online resources ensure that legal practitioners everywhere have access to free, high-quality legal education at all times.

## Criminal Defense Wiki

The Criminal Defense Wiki now includes legal resources for 111 countries, with content in seven languages. The platform comprises criminal codes, treaties, relevant legislation, and case law, and makes all these resources readily available. Over the last two years, IBJ has placed a particular focus on developing pages for countries in francophone Africa as part of the "Preventing Torture in La Francophonie" project, supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). During 2018-2017, a total of 26 Defense Wiki pages were updated or newly created and have been accessed over 559,000 times since their launch.

## eLearning & Legal Training Resources

Our eLearning platform has also been significantly enhanced and now comprises 247 modules. The platform was given a technical upgrade in 2017, with the aim of making it easier for lawyers to access. Alongside the country-specific modules, IBJ was assisted by scholars associated with the Faculty of Forensic Sciences at the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg to develop six new modules on forensic evidence, an area identified by a number of lawyers who attended IBJ's defender training sessions as one in which they lacked adequate training.

As IBJ continues to develop our innovative JusticeHub digital platform, these resources will be centralized on the platform, which is designed not only to provide educational resources to lawyers around the world, but also to connect defenders with individuals seeking legal assistance.

## IBJ eLearning Modules Incorporated into the Legal Education System in Rwanda and Syria

IBJ is thrilled to share exciting developments for our eLearning platform. In late 2018, we began discussions with the Rwanda Bar Association and the Aleppo Bar Association in Syria, both of which have agreed to accredit our eLearning modules. In Syria, the modules will be formally incorporated into the Aleppo Bar Association's legal education system, and the Rwanda Bar Association will award Continuous Legal Education (CLE) credits to lawyers who complete our country-specific modules. IBJ hopes that these partnerships will form the foundation for the inclusion of our eLearning modules in legal education systems around the world, helping to institutionalize criminal defender standards globally.

# Financial Report

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many, 2017 and 2018 were our most impactful years to date. Like most nonprofits, IBJ struggles to secure multi-year funding, but 2017 and 2018 were some of our most impactful years to date, with a %40 rise in funding. As a result, IBJ was able to distribute more funds to the field and change the course of more lives than ever before.

While the grant provided by the Canadian Government (CAD 2.4 million) in late 2016 enabled us to launch our country program in the Democratic Republic of Congo and ramp up operations in Burundi and Rwanda. The US Government continued to support our work in China with existing grants (USD 1.8 million) being supplemented by an additional two-year project, starting in 2017, focusing on the “next generation” (USD 1.2 million). The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development of the Netherlands contributed to our work in China as well (EUR 163,000).

The US State Department also provided funding for the launch of a program in Sri Lanka (USD 607,000), which enabled us to set up a local entity and provide much appreciated training and casework support. IBJ developed and implemented an important program in Myanmar with a grant provided by the British Council (EUR 1.4 million) and initiated a project in Syria in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Agency (SEK 5.6 million), which successfully provided access to justice for many despite significant political and humanitarian constraints. IBJ’s long-standing program in Cambodia was substantially bolstered by a grant from UNDEF in 2018. IBJ is grateful for the support provided by foundations from around the world, particularly the SKOLL Foundation, the OAK Foundation, the Stiftelsen Infinity Foundation, and the Guerrand Hermes Foundation, which together donated over USD 25,000 in 2017. In Switzerland, IBJ obtained support for our program in Burundi from Pro Victimis (USD 30,000) and the Dutch Embassy (USD 53,000). And last but not least, we would like to acknowledge generous donations from the Singapore Economic Development Board (SGD 500,000) for our work there, and from the National Endowment for Democracy (USD 55,000) for our program in Rwanda.

IBJ is dedicated to keeping its services free, ensuring that the poorest members of society have access to justice. That is why IBJ depends entirely on grants and donations to support its programs and cover general management and administration costs. Indirect costs continue to be particularly challenging to fund, and recent foreign

exchange fluctuations have compounded the difficulty. IBJ continues to meet this challenge through significant private and in-kind donations, which totaled USD 742,000 in 2017 and USD 490,000 in 2018.

To maintain our financial resilience and meet our responsibilities to donors, IBJ is focused on using financial resources more efficiently and has continued to develop metrics to improve performance. Some of our key metrics show that program overheads were reduced by nearly %10 between 2017 and 2018, fundraising efficiency increased by nearly %50, and our administrative expenses remained stable. We have also started to measure the net benefit from each dollar received; this metric increased threefold in 2018 compared to 2017.

**Total grants & donations received:  
USD 4.47M**

**IBJ raised:  
USD 1.87M in 2017  
USD 2.60M in 2018**

**IBJ invested in programs (excl HQ):  
USD 2.04M in 2017  
USD 1.89M in 2018**

**Net assets  
USD 2017 – 358,857  
USD 2018 – 437,938**

**Allocation of expenses (2018–2017)**

**Programs  
USD %76.19 = 3,930,756**

**Administration / General  
USD %23.01 = 935,944**

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Anastasie Mujawayezu  
Arnold Kallagi  
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Audace Ngiruwonsanga  
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### *Contributors to Legal Resources*

Aaron Tabondjou Goufak  
 Alazne Carro  
 Alexia Rivière  
 Alexis Roberta Almeida Alvarez  
 Aminata Sy  
 Anne Rametsi  
 Antsa Lalaina Ramiakajato  
 Aung Khant Min  
 Aya Abo Shehata  
 Basem Ali  
 Carlos Tapia  
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Charles Bidime Epoa  
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 Line Blicher Jensen  
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 Maricruz D Millan Licett  
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 Sujata Balaram  
 Tadoa Bruno Yonli  
 Tarek Fakhereddin  
 Tasneem Qurrah  
 Vazha Abramishvili  
 Vincent Garruchet  
 Xavier Martini

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Ajay Verma  
Aline Njimberé  
Arnold Nyaluma  
Bob Burke  
Dominique Tricaud  
Elie Elkaim  
Emmanuel Johnson Jr  
Jacques du Preez  
Janvier Ncamatwi  
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