

# *Bridges/2019-2020*

*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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# Transforming Justice Systems: *Hope in togetherness*

What a contrast! In 2019 I met face to face with our defenders on the ground in Cambodia, Myanmar, Rwanda and Sri Lanka and our Syrian lawyers in Gaziantep, Turkey. In 2020 all my meetings were online and virtual due to the COVID pandemic. Yet hope abounded. For example, Myanmar suffered a double crisis of COVID and a military coup, but our Burmese lawyers showed tremendous courage and commitment. I was so grateful that IBJ's 2019 convenings had built a foundation for their continued strength and hope – facilitated by Zoom calls – despite restrictions, isolation and distance.

And what a time for IBJ to celebrate its **20th anniversary of transforming and strengthening criminal justice systems!** Since 2000, IBJ has worked ceaselessly to provide early access to competent legal counsel, prevent investigative torture, limit arbitrary detention, and reduce corruption. Active in 48 countries, to date **IBJ has impacted over 38 million lives**, trained 31,00 lawyers, and provided no-cost legal protection to over 400,000 accused individuals worldwide. While our world changed from 2019 to 2020, IBJ's mission remained the same as it stepped forward at its 20-year mark to face new challenges: strong, resolute and effective.

COVID pushed the world towards fear and isolationism, eroding fundamental human rights, particularly for vulnerable accused people. As governments put in place emergency laws and curfews to curtail the pandemic, and as police and armies maintained the streets, **a precarious and unequal environment for justice emerged.** Curfew breakers were beaten, tortured, and thrown in jail. Prisoners – frequently poor, sick, and unrepresented – languished in overcrowded prisons, vulnerable to the virus. Closed or reduced court operations negatively impacted timely fair hearings, causing even more prolonged pretrial detentions. Gender-based degradation and violence also spiked, as some women detainees were stripped and threatened with rape. Prisons remain society's darkest corners, and COVID-19 only made matters worse. Also of concern, leaders in some countries took advantage of their ability to curtail civil rights *"in the name of health."*

IBJ provided a strong counterforce to these widespread problems. **Having remained globally at the forefront of access to justice**, we were inundated with requests for support from all sectors: community level justice stakeholders like lawyers and bar associations, as well as governments, justice authorities, and prison officials. IBJ immediately acted. Here are a few illustrative examples:

- **In NW Syria**, IBJ formed a taskforce with the interim Ministry of Justice that visited courts and police stations on a weekly basis to ensure rights for the incarcerated.
- **In India**, where COVID exhausted the country's resources, IBJ co-led legal efforts at the Supreme Court that resulted in orders to release 60,000 prisoners during the COVID surge.
- **In Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka**, IBJ lawyers won the release on bail of 5,000 curfew violators total.
- **In DR Congo**, IBJ defenders successfully advocated for reduced bail fees and the release of pre-trial detainees held indefinitely while courts were closed.
- **In Burundi**, Burundi Bridges to Justice successfully negotiated with the Directorate of Prisons to reopen the country's closed prisons for lawyers to access detainees across the country.

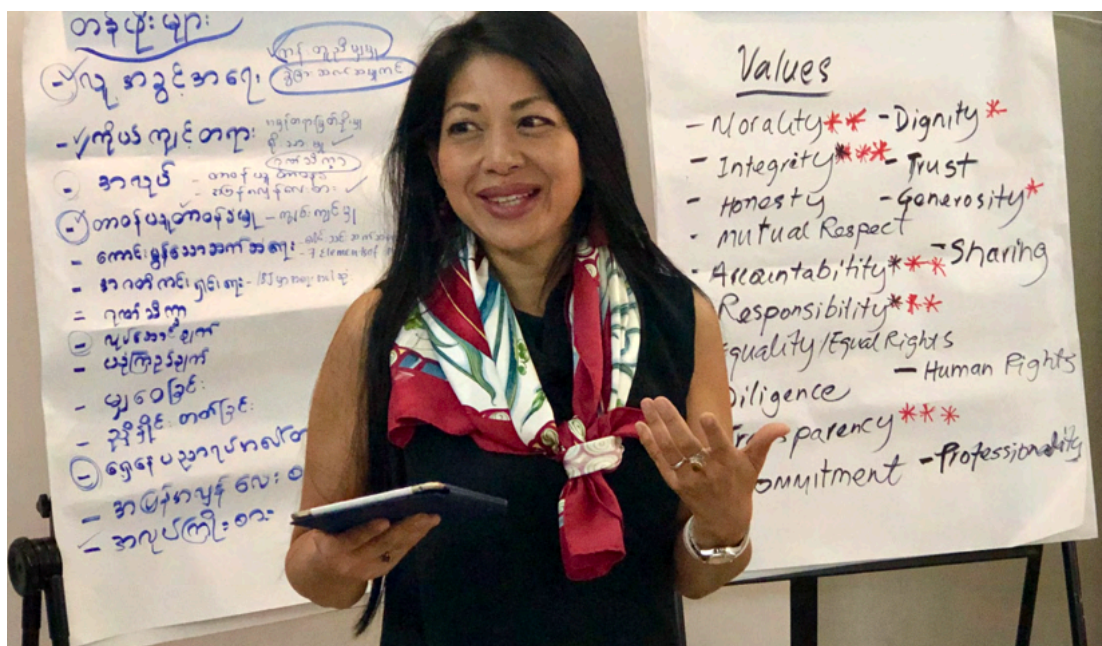
Indeed, faced with mass arrests of curfew violators, shuttered courtrooms, and locked down prisons, **IBJ's global team worked together to ensure due process everywhere.** Every day, IBJ's heroic "first responders" risked exposure to COVID and courageously entered prisons to secure bail for pre-trial detainees and conducted urgent advocacy to protect prisoners. In short, **defenders are hope.**

Beyond the hardships of the pandemic, 2020 exposed other lamentable problems at the heart of criminal justice systems. The killing of George Floyd shed light on systemic inequality and oppression of the marginalized within criminal



As I contemplate that transformative reform, I often think of Afaf al-Rashid, a Syrian woman lawyer at our workshop in Gaziantep. She shared her poem of hope despite painful experiences in Syria of having been wrongly accused and tortured. And she exhorted workshop attendees, many of whom shared such experiences, to recognize the power of forgiveness, hope and love and, most importantly, the power of making the choice to move forward, fighting for other accused as defenders. Her compatriot defenders embraced her message as their defender credo.

Kenn J. Orr



# Executive Summary

## *from Chairman of the Board, Daniel Fung*

Over the last two years, International Bridges to Justice has transformed injustice systems into justice systems by ensuring systemic respect for due process rights across the world. Since its foundation in 2000, IBJ has worked towards putting justice within reach of everyone, running 12 country programs and reaching 48 countries across Africa, Asia, and beyond. 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic and recent police killings of people of color in the United States underscored prevalent systemic inequality in criminal justice systems worldwide. Understood as a “parallel pandemic”, the year 2020 highlighted the urgency to combat the criminalization of race and poverty. Justice systems treat the poor and innocent worse than the rich and guilty. If you are poor, you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer and, without adequate legal representation, you cannot enjoy the full protection of the law. With IBJ’s unique approach of providing free legal assistance, while working in parallel with justice sector stakeholders, IBJ made significant advancements in promoting criminal justice reform.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, IBJ and its supporters continued providing effective methods to existing legal systems. I was particularly blown away by the courage of our defense lawyers, putting themselves in dangerous positions by providing legal representation for vulnerable detainees during the pandemic. IBJ also worked tirelessly to ensure that our lawyers could continue practicing the rule of law. In the DRC and Rwanda, effective advocacy with key justice system stakeholders allowed them to be classified as essential workers. By respecting sanitary health measures, legal defenders were able to practice their profession and continue strengthening their respective justice systems. In Syria, IBJ lawyers convened with the Minister of Justice and the Syrian Interim Government to form a task force to oversee police stations and prisons to prevent human rights violations during the pandemic. Members met weekly to discuss

the rapidly evolving situations in prisons, detention centers, and police stations, and developed solutions to the issues that threatened the right of the detainees. Moreover, as worldwide government lockdowns disrupted communication channels among IBJ’s colleagues and allies, IBJ recognized the very human need to connect and share vital information. Our teams began holding important meetings to share updates on access to justice backsliding and the rights of the accused during the COVID-19 era. By embracing technology and innovation, IBJ was able to effectively expand access to justice, especially in the context of the pandemic.

IBJ’s commitment to improving justice systems encourage innovative solutions to ensure the rights of individuals are protected. In Burundi, BBJ organized a mobile court in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Civil Protection Division. Some provinces in Burundi are without a detention center, which often results in individuals remaining in pre-trial detention in neighboring provinces for prolonged periods of time, as they wait to hear in the province where the crime was committed. BBJ’s mobile court initiative transported judges, court staff, and defense lawyers where they successfully heard 31 cases over three days. Another creative initiative involved the launching of an App titled “what if the bear cub is arrested” in China. Developed in partnership with the Digital Public Square Project at the University of Toronto’s Munk Center, the goal of the game was to raise public awareness of the rights of juveniles within the criminal justice system.

IBJ’s Youth Initiative was also instrumental in furthering our mission in raising awareness on juvenile rights and protecting children victim of injustices. In 2020, IBJ launched a Youth JusticeMakers competition, inviting youth from across the world to submit project proposals aimed at improving juvenile access to justice within their communities. These youth initiatives have partnered with key justice stakeholders to guarantee the release of child detainee’s in Cameroon, broadcast rights awareness on national radio in the DRC, conduct interviews with the police on their treatment of juveniles in Nigeria,

and provide psychosocial support to girls in Pakistan. These are just some of the examples of the impressive Youth Justice Champions.

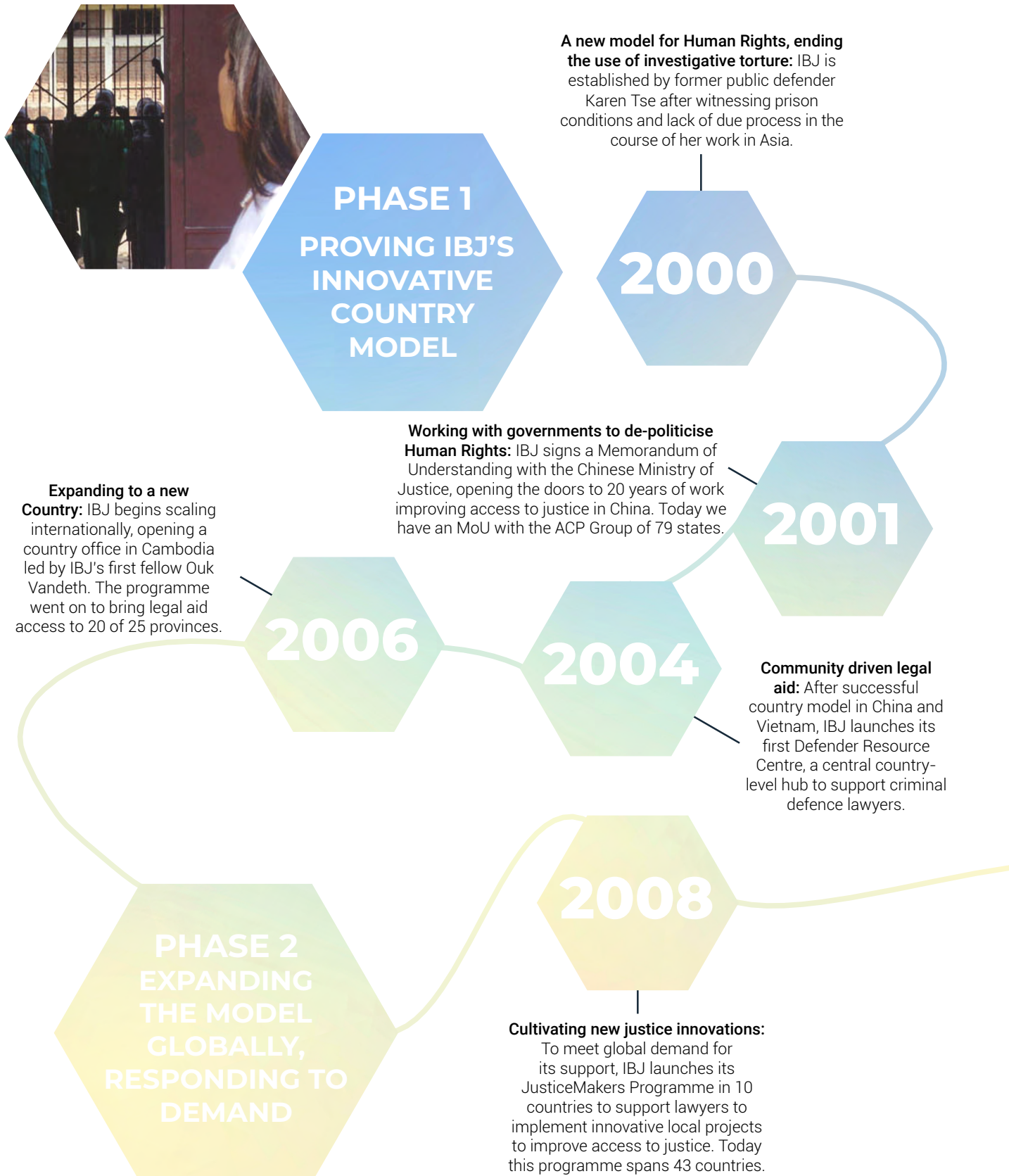
The year 2020 was important for highlighting the need for global partnership between every person and organization. Unity is key to ensuring that the rights of all individuals are protected across the world. I would like to thank all our charitable supporters for their faith in IBJ. Every contribution is critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone around the world.

Sincerely,

***Daniel Fung***



# Celebrating 20 Years of IBJ: A Timeline of Achievements





**Harnessing platform technology for justice:** On IBJ's 20th anniversary, IBJ takes a leap forward to create a global platform to coordinate criminal legal system development, creating a digital home called JusticeHub for IBJ's 400+ partner organisations and governments. A hub network of 100 women lawyers is currently helping other women get access to justice.

2020

PHASE 3  
SCALING  
USING  
TECHNOLOGY

**Institutionalising criminal defender standards:** IBJ expands to the middle east with a successful Syria programme despite the civil war. A new unified bar association in the north-west, incorporates IBJ training materials into its own curriculum for lawyers. Bar Associations in other countries follow suit in the coming years.

2017

**Global prioritisation of access to justice:** The UN launches 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 15 years of IBJ's global advocacy helps lead the way for the inclusion of SDG 16 – Peace and Justice, which underlines the importance of access to justice.

2015

**Inspiring legislative change:** A revised Chinese Criminal Procedure Law comes into effect, incorporating concepts advocated by IBJ, including new provisions for: witness testimony, pre-trial procedures, exclusion of illegally obtained evidence, and special management of juvenile cases. IBJ's work has implications for 1.4 billion Chinese people.

2012

2009

**Expanding across continents:** IBJ scales to Africa, opening its signature Defender Resource Centers in Burundi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Today IBJ has Defender Resource Centers in 13 countries, across three continents.

2010

**Using technology to train millions online:** On IBJ's 10th anniversary, IBJ leverages the power of technology to launch online resources for criminal defence lawyers globally. IBJ's eLearning modules and DefenseWiki have now been accessed 25+ million times across 106 different countries.

2011

**Global call to action answered:** IBJ CEO Karen Tse takes to the global stage at TED, sharing the IBJ solution to stopping investigative torture through early access to counsel. We received an outpouring of public support asking how to get involved and the TEDTalk has been viewed over 600,000 times to date.

# The IBJ Model to End Torture as an Investigative Tool

Every day, throughout the world, thousands of individuals are arbitrarily detained, tortured and denied access to legal counsel. Many never receive a fair trial. Many languish in prison for months, sometimes years, before they even appear before a judge. Children are often detained with adults where they are at risk of predatory harm. Trained defense attorneys are the key to stopping this systematic abuse of human rights suffered by millions of individuals – a colossal injustice hidden in plain sight.

“Any system that allows us to turn a blind eye to hopelessness and despair – that’s not a justice system, that’s an injustice system.”  
– Barack Obama

## MISSION

In recognition of the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) is dedicated to protecting the basic legal rights of ordinary individuals, particularly in the Global South. 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, marshalling a worldwide community of legal rights advocates to support the work of defense attorneys in the Global South. In each of its country programs, IBJ works at the national level, influencing decision-makers to institute system-wide reforms, conducting justice roundtables and rights awareness campaigns. IBJ also works at the local level, fostering grassroots transformation through training of lawyers, police and penitentiary officials, and providing continuous legal defense of indigent accused through its Defender Resource Centers.

## SYSTEM CHANGE

Structured and sustained implementation of due process as the new normal requires system-wide change. IBJ believes that systemic justice problems need systemic justice solutions. 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 justice 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 IBJ’s programs by relevant authorities and the broader justice power structure is critical not only to short term impact, but also to long-term sustainability.

## Strengthening SDG 16

“UN SDG 16’s aim is to leave nobody behind, including people like prisoners. So, I would like to thank you for what you are doing, International Bridges to Justice, and to say that it is exactly the type of partnership and cooperation that the United Nations wants. We can ensure that working together, we will be able to build a more prosperous and more just society in the world.”

– Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva



## Overview of Country Program Activities

At a country level, IBJ conducts a wide variety of key activities.

**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's rigorous training, which is 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. During the 2019-2020 period, IBJ provided capacity building to over 9,100 lawyers.

**Training other justice stakeholders:** 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 is a trusted and credible training provider for many in the justice eco-system. In addition to lawyers, 1,121 justice stakeholders were trained worldwide from 2019 to 2020.

**Providing legal assistance:** Legal aid is the backbone of IBJ's strategy to advance access to justice for indigent accused people, and to engender a broader pro bono culture. IBJ's intervention at the earliest possible stage of the criminal justice process promotes the assurance that even society's poorest individuals have the same level of protection under the law. IBJ Defender Resource Centers act as hubs for IBJ's in-country activities, serving as community legal centers that are the first stop for those seeking assistance. Between 2019 and 2020, IBJ provided legal aid to 46,000+ individuals.

*“IBJ has proven that defense attorneys, trained and provided with the appropriate support, are the key to unlocking the full potential of the human rights revolution.”*  
– Skoll Foundation



**Organizing justice roundtables:** IBJ regularly holds its signature justice roundtable to create a neutral space for government authorities, police, prison officials, lawyers, judges, community leaders, academics, and civil society organizations to 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 mutual respect and a deeper understanding of the necessity to safeguard and ensure due process rights in a functioning criminal justice system.

**Enhancing rights awareness:** Knowledge is a powerful tool in the fight for human rights, individually and collectively. IBJ conducts

widespread awareness campaigns, via television, radio, social media, print and broadcast media, and community events. By equipping ordinary people with an awareness of their legal rights, IBJ greatly increases the likelihood that they will assert their rights if arrested and demand representation. Furthermore, rights awareness widens the general public's support for access to justice initiatives. Between 2019 and 2020, IBJ's legal rights awareness campaigns touched more than 5,963,496 people across 11 countries.

“ As the world community advances toward social progress and economic prosperity, more countries recognize that embracing the rule of law is crucial to shaping their futures. International Bridges to Justice works effectively with governments to promote responsible change and protect legal rights.

– Hilde Schwab, Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship ”





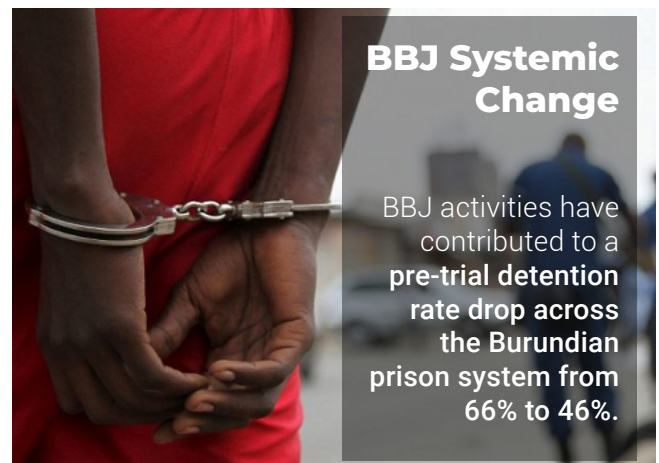
# Burundi: *Ending human rights abuses in detention facilities*

IBJ's non-confrontational, soft-governance approach has proven to be particularly successful in Burundi and has meant that its local entity, Burundi Bridges to Justice (BBJ), has remained one of the few human rights-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the country. Our relationships with local partners, including the Ministry of Justice and the General Inspectorate of National Police have resulted in ongoing collaborative efforts to strengthen rule of law. Throughout 2019 and 2020, BBJ worked closely with these partners to implement activities that have contributed to lowering human rights abuses within Burundi's criminal justice system.

**Operating as a legal aid center of excellence:** BBJ's Defender Resource Center (DRC) in Bujumbura continues to operate as BBJ's hub for legal protection and action. The DRC remains a lifeline for people seeking legal advice or representation in Burundi. The DRC tracks arrests in real-time through a partnership with the Judicial Police, which often notifies BBJ when an arrest is made and allows BBJ to dispatch a lawyer to the holding cell before the police interrogates the detainee. BBJ also has an agreement with the Security Ministry that provides BBJ with early access to detained persons -- crucial for informing detainees of their legal rights, preventing interrogative torture, and in some cases getting them released at an early stage of the proceedings.

**Providing legal assistance:** BBJ lawyers prioritize legal aid for especially vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, as well as those arrested for political crimes, as they face the greatest risk of torture. BBJ conducts weekly visits to police cells and prisons around Bujumbura, providing detainees with early intervention and legal assistance, and documenting instances of torture and overcrowding. In 2019 and 2020, the visits resulted in the immediate release of 91 arbitrarily detained individuals at the police station.

In 2020, BBJ brought justice to those in remote provinces via a **pilot mobile court**. For seven of Burundi's 18 provinces, there is no detention center. Accused persons are held in detention centers that have no jurisdiction to hear their case; this often results in prolonged pre-trial detention, as they wait to be transported back to the province where the alleged crime was committed for their trial. As a solution, BBJ organized a pilot mobile court in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Civil Protection Division, which provided transportation



## **BBJ 2019-2020 Impact**

**118**

lawyers trained

**84**

justice officials trained

**3.6 MILLION**

reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign

**2700+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct  
legal aid**

## BBJ: Providing Hope

“After a year and two months in detention without appearing in court, I met with BBJ lawyer Kana Innocent who defended my case. I have now been acquitted. I want to express my gratitude to BBJ. May God bless your work so that you are able to provide more assistance to the thousands of helpless detainees who are still languishing in Mpimba Prison.”

– Jean-Bosco Sibomana,  
former prisoner

for judges, court staff, and defense lawyers from the Kirundo courts to travel to Ngozi, over 130 kilometers away, where they heard dozens of cases. While this initiative was stopped due to COVID-19, it offers an innovative model for the future.

In total, during the 2019-2020 period, BBJ lawyers provided **2700+ vulnerable accused individuals were provided direct legal aid**

**Building justice capacity:** In 2019 and 2020, BBJ conducted ongoing mentoring for 40 young lawyers, including 20 women attorneys, in its legal network. Mentoring provided these defense lawyers with an opportunity to share obstacles faced in their cases, and collectively develop strategies to provide the best legal defense possible for their clients.

**Working on critical justice strategies:** Over 2019 and 2020, BBJ defended due process rights for all of Burundi's residents and advocated for criminal

justice reform. A centerpiece strategy was the organization of roundtables with key criminal justice stakeholders, including defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, police representatives, prison officials, local government authorities, and legal scholars. The goal of these roundtables was to build consensus on ways to strengthen and enforce laws that protect human rights. These roundtables resulted in the **adoption of nineteen commitments** that provided solutions for challenges hampering access to justice.

**Conducting rights awareness campaigns:** In 2020, BBJ conducted legal rights awareness via a 30- minute radio show that reached **1,000,000+ listeners** and was broadcast by two private Burundi radio stations. The awareness campaign addressed the legal procedures related to an arrest, explaining when a person can be arrested and put into custody and the rights of detainees.





# Fighting Clement's **false espionage charges** in Burundi

Rwandans living in Burundi are regularly accused of being spies and are often considered enemies of the state. If found, they are at risk of arbitrary detention, forceful deportation, or worse. It was in this context that 'Clement' was arrested.

In the early morning of February 14, 2020, Burundian police conducted a routine search in an underserved area of Bujumbura to verify the documents of its residents. 'Clement,' a Rwandan citizen, was arrested by the police, despite providing all the documents requested of him; as Clement was unemployed, the police accused him of being a Rwandan spy. On March 18, 2020, BBJ lawyer Ferdinand Nakintje found Clement in custody at the Special Office of Criminal Research.

He was without a case file and had been in detention for one month and two days. The lawyer agreed to take Clement on as an IBJ pro bono client.

After a thorough investigation, the authorities found no evidence of Clement's guilt. In addition, Clement had been detained for over 30 days at the police station without an arrest warrant -- in direct violation of Burundi's criminal procedure code, whereby police must have authorization from the prosecutor to detain someone for more than 14 days. Consequently, and based on articles 2 and 3 of the criminal code that define and determine elements of any crime, Ferdinand requested the immediate release of his client, Clement, who was released three days later.



# Cambodia: *Advancing access to justice*

In Cambodia, IBJ works via its affiliate organization, Cambodia Bridges to Justice (CBJ). During 2019 and 2020, CBJ focused on developing innovative ways to provide legal representation, legal training, and educate citizens of their legal rights.

**Harnessing technology for justice:** 2019 saw the launch of **iConnectJustice**, a pioneering mobile app that expedites access to justice throughout Cambodia. Publicly launched on Google Play and the Apple Store in June 2019, the app is designed to connect accused persons with defense lawyers who will provide them with free legal assistance. Buy-in from the Ministry of Justice and the Bar Association of Cambodia made the app readily accessible. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Ministry of Justice agreed to contribute to the management and continued development of the app to ensure that it is integrated as a key tool within the justice system. A total of 85 lawyers were trained on use of the app, with an additional 60 lawyers downloading it after its launch. iConnectJustice has laid the groundwork for a digital future in the Cambodian legal system.

**Optimizing eLearning to train Defenders:** With COVID-19 restrictions, CBJ shifted its focus from live training to e-learning. Ten eLearning courses in Khmer and English were developed and include such topics as: evidence, defenses, case analysis, presumption of innocence and the rights of the accused. During 2019 and 2020, 400 legal defenders in Cambodia received training via eLearning.

## **CBJ 2019-2020 Impact**

**82**

lawyers trained

**70**

justice officials trained

**1 MILLION**

reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign

**1000+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct  
legal aid**





## CBJ: Fostering Change

“The roundtable was a valuable opportunity for prosecutors and officers from the Ministry of Justice, and police officers to get together to discuss ways to prevent minors from [suffering] illegal treatment and [improper] identification, and to allow lawyers to meet defendants in prison.”

– Municipal Court Prosecutor of Kandal Province,  
attending CBJ 2019 Justice Roundtable

**Providing legal aid to the most vulnerable:** IBJ and CBJ have continuously highlighted the problem of case backlogs in Cambodia. This was echoed by the Ministry of Justice in May 2020 after they launched a campaign to clear almost 40,000 cases. In total, CBJ's 7 lawyers provided legal aid to 1,307 vulnerable individuals in 2019 and 2020.

**Fighting for access to marginalized detainees:** In 2019, IBJ and CBJ held two major justice roundtables. The first, held with the Ministry of Justice and the National Police, addressed the need to increase lawyers' access to underprivileged defendants held in pre-trial detention, including minors and the poor. Police officers agreed with the attending prosecutor's request for lawyers to be granted access to clients in the prison or police stations beginning 24 hours after intake so that any accusations of illegal interrogation procedures would be known to the lawyer prior to trial. Police officers also agreed to advise the accused of their rights while in custody, as stipulated in Article 43 of Cambodia's Code of Criminal Procedure; in the past, detainees

typically were only able to contact a lawyer after considerable time in detention, rather than shortly after arrest.

A second roundtable addressed specific challenges faced by people with disabilities when they are accused of a crime. Even though Cambodia is a state party to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the government had not drafted any specific legislation to address their needs. Members of the roundtable decided to introduce an amendment in the Criminal Code to improve access to justice for people with disabilities.

**Raising public awareness:** Throughout 2019, CBJ broadcast a legal rights awareness event via Radio Vayo FM, the third most popular radio station in Phnom Penh. The campaign focused on raising public awareness on how to access legal representation in Cambodia and reached over **240,000 people**, especially in remote areas of provinces.



# Freeing Atith, accused of a crime he didn't commit in Cambodia

It was in 2017 when 'Atith' faced the bitter, yet all too common fate of an accused person in Cambodia. Falsely accused of drug trafficking, Atith was arrested by the police. After weeks in pre-trial detention, he was summoned to Takeo Provincial Court and assigned a defense lawyer. Instead of inquiring into his client's case and developing a proper defense strategy, the court-appointed lawyer simply reiterated the prosecution's version of the case. Atith was sentenced to three years in prison despite any evidence that he had sold drugs; the judgment relied solely on the fact that drugs had been found in Atith's friend's house.

While in prison, Atith insisted on his innocence and, with help from prison officials, filed an appeal. The Appeals Court in Phnom Penh appointed experienced CBJ lawyer Phon Sophoes to represent Atith. When the hearing took place in June 2019, Sophoes laid out the inadequacies of the first instance's ruling. The judge was convinced and overturned Atith's conviction on drug trafficking. Sophoes then convinced the court clerk to quickly release the written judgment and personally delivered the paperwork to the provincial prosecutor and the prison to ensure that the documents were not lost in delivery - a frequent problem in Cambodia. On July 1, 2019, Atith finally left Takeo Prison, greeted by his family. He could hardly express his gratitude towards his lawyer who was not afraid to go all the way for his client.



# China: Using technology to build an equitable justice system

IBJ's China program has continuously embraced technology to equip Chinese defense lawyers with the skills they need to pursue a rights-based approach to their work. During 2019 and 2020, under the shadow of COVID-19, IBJ China amplified its efforts in this regard.

**Training lawyers via eLearning:** In 2019 and 2020, IBJ China updated its curriculum of over 100 eLearning modules, ranging from basic advocacy skills to more complex topics such as understanding forensic evidence or defending clients with mental or physical disabilities. Through IBJ's China eLearning website, lawyers from across the country were able to improve their legal skills. In 2020 alone, IBJ's virtual learning resources were accessed over 15,000 times.

**Enhancing juvenile justice:** 2019 also saw the launch of IBJ's juvenile justice rights awareness game platform, *'What if the bear cub is arrested?'*. The platform was developed in partnership with the Digital Public Square Project at the University of Toronto's Munk Center. The game features three ten-part scenarios in which either a juvenile accused or their parent/guardian must navigate encounters with various actors in China's legal system. The goal of the game is to increase public understanding of the rights of juveniles within the criminal justice system. The game had received **800,000+ views** from Chinese internet users, including over 23,000+ unique players and 6000+ complete finishes of at least one of the three scenarios. Most significantly, over 85% of 6,300 respondents to an on-site poll reported increased knowledge and sympathy towards juveniles in China after playing.

The website consists of 3 storylines and each page in the storyline presents a possible scenario and the reader is asked to guess whether this is true or false under Chinese law.



*"Did you know that you have the right to hire a lawyer from the day you are detained or arrested?"*



*"Maomao is now very worried, scared and confused. He didn't know what to do, and thought: 'Perhaps I should confess all, even though I did not commit a crime. If I confess now, the police may let me go home. It seems that confessing guilt is more cost-effective than not confessing.' Is his idea right?"*

## 2019-2020 Impact

**3,583**  
lawyers trained

Approximately 30,000  
vulnerable accused  
individuals provided legal  
aid

**140**  
reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign



# The Democratic Republic of Congo: *Rebuilding trust in the justice system*

Without donor funding to support its work since May 2019, IBJ's affiliate organization, DR Congo Bridges to Justice (DRCBJ), remained a beacon of hope for the country's most vulnerable accused. DRCBJ lawyers continued to conduct regular visits to detention centers to take on cases, and their presence alone was a proven deterrent against the use of torture and mistreatment of detainees.

## **DRCBJ** **2019-2020 Impact**

**43**

lawyers trained

**35**

justice officials trained

**1 MILLION**

reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign

**600+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct  
legal aid**



**Changing attitudes:** The impact of DRCBJ's work has been witnessed throughout the justice system. Since the opening of our Defender Resource Center in 2016, there has been a significant change in the attitude of justice authorities in detention facilities in and around Bukavu. At first, DRCBJ lawyers were regularly refused access to their clients because they would not pay bribes to officials. DRCBJ tackled this issue by hosting justice roundtables, which facilitated open discussions on the issue of corruption and encouraged participants to identify practices that did not respect the rights of the accused. DRCBJ also continued its work advocating for vulnerable women. In 2019, the organization hosted a justice

roundtable on women's rights in detention. The event was attended by judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, representatives of the provincial government and members of civil society organizations. The roundtable addressed sexual and gender-based violence in prisons, conditions of detention of women in prisons, the guarantee of rights to a fair trial, and ways to reduce the rate of preventive detention of women. Thirty recommendations of good practice were formulated.



## DRCBJ: Impacting Lives

“DRCBJ fought for our freedom and saved us. Thank you. As others continue to suffer in prisons, may God give DRCBJ the strength to go forward without backing down.”

– Individual freed (name withheld)



### Monitoring detention facilities and providing legal aid:

In 2019 and 2020, DRCBJ regularly visited 17 police stations, with a prosecutor present, to prevent torture and police abuse towards detainees. These visits helped ensure due process by providing prompt access to a lawyer at the first stage of an investigation. For example, between February and April 2019, six of DRCBJ's women lawyers provided free legal representation to 168 vulnerable women detainees in the South Kivu province. Between September and December 2020 alone, 54 children in detention in Walungu, Uvira, and Kabare benefited from free legal assistance. In total, over the two years, DRCBJ provided **free legal representation to 600+ vulnerable detainees**.

**Building capacity of women lawyers:** In March 2019, DRCBJ sent four lawyers to receive legal training at a three-day conference in Kigali, Rwanda, specifically designed for Francophone African women lawyers. This conference welcomed approximately 30 participants from not only DRC, but also Rwanda, Burundi, Niger, and Senegal. Focusing on practical subjects concerning criminal legal defense, it also explored topics of particular relevance to African women lawyers, including a session aimed at stimulating lawyer pro bono engagement in the defense of women's rights. As a result, this conference strengthened the Women Lawyers Network started by IBJ in 2017, which is now blossoming into a true pan-African network.

**Raising legal rights awareness:** Over 2019 and 2020, DRCBJ held multiple rights awareness campaigns in the central prisons of Bukavu and Kabare, as well as police stations across the DR Congo. These rights awareness campaigns sought to inform prisoners of legal remedies available to them under Congolese law, including when and how they can make an appeal and when they can apply for bail. A total of 2,181 detainees learned about their legal rights through this effort.

DRCBJ also collaborated with a local television station RTNC (Radio Télévision Nationale Congolaise) and a national radio station, **Maendeleo**, to broadcast the prisoner rights awareness campaign to a wider audience. Additionally, DRCBJ collaborated with Maendeleo to develop and broadcast a seven-episode program designed to inform the general public of their legal rights. Approximately **168,000,000 Congolese citizens** were reached through this initiative over the two years.

### Advocating for justice under COVID-19:

Confronted by the pandemic in 2020, DRCBJ undertook a robust advocacy effort to improve defense attorney access to detainees under emergency restrictions. DRCBJ lobbied public authorities, the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association, the Bukavu City Council, prison directors and other civil society organizations. This advocacy effort resulted in lawyers becoming classified as essential workers in the DR Congo – a significant milestone in strengthening the country's justice system.

# Saving Jean, an innocent child detained in an adult prison, in DR Congo

When 15-year old 'Jean' was on his way to his uncle's house, he was accidentally caught up in a military arrest operation for a robbery. Mistaken for one of the culprits, Jean was arrested along with six men and placed in the central prison of Kabare. Despite his innocence, Jean was subsequently charged with criminal association and robbery and incarcerated in July 2020. During a routine prison monitoring visit, DRCBJ lawyer Aganze Muhindo Félix noticed Jean and read his file. With no evidence of Jean's connection to the robbery, the DRCBJ lawyer undertook the child's case, providing him with free legal representation. Aganze succeeded in proving Jean innocent. The child was finally freed in early September 2020 and safely reunited with his family.





# India: *Shining a spotlight inside Delhi's prisons*

During 2019 and 2020, IBJ India made significant progress in providing legal assistance, raising rights awareness for detainees, and enhancing rehabilitation resources for prisoners. Determined to protect justice for everyone, IBJ India continued to fight tirelessly for the most vulnerable communities in Indian society.

**Conducting prisoner rights awareness:** Between 2019 and 2020, IBJ India organized 29 visits to Delhi prisons to provide legal aid and raise awareness about access to justice. Creative education approaches were used including, skits on the criminal trial process, covering: arrest, filing a charge sheet, filing bail, responsibilities of lawyers and judges, duties of the accused, what happens at the trial, etc. Interactive sessions with inmates and prison staff also focused on the right to appeal, the entitlement to parole, furlough, and remission of sentences. The applicability of Section 436A of the Criminal Code – the maximum period for which an under-trial prisoner can be detained – was also reviewed in detail. With the onset of COVID-19, IBJ India held 45 virtual sessions to raise awareness about prisoner rights.

In total, **1,160 inmates** were directly educated through IBJ India's legal rights awareness camps and events.

## **2019-2020 Impact**

**4,215**

lawyers trained

**460**

justice officials trained

**27,969**

reached through legal rights awareness campaign

**3000+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct legal aid**

## **IBJ India: Truth in Numbers**

In 2020, IBJ India's legal representation, legal counselling, justice seminars and legal rights awareness sessions **benefitted approximately 60,000 people.**







#### Providing legal aid to the incarcerated: IBJ

India provided continuous legal aid to over 3,500 inmates in Indian prisons and jails during the 2019-2020 period. Volunteer IBJ lawyers met individually with the incarcerated to discuss their cases during regular prison visits. Of particular note, more than 200 inmates were released in 2019, following Public Interest Litigation, Writ Petition No. 10689, initiated by IBJ India Country Manager Ajay Verma; pursuant to the petition, the High Court formulated detailed guidelines to be followed by judicial officers in order to release individuals on personal bond.

In March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic brought the nation to a standstill, the Government of India imposed a nationwide lockdown, which remained in force for several months. Despite these COVID restrictions, IBJ India undertook multiple initiatives to promote legal aid. Fifteen physical visits were conducted to Delhi prisons, with between 50-60 prisoners provided legal counsel on each visit. Additionally, IBJ India initiated virtual meetings for prisoners in need of legal aid, with legal assistance provided to approximately 600 detainees.

**Providing prisoners with marketable skills:** During 2019 and 2020, IBJ India continued its involvement with **Project Rupaantar**, a rehabilitation initiative for young adults and women detained in Delhi jails. In collaboration with the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, the Gem and Jewelry Skill Council of India, and the Delhi Prisons, participating detainees earned a certificate in jewelry design, which immediately parlayed into work and a salary while incarcerated. Saved earnings provided support to secure housing, food, transportation, and other necessities for those who were released. In 2019 and 2020, Project Rupaantar provided training to more than 1,000 youth and women.

#### Training prison authorities, lawyers and judges:

In September 2020, the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) State Legal Services Authority, J&K Judicial Academy, and the Department of Prisons invited IBJ India to organize an online program, entitled, ***The Rights of Prisoners and Corresponding Duties of Legal Custodians – a Legal Analysis.***



The objective of the program was to sensitize the prison authorities and prison legal services to their duties, with a focus on the importance of a vigilant judiciary in shielding prisoners from inhumane conditions. The program took place under the guidance of Chief Justice of the J&K High Court Gita Mittal. Over 150 judicial officers and approximately 100 prison officers participated in program events.

Additionally, IBJ India conducted 12 webinars with sitting and retired Judges of High Courts, senior lawyers and academics, which were **attended by 26,469 participants globally**. Of note, 4,215 lawyers received training through these webinars who attended in live sessions.

IBJ also held a justice roundtable attended by 460 people, including two justices of the Delhi High Court, as well as six webinars, discussing laws such as The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly referred to as the 'PoSH Act' and use and Misuse of 156(3) and 173(8) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. These sections give Magistrates the right to order police to conduct further investigations and evidence gathering. These sessions on these criminal laws have been viewed by **10,000+ viewers** on YouTube.

#### Advocating for India's prisoners under COVID-19:

As a core member of the National Forum on Prison Reforms, IBJ India Country Manager Ajay Verma filed several Interlocutory Applications before the Supreme Court of India. As a result, the Supreme Court of India modified the Delhi High Court's directions to include a scheduled surrender for 2,318 eligible prisoners, as a measure to decongest jails during the pandemic.

# Indonesia: *Advancing access to justice for women*

In 2020, IBJ's activities in Indonesia culminated in the launch of a country office. Since its establishment, IBJ Indonesia has expanded its efforts, providing legal assistance, organizing justice roundtables, and increasing rights awareness.

**Providing women with legal assistance:** In keeping with its goal to protect women's rights within Indonesia's criminal justice system, IBJ Indonesia provided direct legal representation to 153 women in 2020. These cases were taken on by IBJ affiliate lawyers working through third-party partner organizations. Out of the 153 cases taken, 81% were pre-trial detainees and had their cases taken on at the police stage of the investigation; this early access to justice approach is crucial for informing detainees of their legal rights and helping to ensure their welfare and safety.

**Conducting rights awareness campaigns:** As women in conflict with the law are often unaware of their rights, IBJ Indonesia conducted public awareness campaigns. The first of five campaign videos was broadcast, informing the general public on their rights and how they can access free legal representation. The video reached over 7,000 people on social media platforms, including Twitter and [Instagram](#).



**Working on critical justice strategies:** IBJ launched its Indonesia JusticeMakers competition which will support 10 female lawyers to implement locally-tailored projects to enhance access to justice for women in conflict with the law and eradicate gender-based violence in the criminal justice system. The competition was launched in May 2020 and publicized widely around Indonesia, through our third-party partners and promotional partner, LAWASIA, who published the competition announcement on their website and social media channels. The judging and start date of the competition was postponed due to the ongoing pandemic, with JusticeMakers Fellows competition winners are now expected to start their project in April 2021.

**Taking legal training online:** Amid the pandemic, IBJ was forced to postpone its live legal training workshops. IBJ pivoted by developing six new eLearning modules to train lawyers on topics such as. Rights and Obligations of the Defense Lawyer, Rights of the Accused, Rules of Evidence, Effective Defense Strategies, Alleviating Investigative Torture, Gender-Based Violence, and LGBTQI Rights. The modules are currently under review by Indonesian lawyers and final versions will be uploaded onto IBJ's eLearning platform.





# Protecting Diah from wrongful accusation in Indonesia

It all began for 'Diah,' an Indonesian woman, in August 2019. It was then that Diah's husband was charged with drug offences and was subsequently incarcerated. While unhappy with her marriage and unable to divorce her husband, Diah started a relationship with another man resulting in her becoming pregnant. At seven months pregnant, Diah left Jakarta with her six-year-old child and moved to Bogor to live with her cousin. During this time, she was informed that it was possible to accelerate the pregnancy and have the child at eight months. After suffering a difficult pregnancy and eager to start working again, Diah contacted the clinic offering these services. On November 19, Diah was picked up for her appointment and thought she was being taken to the clinic but was instead taken to an apartment complex. Apprehensive, Diah decided to still go through with the process and ingested the three pills she was handed. Shortly after, police raided the apartment and arrested Diah on illegal abortion charges. Despite explaining that she was only trying to start an early delivery, Diah was taken to the police station.

While held at the police station, Diah began to have contractions and was moved to the police hospital where she gave birth to a healthy baby. Before long, Diah was detained for five days at Polda Metro Jaya detention center. Local IBJ partner, LBH APIK, was quickly informed of Diah's case and successfully secured her transfer from the prison hospital to a safe house, where she is being held on bail. There she is able to care for her baby and her six-year-old. Lawyers will continue to support Diah's case and fight the charges against her.



# Myanmar: *Fighting for a fair and humane justice system*

IBJ Myanmar is contributing to **transformative change** in the country's criminal justice landscape. Recognizing that systemic change requires collaboration from all justice stakeholders, during 2019 and 2020, IBJ had continuous engagement with judges, prosecutors, defenders, policy makers, and law enforcement officers. IBJ's justice centers in Mandalay, Taungoo, Taunggyi, Naypyitaw and Hpa-AN continued to serve as hubs for IBJ defenders to provide legal aid and community based legal empowerment.

## **2019-2020 Impact**

**573**

lawyers trained

**209**

justice officials trained

**12,273**

reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign

**2,800+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct legal aid**

In February 2019, IBJ signed an MOU with the Union Legal Aid Board, and in April 2019, IBJ Myanmar was officially registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

**Providing a sustainable foundation for legal assistance:** IBJ Myanmar's five justice centers and two satellite offices continued to function as centers of legal aid excellence. Despite the COVID-19 crisis and remote working measures, the IBJ justice centers continued to provide legal aid throughout the pandemic. Client-counselling continued behind plexiglass shields in the justice centers and digitalization of the justice centers accelerated. Legal aid quality assurance was ensured through criminal defense checklists, client forms, service delivery standards, and ethical and compliance policies.

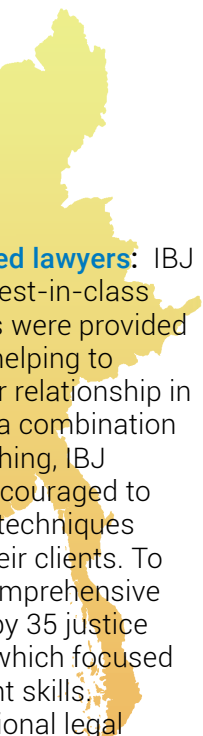


In May 2020, IBJ Myanmar established Facebook pages for the individual justice centers, as well as a single national Facebook page. Facebook is the leading digital communications platform in Myanmar, and an important tool for informing and assisting citizens in accessing justice through the IBJ Myanmar justice centers. IBJ had an average of 1,500 followers with a 5,000 organic page reach on each justice center page, with many making legal assistance inquiries via Facebook.

From 2019 to 2020, IBJ Myanmar provided **legal assistance to over 2,800** of the country's most indigent detainees.

**Modelling child-friendly legal aid:** IBJ's juvenile justice work is guided by the principles of best interests of the child, care and respect for children, and participation and access to safeguards at all stages of the legal proceedings. The IBJ approach to providing legal representation to juvenile clients is multi-disciplinary, and IBJ lawyers have been steadfast in using litigation strategies to implement the provisions of Myanmar Child Law enacted in 2019. In December 2020, IBJ hosted a national level justice roundtable through a virtual zoom conference on *"Overcoming Challenges in Criminal Juvenile Justice System in Myanmar."* Over 90 stakeholders participated in discussions and a report with findings and recommendations was widely disseminated. The report identifies the challenges legal aid service providers face in different stages of the criminal proceeding and proposes solutions to provide holistic legal care for children who come in contact or conflict with the law.





### Reducing barriers and increasing access:

Vulnerable and traditionally marginalized groups, such as the endemically poor, women detainees, drug users, transgendered people and minorities, have consistently faced barriers to access justice. This structural discrimination often prevents marginalized people from accessing justice. IBJ works with local CSOs, criminal justice actors and community leaders to open entry points for greater inclusion of marginalized groups for free and low-cost legal representation.

- IBJ cooperated with Namati Myanmar with cross-referrals for land cases to them and criminal matters to us.
- IBJ's Taungoo justice center referred female victims of domestic violence to the Women Organization Network (WON) in Taungoo. They also conducted community awareness events together.
- We conducted community awareness in Hpa-an in partnership with Karen CSO networks, who also referred cases to our Justice Centre there.
- IBJ's Naypyitaw justice center worked closely with CSO Mandalay Yaungsin on cases involving juveniles. Justice Talk Shows were hosted together to raise rights awareness.
- In Mandalay, IBJ's local Justice Centre partnered with Wonder Woman, a CSO that specializes in protecting women sex workers. IBJ took up cases for women sex workers being charged under the 'Elimination of Prostitution Law' and conducted Know Your Rights events with Wonder Woman.

### Building capacity of people-centered lawyers:

IBJ Myanmar continued to serve as a best-in-class vehicle for lawyer training. Lawyers were provided with training, guidelines and tools, helping to redefine the traditional client-lawyer relationship in a criminal justice system. Through a combination of supervision, mentoring and coaching, IBJ lawyers and affiliate-lawyers are encouraged to use innovative legal strategies and techniques to pursue fair criminal justice for their clients. To deepen skills, in 2019, IBJ held a comprehensive train the trainer program attended by 35 justice center staff and pro bono lawyers, which focused on negotiation and key management skills. IBJ also conducted a three-day national legal advocacy skills training for staff and lawyers. Further, IBJ provided continuous mentoring to lawyers on IBJ's client intake process and eligibility criteria. This extensive capacity building resulted in a pool of competent in-house legal trainers keen to provide trainings that are tailored to local justice needs.

IBJ Myanmar's five **Legal Aid Communities of Practice** continued to hold monthly peer-led legal discussions, fostering a two-way learning environment that engenders solidarity among defenders; participating lawyers share their experiences and harness collective intelligence to respond to questions and challenges they face in the criminal justice system.

In 2019, IBJ Myanmar also piloted a successful **legal internship program** for third and fourth year law students. The program ran for two months and provided internships to 17 students from five universities, including Mandalay University and Taungoo University. The program offered a range of experiences for a future generation of lawyers, from court experience, to in-house legal mentoring, to involvement in community legal rights awareness campaigns. In collaboration with the Denmark Institute for Human Rights, IBJ also provided a series of paralegal training sessions for university law students.



# Rwanda: Positively influencing the ecosystem

Rwanda Bridges to Justice (RBJ) remains a pivotal influence within the Rwandan justice ecosystem. In 2019 and 2020, RBJ continued to collaborate with justice sector stakeholders to fill the gaps within the legal system and create a culture in which both political leaders and ordinary citizens understand and support due process rights. RBJ worked closely on projects with both governmental bodies and local organizations, including the Ministry of Justice, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, and the Rwanda Bar Association. In June 2019, RBJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Public Prosecution Authority, cementing an agreement to work collaboratively to uphold due process rights.

## Providing psychiatric assistance to prisoners:

RBJ launched the initiative, '*Protecting Human Rights within Rwanda's Criminal Justice System*', a project funded jointly by the European Union, the UN Development Program, and the National Endowment for Democracy. This initiative synergized RBJ's expertise with that of Dignité en Détention (DiDé), a local NGO specializing in rehabilitative psycho-social support for prisoners; the focus was to prevent the use of torture as an investigative tool and improve rehabilitative support for victims of abuse within Rwanda's criminal justice system.

peer educators in five target prisons across Rwanda. Among these, 729 cases were provided psychological support by prison psychologists, 79 people received individual therapy from a DiDé psychologist, and 145 cases were referred to the District hospital or another referral hospital. Additionally, 53 therapeutic groups were created in the five prisons, with training of peer educators on facilitation of these groups. The project promoted systemic change through two Consultative Forums held with over 100 criminal justice stakeholders, the press, diplomats and CSOs

From July to December 2020, **953 cases of mental distress** were identified by trained

## **RBJ 2019-2020 Impact**

**109**

lawyers trained

**97**

justice officials trained

**312,000**

reached through legal rights awareness campaign

**1,700+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct legal aid**



## Appreciation for RBJ's work

“ We thank institutions who have partnered with us, such as... Rwanda Bridges to Justice... who have been instrumental in training officers and educating inmates on their rights. ”

– Munana Mugisha Salim, Director of Legal and Human Rights Department,  
Rwanda-African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

**Conducting juvenile defense training and awareness raising:** RBJ provided capacity building for lawyers to defend society's most vulnerable -- its juvenile defendants. In November 2019, in collaboration with the Rwandan Bar Association and as part of its Continuous Legal Education requirements for lawyers, 39 lawyers were trained in effective juvenile defense techniques and trial advocacy strategies; lawyers received 15 education credits for their participation. Additionally, in October 2020, RBJ organized a rights awareness event at Nyagatare prison, which educated 280 juveniles about their rights and legal obligations. Over 500 fliers and 100 posters were distributed to community members and prison representatives at this event.

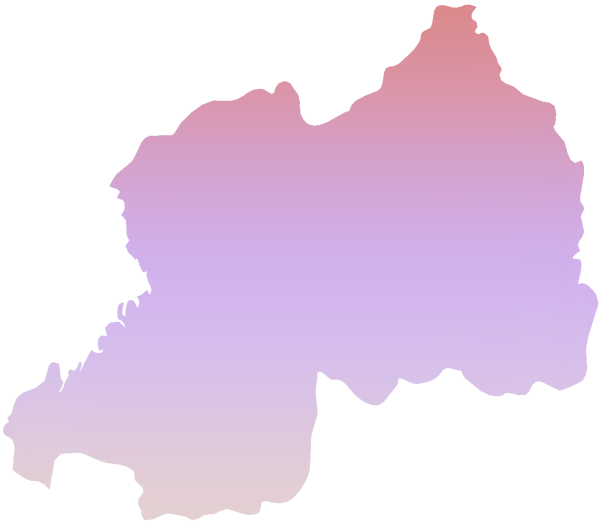
**Training judges:** In February 2020, RBJ held a training workshop for judges on, “*Effective Promotion and Integration of Legislation for an Efficient Criminal Justice System in Rwanda.*” Attended by 42 Rwandan judges from the 41 primary courts across the country, the workshop enhanced the knowledge of judges on relevant international, regional and Rwandan domestic legal frameworks, guidelines and best practice standards.

### Providing legal assistance to the marginalized:

During the 2019-2020 period, RBJ lawyers and affiliate lawyers conducted regular visits to Nyarugenge, Ngoma, Rwamagana, and Bugesera prisons. A total of **1,775 indigent detainees received legal representation**, with a focus on those with lengthy pre-trial detention periods, those suffering from psychological disorders, and victims of torture.







'Alida,' a 35-year-old widow with six children, was prosecuted for theft of a kilo of milk. In Rwanda, theft is punishable by two years' imprisonment and a fine of 2,000,000 RWF (approximately EUR 1,700). RBJ Taskforce lawyer Sylvie Unwali took on Alida's case after Alida explained that she lacked food for her six children and was trying to save them from starving to death. The lawyer informed the prosecutor, arguing that Alida's actions were simply a survival instinct. An RBJ lawyer plead for her client's freedom, as Alida was a first-time offender who recognized her mistake and as her young children were home alone without anyone to take care of them. As a result, the prosecutor released Alida provisionally and she is now safely at home, surrounded by her children.





# Sri Lanka: *Upholding rule of law in the face of terrorism and civil unrest*

Throughout 2019 and 2020 – years that brought political unrest, terror attacks, and acute tensions between religious groups – IBJ's team in Sri Lanka helped unite and galvanize local partners and stakeholders to respond to access to justice challenges.

**Providing pro bono legal assistance and raising legal rights awareness:** From 2019 to 2020, IBJ provided free legal assistance to 922 individuals. Especially the poor, including from the North and Eastern regions. These include people who were arrested and abused for COVID curfew violations. In parallel, IBJ directly informed nearly 10,000 people of their legal rights at live events and distributed 2,640 awareness booklets on the rights of the accused.

**Training defenders:** In collaboration with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Kandy Bar Association, and Jaffna Bar Association, in April and September 2019, IBJ trained 189 defense lawyers in two multi-day training workshops. Key training topics included, development of theme and theory of the case, direct cross examinations, interviews with clients subjected to torture, transitional justice, and the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Counter-Terrorism Act. An overwhelming number of participants rated these trainings as groundbreaking and relevant to their day-to-day legal practice.

## **2019-2020 Impact**

**313**

lawyers trained

**67**

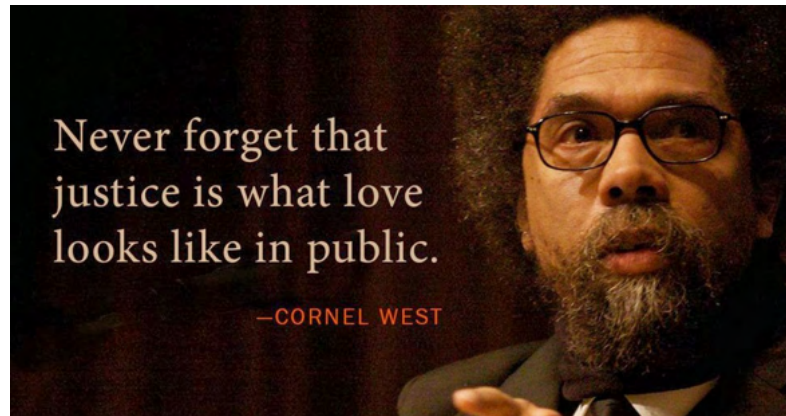
justice officials trained

**9,311**

reached through legal rights  
awareness campaign

**900+ vulnerable accused  
individuals provided  
direct legal aid**





Sri Lanka's **first-ever Criminal Defense Practice Manual**, developed by IBJ, also was endorsed by five local Bar Associations of Trincomalee, Jaffna, Mannar, Kandy, and Vavuniya. The Manual is a key resource for lawyers and 2,100 copies in Sinhala, Tamil and English were distributed throughout the country.

**Advocating for public defender legislation:** IBJ Sri Lanka made strides towards implementing a sustainable legal aid system by initiating discussions around the viability of a government-funded public defender system. IBJ met with the Department Head of the Legal Draftsman's Department and Government focal point for legislative drafting, who agreed that a public defender system would be very beneficial. The Minister of Justice also received IBJ's policy paper on the benefits of a public defender system, as well as related draft legislation, which are now in review. Additionally, IBJ developed and circulated a comprehensive report on recommendations from its justice roundtables to all key justice stakeholders.

These recommendations include mandating that the Legal Aid Commission represent all criminal indigent defendants, amending the Legal Aid Commission Act to include public defenders, and implementing an automated court records system to reduce delays and prospects for corruption.

**Launching a mobile application to facilitate access to justice:** IBJ Sri Lanka collaborated with the Shilpa Sayura Foundation to develop a mobile justice app with three functions:

1. a platform through which lawyers, law students, prosecutors, and others can easily access IBJ's e-Learning curriculum;
2. a database for victims and detainees to locate and contact criminal lawyers, human rights organizations, the Human Rights Commission, and the Office of Missing Persons; and
3. a chat forum for criminal defenders to seek advice on case legislation, legal procedures, and defense strategies.





# Providing Abeetha with **early access to justice** in Sri Lanka

'Abeetha,' a 40-year-old man living in Jaffna, was a local shop owner whose daily wages barely covered his expenses, particularly as his wife needed to stay at home to care for their newborn baby. In March 2020, Jaffna imposed a 24-hour police curfew to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Abeetha's shop was shut, and his livelihood ground to a halt. One month later, the government lifted some restrictions to allow people to travel to the pharmacy, supermarket or bank; all other travel remained strictly prohibited. Abeetha promptly went to a local pharmacy to get some medicine for his baby. On his way home, he made a detour to a friend's house to pick up some food. It was then that Abeetha was stopped at a police checkpoint

Abeetha explains, *"I pleaded with the police that I had only been collecting food supplies, as my shop had been closed for over a month, and I had run out of cash. But my pleas were ignored. I was beaten with a wooden stick and arrested."*

IBJ criminal defender Thaksamine Navanathan took on Abeetha's case pro bono. She filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka for the torture inflicted on Abeetha and rigorously defended charges against him in the Magistrate Court.







## Syria: *Strengthening the rule of law amidst civil war*

Against the backdrop of an active warzone, IBJ Syria is widely recognized for its role in providing access to justice for vulnerable Syrians, particularly in the northwest of the country.

**Providing pro bono legal advice and representation:** Over 2019 and 2020, IBJ Syria affiliate lawyers **handled 1,500+ legal consultations and represented 1,200+ individuals**, despite very challenging circumstances. Many in the Syrian prison system are not dangerous criminals but rather individuals impoverished by the war who commit infractions for reasons of survival.

**Advancing access to justice through technology:** To reach a wider geographic scope, IBJ Syria launched '*JusticeHub Syria*' -- a mobile app that connects lawyers with people in need of legal assistance. Apart from acting as a communications platform for lawyers and clients, the app also serves as a knowledge hub, housing IBJ eLearning Modules in Arabic for lawyers.

**Sparking Systemic Change:** Resilient in the face of adversity, IBJ Syria has built relationships with key justice stakeholders to foment systemic change

and prevent human rights abuses. Throughout 2019 and 2020, IBJ conducted breakthrough justice roundtables in northwest Syria. One key justice roundtable focused on the Rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquents, which convened justice stakeholders in Azaz in February 2020 to discuss the problem of juveniles being tried before adult courts and the lack of separation between juvenile and adult prisons. While early interventions by IBJ lawyers had led to a decline in child imprisonment, IBJ sought to raise further awareness on key structural issues, and the roundtable received significant media coverage from the Aleppo Bar Association and the Almohar Network. Beyond juvenile justice, Syrian justice stakeholders convened in April 2020 via Zoom to discuss the simplification of legal proceedings in times of disasters, laying the foundation for rapid procedures during the pandemic and future emergencies.



### 2019-2020 Impact

**142**

lawyers trained

**99**

justice officials trained

**1,563**

reached through legal rights awareness campaign

**2,700+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct legal aid**

### Building capacity of Syria's criminal defenders:

With the support from the Syrian bar associations and Turkey-based Syrian NGOs, during 2019 and 2020, IBJ Syria built the capacity of 60 lawyers to provide effective criminal defense and strengthen the criminal justice infrastructure in areas affected by the ongoing conflict. IBJ's first training for Syrian criminal defense lawyers contributed to a new national partnership project to establish a unified bar association in Syria. IBJ followed up with 10 eLearning modules in Arabic, which covered such topics as the rights of the accused and the right to counsel. The Aleppo Bar Association officially adopted IBJ's elearning modules and the Syrian Defender Manual as mandatory training for trainee lawyers, setting a precedent for Syria's criminal justice professionals on human rights standards.

In 2020, IBJ Syria's Legal Needs Assessment identified key findings related to the Syrian criminal justice system, as well as the needs of legal defenders. Accordingly, IBJ developed a set of

forceful recommendations with a corresponding implementation plan to provide continued training for lawyers and conduct ongoing advocacy for urgent changes to improve access to justice in Syria.

**Partnering with Syrian Interim Government on a COVID-19 Task Force:** Shortly after the pandemic's onset, the interim Minister of Justice formed a Task Force with IBJ Syria. Comprised of 22 IBJ affiliate lawyers, as well as a representative of the Syrian National Coalition, members met weekly to discuss the evolving situation in prisons, detention centers, and police stations, and to develop solutions to issues faced by incarcerated. The Task Force regularly visited local prisons to ensure prisoners were healthy and established a human-rights violation rapid-reporting mechanism for prisoners and their advocates to quickly alert the team if infractions occurred. The Task Force applied for release and bail for numerous prisoners to reduce overcrowding, advocating for parole for prisoners who had served at least a quarter of their sentence.



### Praise from the Deputy Prosecutor in Syria

“ [IBJ] Lawyers have had a huge impact, particularly in the coronavirus period. They are highly-organized, have shown extraordinary performance, and have gone above and beyond in their role as lawyers. ”

– Judge Lt. Col. Ali al-Jouma,

Deputy Prosecutor for the Military Court



# Standing up for Abbas, a **child prisoner** in Syria

After losing his father, 'Abbas' became the breadwinner for his family, despite being still a child. He began working for a local car repair shop. One day, while working on a car, Abbas accidentally released the car jack without knowing his colleague was underneath, causing him to become injured. The police came and took Abbas into custody for two days. In Syria, it is common for children to be tried without a lawyer. However, as part of IBJ Syria's juvenile justice program, two IBJ Syria lawyer Abdulaziz Darwish was able to represent Abbas and ensure due process. The lawyers asked for a medical opinion about the injury the plaintiff had suffered and proved no serious harm had taken place. Additionally, the IBJ lawyers argued that Abbas, a minor, lacked criminal intent when the incident took place. In the end, the case was settled through reconciliation. IBJ's early access to justice approach minimized detention for Abbas, ensuring his welfare and safety, and returned him to his family.

## IBJ Syria: Perspectives of the Interim Minister of Justice

“We've seen how important this joint Task Force is after the immense efforts of IBJ lawyers to represent the accused, hold workshops, and discuss matters that are important for the judicial sector and the public alike. The Task Force has become crucial during COVID-19, not only to provide pro-bono legal assistance, but also to lead the efforts to fight the pandemic, protect the accused, and raise public awareness.”

– Abdullah Abdulsalam,  
Minister of Justice of the Syrian  
Interim Government





# Zimbabwe: *Relaunching IBJ Zimbabwe*

For the last several years, IBJ has faced budgetary challenges in Zimbabwe, slowing its activities. In 2020, IBJ reinvigorated its presence through a partnership with a local lawyers' organization. Timing was opportune, given the impact of COVID-19 on the justice system. In Zimbabwe, the government has responded to the pandemic by criminalizing free movement and imposing strict curfews. This has effectively outlawed vending, trading, and other activities upon which the poor rely for survival. In the absence of government aid, many ordinary Zimbabweans have been forced to break the law to put food on their tables. Women in particular face a higher risk of arrest for vending and trading as they have resorted to this work out of desperation. Often too poor to afford the protection of a lawyer, in police cells, women are at heightened risk of torture, gender-based violence, and of contracting COVID-19. Moreover, behind bars they are often faced with the difficult choice of handing over their wares as a bribe or succumbing to sexual extortion to secure their release.

**Partnering with the Zimbabwe Young Lawyer Association to provide justice.** In 2020, IBJ relaunched IBJ Zimbabwe, this time in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Young Lawyers

## **2019-2020 Impact**

**800+ vulnerable  
accused individuals  
provided direct legal aid**

Association. In 2020, IBJ Zimbabwe has provided legal services focused on those arrested in connection with COVID-19 lockdown violations. Given the huge number of arrests, police officers – overwhelmed by the number of legal demands – often refused lawyers access to clients. IBJ reorganized its work, helping small groups of victims at a time, making the paperwork easier for police officers to handle.

Ultimately, IBJ's network of volunteer lawyers was able to provide **800+ vulnerable people with legal representation between 2019-2020.**



# Protecting Patience and her boys, in the COVID-19 era

'Patience' is just one of the staggering number of women arrested in Zimbabwe for violating COVID-19 restrictions while trying to make a subsistence living. She was selling food from a stall in the Mbare township of Harare, when the police raided. Many other vendors ran from the police, but Patience had no choice but to stay, as she was accompanied by her two young children, for whom she could not afford a baby sitter. The police destroyed Patience's wares and arrested her; she, along with her two toddlers, were bundled into a crowded police vehicle with no possibility of social distancing and taken into custody. An IBJ lawyer on duty at the Harare jail, sprang into action once noticing that Patience and her children had been placed into an external metal cage built to house the increased number of detainees. The lawyer secured bail and was able to significantly lower Patience's fine. Patience was free to return home with her children.

*An IBJ lawyer on duty at the Harare jail, sprang into action once noticing that Patience and her children had been placed into an external metal cage built to house the increased number of detainees.*





# Overview of IBJ Global Program Activities

At a global level, IBJ provides pioneering leadership for several important access to justice initiatives that are summarized below.

**Creating JusticeMakers:** Through its JusticeMakers program, IBJ activates the world's finest criminal justice lawyers to share their intellectual capital in ways that make a concrete difference. IBJ JusticeMakers are a special category of defenders who compete for small grants to put into practice their criminal justice solutions in the countries where they live and work. They are empowered to join IBJ's global community of defenders to collaborate on improving access to justice across the world. In 2020, IBJ supports 74 JusticeMakers across 43 countries.

**Connecting Lawyer2Lawyer:** IBJ's Lawyer2Lawyer program provides opportunities for law firms, bar associations and law schools to build links with courageous lawyers working on the frontlines of access to justice in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The Lawyer2Lawyer program

offers unique learning opportunities for young lawyers to engage in human rights work, and gives lawyers in the Global South access to first-class legal support, particularly regarding criminal law and procedure.

**Sparking the digital justice revolution:** Since its launch, over 23 million people have accessed IBJ's defensewiki resources, and over 630,000 have used IBJ's eLearning modules. Since 2010, IBJ's online legal resources have provided in-depth, country-specific training tools for legal practitioners around the world. IBJ's **eLearning platform and Criminal DefenseWiki** are free and easily accessible to all, from lawyers to law students. By making these resources available on a global scale, IBJ moves one step closer to institutionalizing defender standards worldwide.

## IBJ'S COUNTRY APPS



LEGAL AID HOTLINE  
APP FOR CAMBODIA

SECURE  
COMMUNICATIONS FOR  
LAWYERS IN SYRIA

A GLOBAL PLATFORM  
WITH COUNTRY  
LOCALIZATION

SRI LANKA'S APP LINKS  
CLIENTS TO LEGAL AID VIA  
GEOLOCATION MAP





In 2020, in the midst of an unprecedented global health crisis, IBJ devised a technological solution to rapidly expand access to justice and unite justice defenders around the world. That solution is JusticeHub ([justicehub.ibj.org](https://justicehub.ibj.org)), a new digital platform for IBJ's global community of legal defenders. The platform serves as an online collaborative space for members to work together to organize projects and find new justice partners.

2019 and 2020 also saw IBJ develop **three new justice applications (apps)**. Supported by the UN Democracy Fund, the **iConnectJustice app** in Cambodia allows the accused or their family members to register a basic case profile; registered defense lawyers can view these case profiles and take on pro bono cases through the app. To ensure that lawyers and citizens are aware of the app, IBJ ran training sessions, along with radio broadcasts and live demonstrations. The app is available in Khmer for both Apple and Android devices.

In 2020, with a brand new user interface and simplified design, the **JusticeHub app** served lawyers in Syria. With both lawyers and detainees creating accounts, the app helped lawyers connect to clients without having to meet in person. This helped protect communities during COVID-19. The app also allowed users to take IBJ eLearning modules directly within their phone, with mini-tests checking their understanding on a range of criminal-defense related topics. A further update added a document repository system so that key reference material, like the IBJ Criminal Defense manual, were ready to be viewed and/or downloaded by legal practitioners on demand. A third app is being developed for **Sri Lanka** and

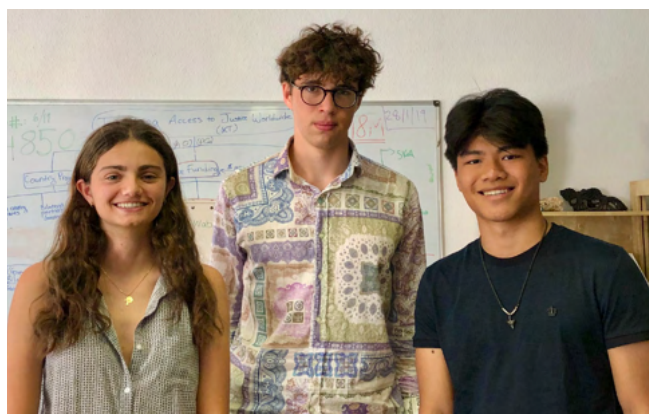
will be available in English, Tamil, and Sinhala in 2021. The Sri Lanka app will have three main components: 1. eLearning for lawyers, 2. a service linking victims of torture/abuse to lawyers and human rights organizations, and 3. an online chat function connecting lawyers into a community of practice.

**Catalyzing Youth for Justice:** The IBJ Youth Movement mobilizes students and young social entrepreneurs with an interest in human rights to take part in IBJ's mission to end torture as an investigative tool. Made up of youth for youth, the Movement is unlocking the changemaker potential of young people to support juvenile justice. Over the 2019-2020 period, IBJ incentivized hundreds of young people to launch projects, such as grassroots fundraisers, online awareness campaigns, peace vigils, and other innovative ideas to further IBJ's mission.



In 2019, IBJ received a grant from the Fossil Foundation to launch the **Youth Justice Network (YJN)**. Swiss students from three different schools -- the International School of Geneva, Institut Florimont, and the International School of Lausanne – served as founding members. Following internal elections, YJN developed a strategic plan to grow its network internationally. In 2020, YJN launched the IBJ

**Youth JusticeMakers competition**, inviting young people to submit projects aimed at improving juvenile justice in their communities. Twenty-eight Youth JusticeMaker fellows were selected and are implementing projects in 12 countries, ranging from radio rights awareness in the DRC to psychosocial support for juvenile girls in Pakistan.



## Praise for IBJ ICT Innovations

“ I’m a big fan of IBJ and all the work that it does, especially the way it been uses internet and technology tools to spread its message and to reach out to both victims and advocates around the world.”

– David Kirkpatrick,

Founder, Host, and CEO of  
Techonomy





# Youth JusticeMaker Nimra launches **Project Second Chance** in Pakistan



In 2020, Nimra Shahid, a Youth JusticeMaker in Pakistan, launched Project Second Chance with a goal to help develop an implementation plan for the country's Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 (JJSA 2018). Working in close collaboration with juvenile justice stakeholders and the Sindh Judicial Academy, Nimra created **a child court manual** that implements JJSA 2018 for juveniles arriving in police stations in Karachi. The Sindh Judicial Academy invited Nimra to participate in workshops on Child and Human Rights, aimed at sensitizing lawyers, prosecutors, magistrates and judges on international and national laws, including JJSA 2018. Sessions were held on facilitation and protection of victims and witnesses during trial, with a focus on women and children.

To involve more youth, Project Second Chance developed a Youth Taskforce, convening students from 15 law schools as well as other university students. The Taskforce collaborated with IBJ Geneva to make a video describing the situation of women inmates in Pakistan, raising awareness about the need for detainees to get early access to lawyers and legal rights information, particularly as women and girls are incarcerated together. **Embed video photo.**



## From one woman defender to another

“Women should have the same chances as men to succeed as lawyers. But this goes beyond just boosting women’s careers – it goes right to the heart of building durable, high-quality justice systems that provide equal justice for all people, including vulnerable women behind bars.”

– Karen Tse, IBJ’s founder and CEO

**Supporting Women for Justice:** In response to the widening justice gap faced by women globally, IBJ has sparked a worldwide movement to protect women caught up in criminal justice systems. This includes training for women lawyers, building women defender networks, providing pro bono defense for detained women, convening justice sector roundtables to seek justice solutions for women, and raising public awareness on gender-specific justice issues. In 2019 and 2020, IBJ worked with 91 women lawyers across 34 countries. IBJ also provided legal assistance to vulnerable women spanning the globe.

To reduce the gender gap within criminal justice systems, IBJ introduced its first Women Lawyers Network (WLN) in Rwanda in 2017, connecting, training and advocating for women legal defenders. By 2019, IBJ WLN’s were also activated in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Taking it a step further, in March 2019, IBJ convened nearly 30 leading women defense lawyer from across 10 countries in Francophone Africa for a multi-day training in Rwanda. Inspired by this event, IBJ sought ways to sustainably convene African women lawyers to ensure gender-specific representation to detained women and girls. Often too poor to afford a lawyer, women and girl detainees are particularly marginalized – vulnerable to rape and other forms of gender-based violence. At the same time, women lawyers remain a minority across Africa and confront harassment, the glass ceiling, and a basic lack of professional respect from other justice sector

actors. At last, in December 2020, IBJ was awarded its first grant from the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation to grow this network of women lawyers. To be officially launched in 2021, IBJ will establish the African Access to Justice Women’s Network (AA2J), a new transnational network of African women defense lawyers leading change within their respective justice systems, and providing pro bono defense for indigent accused women and girls. Ten women lawyers from ten countries across Africa will receive fellowships to build local AA2J chapters, totaling 100 women lawyers, all of whom IBJ will connect on its online platform, JusticeHub. This will be just the beginning of an interdependent women lawyers network in every African country, supporting each other and sharing ideas and resources via JusticeHub to provide better legal assistance to Africa’s incarcerated women and girls.





### Promoting Interfaith Connections against Torture:

IBJ has built a community of faith leaders across the world to protect due process rights and stand unequivocally against the use of investigative torture in all circumstances. When united, religious and spiritual leaders have a powerful voice, enabling them to highlight this important issue on the world agenda. Over 2019 and 2020, many faith leaders were engaged in IBJ-driven initiatives. Of particular note, some of the world's most influential leaders gathered for **IBJ Peace Vigils at the 2019 and 2020 World Economic Forum's Annual Meetings in Davos.**

Blessings and prayers were made for IBJ lawyers around the world who strive to uphold human rights standards in criminal justice systems, and for all persons arbitrarily detained globally. Vigils included diverse performances and remarks, including an annual welcome address from Mayor of Davos Tarzius Caviezel, a violin solo from former member of the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra AnMing Karrer-Bien, reflections by Chairperson of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship Hilde Schwab, a prayer for all those suffering from torture by Ayatollah Ahmad Iravani, and remarks from IBJ CEO Karen Tse on "unlocking grace" that encouraged guests to contemplate what they could do in order to make a difference in the world.



### Reflections at the IBJ

#### Peace Vigil at Davos

“[Let's] create a world where our children and grandchildren would like to live, through shaping a new narrative for society ... [with] a more humanistic focus.”

— Hilde Schwab, Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship

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 Daw May Phyo Eain  
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 Daw Myintzu Win  
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 Daw Kay Thi Khine  
 Daw Khin Thet Htar  
 Daw Nan May War Lin  
 Daw Nan Wah Shwe Oo  
 Daw Su Thawdar  
 Daw Theingi Aung  
 Daw Win Ei Ei Soe

Daw Wityi Phyo  
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U Soe Htet  
U Thet Pain Win  
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Daw Aye Thandar Oo  
Daw Aye Thida Kyaw  
Daw Aye Thidar Phyo  
Daw Ei Ei Moe  
Daw Ei Ei Mon  
Daw Hayman Phyo  
Daw Hla Min Lay  
Daw Joike Thein  
Daw Khine Khine Oo  
Daw Khin Htwe Htwe  
Tun  
Daw Lae Lae Win  
Daw Lin Wut Yee Kyaw  
Daw Loon Loon  
Daw May Moe Oo  
Daw Moe Su Su San  
Daw Mya Myintzu  
Daw Mya Shin  
Daw Nan Khin Thidar  
Hein  
Daw Nan Moe Ei Ei Phyu  
Daw Naw Ei Sel Kapaw  
Daw Naw Thawdar Nyein  
Chan  
Daw Nilar Soe  
Daw Ni Ni Ye Win  
Daw Ohmar Saw  
Daw Sandar Moe  
Daw San San Yu  
Daw Saung Hayman Oo  
Daw Soe Ei Ei Mon  
Daw Soe Thandar Htwe  
Daw Than Than Soe

Daw Thin Ei Ei Soe  
Daw Thwe Thwe Aye  
Daw Tin Ma Ma Mg  
Daw Yadana Phoo  
Daw Ye Wai Naing  
Daw Yu Nwe Aye  
Daw Zin Thu Nyein  
Daw Zune Zin Zin Zuu  
U April San Lin  
U Aye Min Myat  
U Aye Myint  
U Chan Nyein Tun  
U Maung Maung  
U Moe Kyaw Kyaw  
U Naing Lin Aung  
U Nyi Win Kyaw  
U Phyo Kyaw Naing  
U Tun Tun Lin  
U Wai Min Thike  
U Wai Yan Kyaw  
U Win Nyunt  
U Yarzar Htet

**Mandalay Region: Mandalay  
Justice Centre**

Daw Aeint Chue Saung  
Daw Aye Thandar  
Daw Chit Su Myat Thwe  
Daw Hnin Hnin Nwe  
Daw Hnin Sein  
Daw Hnin Yu Khaing  
Daw Htar Htar May  
Daw Kay Zin Thaint  
Daw Khin Myat Noe  
Daw Kyi Thar Khaing  
Daw Lwin Lwin Mar  
Daw May Thu Win  
Daw Mon Mon Hlaing  
Daw Mya Thida  
Daw Myat Thandar Ko  
Daw Myint Nandar Zaw  
Daw Myint Thandar

Daw Nan Khin HTike  
Daw Ohnmar Myint  
Daw Phy Pwint Zaw  
Daw Phyu Phyu Khaing  
Daw Phyu Phyu Lwin  
Daw Poe Au Tin Htwe  
Daw Sandar Myint  
Daw Soe Thiri Win  
Daw Su Zan Soe  
Daw Thida Aung  
Daw Thida Nwe  
Daw THidar Soe  
Daw Thin Thin Swe  
Daw Win Ma Ma  
Daw Win Win Khaing  
Daw Yu Yu Mon  
Daw Zar Che Pwint  
U Hla Nay  
U Htun Arkar Myint Mo  
U Khaw Mu  
U Kyaw Zaw Wai  
U Lin Lin Htike  
U Myo Si Thu Aung  
U Naing Aung Chit  
U Naung Taw Tar Lin  
U San Su  
U Shin Thant Mg  
U Soe Yan Paing  
U Tha Htike Oo  
U Than Win Naing  
U Thiha Zaw  
U Tin Zaw Aung  
U Wai Phyo Zaw  
U Ye Min Kyaw  
U Zayar Lin  
U Zay Lin Mg

**Union Territory: Naypyitaw****Justice Centre**

Daw Aye Thandar Bo  
Daw Chaw Su Aye Aung  
Daw Han Ni Aung  
Daw Hnin Soe Me  
Daw Khaing Zar Mg Mg  
Daw Khin Swe Win  
Daw La Won Lai War  
Daw May Mi Zin Su  
Daw May Yu Kyi  
Daw Nan Wai Soe  
Daw Nwe Nwe Oo  
Daw Pan Nu May  
Daw Sandar Win  
Daw Thae Ei Phyu  
Daw Than Than Htay  
Daw Tharaphi Myint Swe  
Daw Thet Thet  
Daw Thida Soe  
Daw Thi Mar Soe  
Daw Thinzar Than Zaw  
Daw Thi Thi Htike  
Daw Yee Yee Thant  
Daw Zarchi Myint  
U Aung Myo Aye  
U Min Aung  
U Pyae Phyo Maung  
U Soe Min Thu  
U Soe Nyunt Thu  
U Yan Paing Soe  
U Yu Chit  
U Zin Min Aung

**Bago Region: Taungoo Justice Centre**

Daw Aye Winn Winn  
Maw  
Daw Chit Phoo Wai  
Daw Ei Ei Mon  
Daw Ei Thandar Htet  
Daw Hla Hla Wai  
Daw Hsu Myat Htwe

Daw Htet Wai Phoo  
Daw Htwe Moe Moe  
Daw July Tun  
Daw Khaing Cho Oo  
Daw Khin Htar Yi  
Daw Khin Phyo Phyo  
Aung  
Daw Lin Lin Win  
Daw Mon Mon Kyaw  
Daw Mya Thazin Moe  
Daw Myintzu Htwe  
Daw Nan Cherry Khaing  
Daw Nandar Htay  
Daw Nandar Zin Win  
Daw Naw Hser Bway  
Phaw  
Daw Nu Nu Win  
Daw Pwint Wah Lwin  
Daw Than Than Sint  
Daw Yi Yi Kyaw  
Daw Yu Yu Mar  
Daw Zar Zar Hlaing Aye  
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Ma Phyo Zarni  
Ma Shwe Yee Wutt Hmone  
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Ma Thwe Thwe Soe  
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Ma Ya Min Aye  
Ma Zon Pwint Phyu  
Mg Arker Moe  
Mg Aung Ko Ko Myat  
Mg Aung Naing Htun  
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Mg Khaung Htet  
Mg Khine Zaw Myo  
Mg Ko Ko Oo  
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# Finance Report

Through strong partnerships and committed engagement, during 2019-2020, IBJ was able to distribute life-changing funds to protect the legal rights of vulnerable individuals across the globe. Although the funding environment for non-profits remains a challenge, and despite the significant challenges presented by COVID-19, IBJ saw a 107% increase in funding compared to the years 2017 and 2018, with the renewal of several large multi-year grants, as well as an increase in in-kind contributions. IBJ is committed to using donations efficiently and effectively to support its country teams and programs. in line with its mission and objectives.

IBJ's work in China continued with one program completed in 2019 and another extended through 2020, thanks to funds from the **USSD DRL** (USD 1.2 million received over two years), as well as from the **Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development of the Netherlands** (EUR 163,000). Successful development and implementation of the IBJ Myanmar program led the **British Council** to increase their funds from EUR 1.4 million to EUR 1.8 million and add a second phase for 2020-2021, representing an additional EUR 1.4 million commitment.

The IBJ Syria project in cooperation with the **Swedish International Development Agency** (SEK 5.6 million) extended to 2020, with an additional SEK 2.2 million fund (USD 896,000 equivalent). Moreover, IBJ's launched a new program in Indonesia in 2020, funded by the **European Union** (EUR 846,000). A new program in Cambodia was initiated in Jan 2019 for two years, supported by a USD 187,000 grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund.

Generous unrestricted funding by the **Skoll Foundation** of USD 410,000 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided crucial resources in a time of need and allowed IBJ to provide meaningful support to country offices and to support new programs.

Several grants were closed in 2019-2020. The IBJ program funded by the Canadian Government (CAD 2.4 million) in Francophone Africa that commenced in 2016 was completed in 2019. The IBJ program in Sri Lanka funded by the US State Department was also concluded in 2019 (USD 607,000).

As an NGO, IBJ depends entirely on grants and donations to support its country programs and cover indirect costs of program management via its Geneva headquarters. The investment in programs increased to 85% of total expenses. Although indirect costs slightly decreased in 2019, the gap was covered by significant **private and in-kind donations**, which totaled USD 1,413,880 in 2019 and USD 2,496,617 in 2020.

USD \$ '000	2019	2020
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donor-unrestricted contributions	54	201
Donor-restricted contributions for specific projects	2,899	2,182
In-Kind donations	1,414	2,497
Other income	3	1
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,370</b>	<b>4,880</b>
<b>Project &amp; Admin Costs</b>		
In-country expenses	3,519	4,029
Salaries and social charges	647	333
Professional Fees	63	141
General Office Expenses	86	43
Meetings and Conferences	39	32
Other Costs	24	24
<b>Total Project &amp; Admin Costs</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>4,602</b>
Exchange rate (gains)/losses	6	25
(Gain)/Loss on investment	1	1
<b>Total financial costs</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,386</b>	<b>4,628</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>252</b>

USD \$ '000	2019	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	354	514
Other current assets	102	61
<b>Total current assets</b>	456	576
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	52	57
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>632</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Short-term liabilities</b>	227	101
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>	202	201
<b>Profit/(loss) brought forward</b>	78	330
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>632</b>

Allocation of expenses 2019-2020:

Programs	Administration
USD 7,631,849 = 85%	USD 1,249,283= 14.59%

## 2019 - 2020 Donors

British High Commission – Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Beijing

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bujumbura

European Union

Global Affairs Canada

International Legal Assistance Consortium

MyJustice – (British Council)

National Endowment for Democracy

ROLE UK

Pro Victimis

United Nations Democracy Fund

United States State Department

United Nations Development Program

***And with IBJ's sincere thanks to its individual private donors.***





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2020