



EAST AND
HORN OF
AFRICA
HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
PROJECT
(EHAHRDP)

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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<https://www.defenddefenders.org/annualreport/2014/>

FOREWORD

Throughout the year, EHAHRDP has reported on the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, and increasing attempts by state and non-state actors to undermine and disrupt the activities of civil society. We have also seen HRDs who continue to place themselves on the frontline of human rights protection, often at intolerable risks to their own safety. From South Sudan to Burundi to Ethiopia, the operating environment for human rights activism continues to shrink. It is in this context that EHAHRDP, and our many network members, have innovated and adapted to a new- and generally worsening- climate for HRDs. This report shares with you snapshots of this year's milestone achievements towards the promotion and protection of the rights of human rights defenders across the African region as well as some of the challenges we have come across in 2014.



Hassan Shire
Executive Director

In the field of Advocacy and Research, EHAHRDP continued to raise awareness of the situation of HRDs in the sub-region at national, regional and international levels. We have worked consistently to raise the profile of HRDs at the national, regional, and international level. We attended, and supported HRDs to engage at the 25th, 26th, and 27th Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, and to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. We have intervened- both privately, and through numerous public statements, to address urgent issues and areas of concern for HRDs across the region. EHAHRDP undertook unprecedented research into the situation of human rights defenders in Burundi, a follow up research on the situation of HRDs in South Sudan, as well as a special report on HRDs fighting sexual violence in Somalia.

In 2014 the capacity building department conducted numerous trainings including follow-ups for HRDs reaching over 300 direct beneficiaries. The now fully fledged ICT department also conducted 15 digital security trainings, including for the first time training of trainers in 4 instances for activists from 9 different countries. Over the course of the year, the Somalia Protection Program for HRDs, which is being implemented in Mogadishu in collaboration with our local partners, concentrated on building the security management and protection work capacity in Somalia. We cannot talk about this past year without highlighting our flagship Protection Program which continues to support HRDs at risk to enable them overcome the risks they are facing. EHAHRDP's Protection program was set up to ensure effective response to requests for assistance from HRDs at risk. The cases of HRDs that we have handled over the past year have increased in number and reach-in 2014

alone, we received over 300 requests from 10 countries for direct emergency assistance. Since integrating the work of former Protection Desk Uganda to EHAHRDP in early 2013, the new Security Management Officers (whose titles are now Capacity Building Officers) pursued implementation of activities on security management for HRDs in the region through basic tools on risk assessment and setting security plans for HRDs and their institutions alongside digital security training.

The Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network's (PAHRD-Net) continues to provide protection and capacity building to HRDs across Africa as well as joint advocacy missions with sub-regional networks. Of particular relevance, PAHRDN/EHAHRDP conducted an advocacy mission to USA ahead of the US-Africa leaders' summit which was followed by EHAHRDP's attendance of the civil space session at US-Africa leaders' Summit. Litigation, petitions and trial observations have been conducted over the course of the year for HRDs from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Sudan and Swaziland.

Amidst all these accomplishments, there is still work to be done. Human rights defenders, whether individuals, civil society organizations, lawyers or journalists have a crucial role in Africa's development.

As we prepare to celebrate our ten year anniversary in 2015 we are energized by our successes in 2014. Throughout 2015, we will be marking this landmark anniversary with a series of events and initiatives. Much has changed in the sub-region over the last decade, and the need for a vibrant, protected, and well-resourced community of HRDs has never been greater.

On behalf of the entire EHAHRDP team, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners who have supported us throughout the year including our board members.

Yours in solidarity,



Hassan Shire
Executive Director

ABOUT US

The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) seeks to strengthen the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) throughout the region by reducing their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and by enhancing their capacity to effectively defend human rights. EHAHRDP focuses its work on Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (together with Somaliland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.



EHAHRDP was established in 2005 following extensive field research in the region, which identified the most pressing and unmet needs of HRDs in order to seek to overcome some of the resulting challenges. The key areas identified as needing to be addressed were:

- Insufficient collaboration amongst human rights organizations, especially among neighboring countries;
- Resource constraints (notably material) which greatly undermine the effectiveness of the work carried out by HRDs;
- Knowledge gaps, in particular regarding international human rights instruments and mechanisms as well as crisis management.
- Lack of systematic protocol for international support to human rights defenders under attack



Memory Bandera
Director of Programs and Administration

EHAHRDP serves as the Secretariat of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-Net) representing more than 75 members (HRDs and their organizations). The Network envisions a region in which the human rights of every citizen as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights UDHR are respected and upheld. Its mission is to maximize the protection of HRDs working in the sub-region and to enhance the awareness of human rights work through linkages with national, regional and international like-minded entities. The structure of the Network is constituted by three entities namely, General Assembly; Advisory Council; and the Secretariat. The General Assembly is constituted by all members of the Network with different voting powers according to their membership status. The Advisory Council comprises of Focal Points from respective member countries. EHAHRDP serves as the Secretariat of the Network.

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH



John Foley
Manager - Advocacy & Research

In 2014, EHAHRDP continued its advocacy and research activities to raise awareness of the situation of HRDs in the region and to strengthen the mechanisms that exist for their protection, including by facilitating the engagement of HRDs with international and regional human rights mechanisms as well as carrying out advocacy activities at the national level.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

EHAHRDP consistently engages with the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council (HRC). In 2014 we supported a number of human rights defenders in the sub region to access these mechanisms and advocate directly for better protection mechanisms and greater international recognition for their work. Highlights of our engagements are set forth below.

We engaged in various advocacy activities including a major side event on the human rights situation in East Africa (at which Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedoms of Association and of Peaceful Assembly was a panelist), delivered oral statements, and lobbied different actors at the session. In June 2014, The UN Human Rights Council established a Commission of Inquiry into the human rights violations committed by the Eritrean government against its own people. EHAHRDP was closely involved in extensive lobbying to ensure the creation of this mechanism. The members of the Commission of Inquiry were appointed at the September session. In parallel the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea was renewed.

We accredited HRDs from South Sudan to attend Geneva, as a high level Panel Discussion provided an opportunity for them to engage. EHAHRDP organized a major side event focused on civil society perspectives on the current conflict (the most well attended side event in EHAHRDP's history), and worked with South Sudanese civil society activists to raise the profile of the South Sudan conflict to key international decision makers. EHAHRDP's delegation to the 27th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014, met with the former president Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and his report to the council represented some of our contributions.



His Excellency Amb. Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari (Somalia) with Bahame Tom Nyanduga, UN Independent Expert on the Human Rights Situation in Somalia, Her Excellency Amb. Rosette Nyirikindi (Uganda), Hassan Shire of EHAHRDP, Fatiha Serour of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia, Fiona Adolu of OHCHR, and other OHCHR team members, on the margins of the UN HRC Interactive Dialogue on Somalia

- We supported human rights defenders from Ethiopia to attend, and facilitated their different advocacy meetings with relevant stakeholders ahead of Ethiopia's universal periodic review in April 2014. We also co-hosted a side event 'Ethiopia: Human Rights under Siege', with Citizens Alliance for World Participation (CIVICUS) to discuss the human rights situation in Ethiopia.
- EHAHRDP, in conjunction with International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Human Rights and Social Justice Research Institute (HRSJ) -London Metropolitan University, Centre for Applied Human Rights- University of York, and Amnesty International held a side event on creating a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders.

EHAHRDP staff participate in the Green Friday Campaign to free Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, a Burundian HRD



AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES RIGHTS (ACHPR)

EHAHRDP is actively involved in the ACHPR and in 2014 we attended the 55th ordinary session of the ACHPR held in April 2014 in Luanda, Angola. We consistently engage with the regional mechanism at its biannual sessions and the preceding NGO Forum, which was held from 24th to 26th April. Human rights defenders and civil society organizations from across the continent came together to collaborate, strategize, and form valuable partnerships.

Three progressive and timely resolutions were adopted by the ACHPR following its 55th Ordinary Session. These resolutions advance protection for human rights defenders across the continent, and provide an insight into its growing importance as a regional human rights body.

EHAHRDP was actively involved and substantively contributed to two study groups at ACHPR on Freedom of Association and Assembly and on Women HRDs, ensuring that experiences from East and Horn region are reflected.

EHAHRDP's Advocacy and Research Officer and other members of the study group on freedom of assembly and association at the 55th session of the ACHPR, Luanda Angola



RESEARCH

In December 2014, EHAHRDP launched a report “For Us, Silence is Not an Option: Human Rights Defenders and the South Sudan Civil War” in Nairobi. This was a follow up to EHAHRDP’s December 2013 report, “Change will not come until we talk about reality”, and documents the fallout of the armed conflict on South Sudan’s human rights defenders. South Sudan continues to be a priority for us, and in-country capacity building and protection activities are scheduled to start in 2015 in collaboration with our local partners.

EHAHRDP published a report, Human Rights Defenders: A Key to Fighting Sexual Violence in African Conflicts?. The report was presented by EHAHRDP’s Executive Director at the Global Summit to end Sexual Violence in Conflict in London in June 2014, which he attended as an expert speaker. The report explores the unique challenges facing women human rights defenders working on issues of sexual violence in zones of armed conflict in the East and Horn of Africa region, and highlights the role which these defenders often play in establishing transnational advocacy networks, and in connecting victims with necessary medical, legal and psychosocial services. The paper includes case studies on the UN Declaration on Women Human Rights Defenders as well as stories from Sudan and Somalia.

Through our partnership with the Open Society Institute for Rights and Governance (OSIRG) program, EHAHRDP was able to carry out extensive research missions to Burundi to assess the situation of HRDs. The report, researched and written throughout 2014 and released publicly in February 2015, is entitled “2015: Burundi at a Turning Point”, and documents an alarming pattern of harassment, intimidation, threats, and legislative reforms, all targeting Burundian human rights defenders.

The significance of our advocacy and research work is the fact that national governments and diplomatic missions rely on our reports as a source of information in the region. To read more about our advocacy work including press statements, as well as published reports visit us at www.defenddefenders.org.



“For us, silence is not an option”

Human Rights Defenders and the South Sudan Civil War



CAPACITY BUILDING

EHAHRDP continued building the capacities of HRDs in the sub-region on protection mechanisms and other crucial areas to enable them their work. The involvement of EHAHRD-Net members and partners in the planning of such exercises benefited the content and relevance for the respective target groups. In 2014, the capacity building department conducted 35 trainings for human rights defenders from East and Horn of Africa countries. Some of the trainings were as a request from our partners such as, Avocats San Frontiers, Freedom House, Deutsche Welle, Safer World, Egypt, Civil Rights Defenders, UN Somalia and Frontline Defenders as listed in the different sections of the report. The trainings conducted altogether targeted over 300 direct beneficiaries.

Through the training of trainers that have been conducted, EHAHRDP has managed to create a pool of trainers in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, and Sudan. The trainers are on ground to conduct digital and physical security trainings and EHAHRDP only steps in when a particular expertise is required. These HRDs have been equipped with knowledge and skills in both preventive and reactive security management and this is expected to contribute to overall goal of the organization of ensuring HRDs are working in safer environments by being vigilant with the personal and organizational security. Other areas that HRDs were trained in included advocacy strategies; monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights violations; martus database; and social media.

EHAHRDP conducted a Panic Button Android app beta testing training for twenty (20) HRDs from Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Somaliland, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Djibouti in collaboration with Amnesty International. The panic button was develop with the aim of turning an activist's mobile phone into a secret alarm that can help them to get help fast in an emergency. The app encourages peer-to-peer security planning and response.



Nuruh Nakiwala
Manager - Capacity Building

Testimony

"Thank you to EHAHRDP because without them this would not have been possible. This was a very fruitful training with a lot of material and tools that we HRDs in South Sudan would like to use in our day-to-day work. We must keep this in mind, that this is not the end, we need more training so that we will become stronger in South Sudan, a small nation that we, as civil society need to work on, and to develop. So thank you for your part in this and for you invitation, I enjoyed the training because it was so interactive and participatory, and the tools you gave us will help is in our day-to-day dealing. I wish you well safe journey back and we hope to meet again"

Alice, South Sudanese HRD



Participants during the Panic Button training co-organized with Amnesty International

In addition, EHAHRDP brought together focal point members from all the East and Horn of Africa we work in in May 2014. The focal point meeting saw EHAHRDP members come up with a revised plan of action for 2014-2016 reflecting the areas of advocacy, capacity building and protection with new ideas from participants, lessons learnt and new priorities arising from the challenges facing human rights defenders in the 12 member countries.

From our interaction with the participants from the trainings and HRDs, they identified physical and digital security management as an area that needs more attention especially taking the skills further to the grassroots levels. HRDs also expressed the need to enhance their skills in monitoring and reporting of human rights violations in their respective countries to be able to share quality reports with EHAHRDP which would consequently be utilized by advocacy in their submissions to regional and international forums such as the ACHPR and UNHRC.

During Claiming Spaces: Tactical Tools for HRDs in Burundi



NATIONAL COALITIONS

National Coalitions of HRDs continue to play an important role in implementation of activities. EHAHRDP continues to engage in setting up and extending support in managing Coalitions. The engagement this past year has been with the National Coalition of HRDs in Uganda where EHAHRDP is a member of the Board of Directors, National Coalition of HRDs in Tanzania, National Coalition of HRDs in Rwanda and the National Coalition of HRDs in Kenya regarding activities implementation and management. The National Coalition of HRDs in South Sudan with regard to set up, fundraising and functioning and is working with HRDs in Burundi and Somalia in re-establishing the National Coalitions. National Coalitions of HRDs continue to be a key aspect of engaging with HRDs at national level. Their presence on the ground enables faster intervention in cases of HRDs at risk, they are best placed to engage in advocacy at national and international levels and creates a sense of ownership in human rights work. The fully functional National Coalitions in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda as well as the emerging coalitions in Burundi, Somalia and South Sudan have been key in supporting the secretariat in the areas of capacity building, research and advocacy, security management and protection.

PROTECTION & SECURITY MANAGEMENT



Tabitha Netuwa
Manager - Protection & Security Management

EHAHRDP's Protection program was set up to ensure effective response to requests for assistance from HRDs at risk. The response mechanisms are varied and conducted on a case by case basis but include soliciting support for defenders to enable evacuation to a safer place if necessary as well as provision of technical and financial assistance to enable defenders to acquire refugee status or temporarily stay in another country in the sub region where safety can be guaranteed. HRDs under the protection program also receive psycho-social support, access to medical services and legal services. The support is provided on a case by case basis after a thorough assessment of the HRD's claim and individual needs.

PROTECTION CASES HANDLED

The protection and security management program has a two pronged approach which is 1) to build the capacity of HRDs through security management trainings to enable them to work in safe environments by putting in place measures to mitigate any potential risks; and 2) to offer emergency assistance to HRDs at imminent risk resulting from their human rights work in the sub-region. The protection program was designed in a flexible and comprehensive manner to effectively address the needs of defenders on a case by case basis. Assistance is rendered for general upkeep, settlement, medical, legal and social needs. Technical assistance is rendered in HRDs' interaction with authorities and other practical matters.

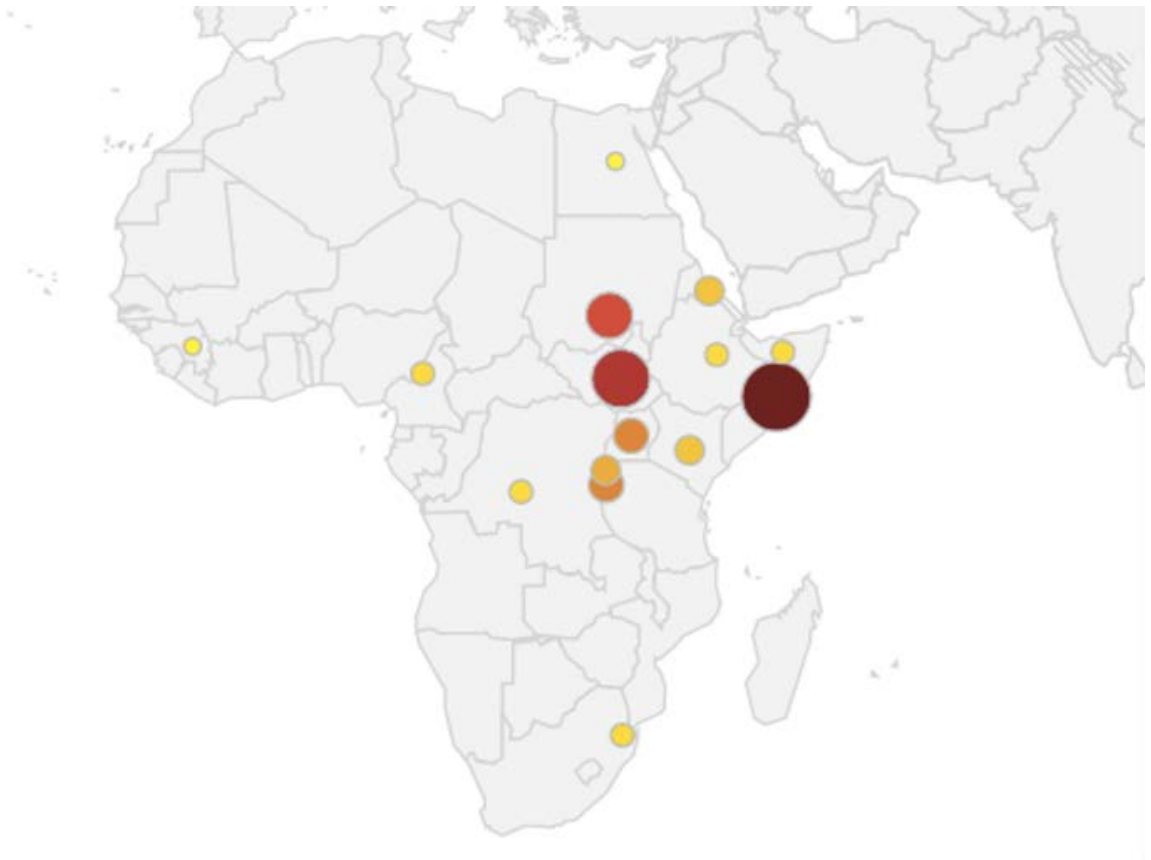
The cases of HRDs that we have handled over the past year increased in number and reach. With the Pan Africa Network, we are now able to intervene in cases in collaboration with partners in various sub-regional networks and organizations. EHAHRDP continues to maintain a safe place that is in a compound of diplomatic mission making it safe for HRDs. The safe place based in Kampala, Uganda is used as an interim place to stay for HRDs at risk who are not able

to return to their usual place of abode. In addition, it is also used for HRDs relocated from their country and seeking refuge in Uganda for a short period before they return home. It is available 24 hours a day for seven days a week.

The kinds of emergency cases that were handled include medical assistance, counselling, trial observation, emergency stipend and family support, internal relocation and evacuation out of the country, evictions of HRDs working on minority rights, interventions with diplomatic missions, provision of security systems mechanisms, physical accompaniment of HRDs, trial observations, self-care trainings, and referrals.

The chart below shows the distribution of assistance offered to HRDs during 2014. EHAHRDP received requests for assistance from over 300 HRDs. However, we were able to provide direct emergency assistance to 102 and from the cases we referred to partners, 72 HRDs were assisted.

Heat Map of HRD Protection Cases in 2014



SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Since integrating the work of former Protection Desk Uganda to EHAHRDP in early 2013, the new Security Management Officers (whose titles are now Capacity Building Officers) pursued implementation of activities on security management for HRDs in the region through basic tools on risk assessment and setting security plans for their institutions alongside digital security training. The officers have also undergone induction by EHAHRDP's long term partner Protection International. In addition, the team underwent Training-of-Trainers in security management and has over the last few months become very proficient trainers and also assist in handling protection cases. This is very exciting as we have a lot more trainers and are now able to facilitate more security management trainings. ToT trainees from Sudan are now conducting in-country trainings on both physical and digital security.

The focus on security management support to organizations and individuals engaging in human rights work is resulted from the assessments carried out of the security incidents faced by HRDs at risk. Many of the incidents that are reported by HRDs could have been prevented had the activists implemented security protocols. Examples of incidents include access of data due to failure to have passwords on their laptops and arrests and detention due to failure to inform the authorities about a planned meeting or demonstration. Tweraneho Listeners Club members for example were over the last four years arrested and detained several times on allegations of inciting violence. Following implementation of their security plans, there have been no reported incidents this year. Some strategies they have used in the security plans include working closely with the authorities who now understand and appreciate their work as well as engaging in strategic advocacy.

SUCCESSES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY PLANS

The successes in drafting and implementing the security plans was mainly due to the commitment of the organizations that were trained as well as due to the security incidents that they had over the previous years. In the past couple of years, there were a series of office break-ins in a number of organizations in Kampala. As part of the implementation of security plans, EHAHRDP worked closely with the Human Rights Centre Uganda (Centre) following an attempted break-in and ensured that they had security measures in place. Below is note from the Centre on the same:

The Human Rights Centre Uganda would like to extend its sincere gratitude for the support you have rendered in the installation of security systems at our office premises. The CCTV cameras and the alarm systems were successfully installed by G4s security, tested and confirmed to be working well. The prompt support extended to us after an attempted break in at our premises was appreciated. The Centre is now more secure and this has motivated us to even do better in the protection of human rights.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully,
Margaret Sekaggya (Ms.)
Executive Director

In appreciation of EHAHRDP team's efforts, one trainee from the Eastern coast of Kenya wrote:

"I am very grateful to the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders for giving me this wonderful opportunity to learn about security management in the context of human rights work. The training has expanded my thinking about the subject and I believe I am now a better human rights defender in many aspects. I look forward to putting into practice what I have learnt particularly to improve the impact of my organization - HAKI Africa - and ensure security not just for our communities but for us also as human rights defenders. From the knowledge garnered from this training, I am confident of doing a great job of training others in Kenya and Africa as a whole. I thank you for organizing and undertaking this training in a professional and systematic way that made me learn a lot and have fun at the same time."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The ICT Program at EHAHRDP seeks to improve processes of management, security, and communication internally at EHAHRDP and also in outreach to HRDs sub-regionally as well as continentally through the Pan-African HRD Network. Over the year our profile in this regard has increased noticeably. In 2014, the department has conducted 19 digital security trainings, including for the first time training of trainers in 5 instances for activists from 9 different countries. During this period we have also partnered with Amnesty International to manage a regional pilot in Africa of their innovative Panic Button personal security app. A media-quality DSLR camera was procured and internal trainings provided to staff on their usage, opening up new possibilities for multimedia communications and advocacy.



Neil Blazevic
Manager - ICT & HRD Program



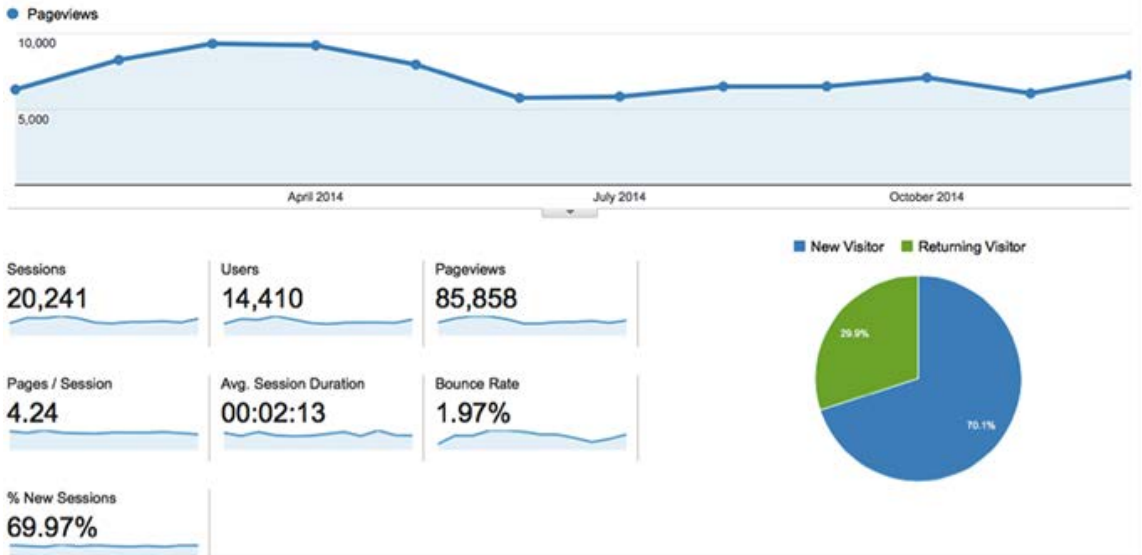
EHAHRDP Staff practice DSLR interviewing with stabilizing shoulder mount and shotgun microphone

We are able to see tangible results from participants we train. For example, one South Sudanese participant contacted us to share and seek advice on a blog he subsequently developed on Wordpress called 'Hear the hidden voice here'.

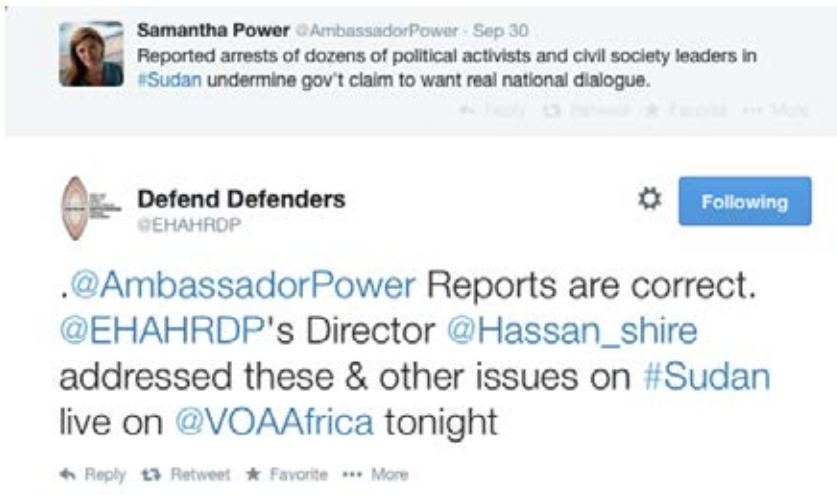
The EHAHRDP Facebook page remains one of our most effective public engagement tools, as fans are more likely to view our posts in their timeline rather than specifically seek out our webpage. Statistics on new 'Likes' to our page are below. On January 1st 2014 we had 1,259 fans, and on December 31st 2014 this number was 2,315. This growth has been totally organic, however we could grow numbers faster by greater engagement in between press releases.

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Our website www.defenddefenders.org receives reasonable daily traffic totaling more than 85,000 page views in 2014. This traffic does not appear to have had a long-term upwards trend as compared with our social media presence. In addition most visits to our website found via search engines have been people searching our website specifically, not people looking for information on human rights defenders in the region or human rights issues. The monthly trend in page views and other information for 2014 is summarized below:



While Twitter does not readily provide detailed statistical data for its users, it stands as our most dynamic engagement medium. In particular at human rights forums such as the Human Rights Council we maintain a steady presence of on-topic tweeting from Council events and side panels. We regularly interact with decision makers and peer organizations through our Tweets. For example:



COLLABORATIONS

Work with ICT has expanded some existing relationships as well as forged new ones. EHAHRDP served as one of three regional pilots with Amnesty International in beta testing their security app for HRDs, the Panic Button. That pilot experience allowed us to bring representatives from all countries of our sub-region to Kampala and conduct 3-days of training as well as distribute 130 Android smartphone handsets to feed into testing and usage. We have also strengthened ties with Frontline Defenders and Tactical Technology Collective in contributing to upcoming and revised publications and other materials developments. Our lead IT trainer served a consultancy for Frontline in a Burundi training.

New relations have emerged as well, for instance with Civil Rights Defenders where we provided participants for their Natalia Project security bracelets, as well as collaboration on two digital security trainings, including an advanced-level ToT held in Dar es Salaam. At the annual Defenders Days event we networked with the makers of Tor Project, WITNESS video advocacy experts, and social enterprise entrepreneurs based in Silicon Valley. During the past year we also developed connections with the Information Security Coalition. We have also funded development of the OpenEvSys human rights documentation database for particular features requested for our usage which also became merged with the public codebase of the database available for future usage.

Launch of new cooperation between EHAHRDP and Austrian Development Cooperation and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR SOMALIA

Somalia Human Rights Defenders Protection Program, funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and implemented by EHAHRDP, is an ongoing project being implemented in Somalia to support human right defenders since November 2012 with a strong focus on protection work, security management, monitoring, reporting and documentation (MDR) and improved engagement from the federal government and international partners on the issues of human rights in Somalia.

SELECTED MILESTONES

In the past year, Peace and Human Rights Network (PHRN) have been undergoing technical mentorship on protection and security management instruments by the EHAHRDP team. With these transferable skills, acquired during continued support, PHRN have improved their human rights documentation and reporting and in close collaboration with EHAHRDP designed their first curriculum, implemented and co-facilitated participatory trainings on security and digital management. Similarly, PHRN and EHAHRDP in partnership with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)'s Human Rights Unit conducted a security management training for 18 HRDs across Somalia to build their local capacity in digital and security management protocols.



Sagal Jibril
Special Programs Officer
(Former)



Kafia Omar
Special Programs Officer
(Current)

I am writing to say to you thank you very much for the Strategic Advocacy Training at Hotel Jazeera this week, which I had the opportunity to attend really got a great experience and in-depth understanding- that was what I appreciated more than I can ever say in words!

As a journalist and part of the National Union of Somali Journalists [NUSOJ], I will be ready to play my role in terms for advocating for human rights and press freedom. I also take this opportunity to reassure that our organization, and my personal capacity I will be willing to assist you and your organization when you need.

Many thanks
Abdalle Ahmed Mumin
Award winning Freelance Journalist, Human Rights & Media Freedom
Activist- based in Somalia.

Through national advocacy by PHRN, there has been a greater focus on increasing public awareness and understanding of the Somali program and the important role of HRDs. PHRN have had various meetings with district representatives, judiciary and local human rights organizations in Mogadishu to address prevalent human rights conditions throughout the country and to foster better understanding of the protection of human rights. EHAHRDP has effectively raised the on-going media clampdown by the government at regional and international platforms such as the ACHPR and the UNHRC in Geneva. In the September 2014 session of the HRC, EHAHRDP briefed the new independent expert on Somalia on the alarming targeted attacks of media representatives and stressed the fundamental need to follow up on implementation principles and plans to ensure human rights compliance in Somalia.

EHAHRDP launched a briefing paper entitled 'A Key to Fighting Sexual Violence in African Conflicts?' to mark the launch of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London on June 2014. The paper highlighted HRDs working on sexual violence in conflict environments, specifically Somalia and Sudan. Mr. Shire participated and presented a paper on 'Practical measures for enabling human right defenders'. Through such at advocacy and lobbying efforts by the international community and Somali civil society members of the escalating sexual attacks, the government and its partners have come up with an action plan to combat gender-based sexual violence in the country and set up vital mechanisms to protect victims. The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development presented a version of the first national draft law to end gender-based violence in Somalia. The Ministry will also be drafting the law to build the Independent Human Rights Commission as stipulated in the constitution.

Insecurity and intimidation against HRDs, particularly journalists prevail in Somalia and there is also a lack of political will and action to address human rights adherence and protection of HRDs from the current Somalia government. EHAHRDP has found it challenging to dynamically engage at a political level and push for the implementation of human rights legislations to deal with widespread violations and ensure protection and promotion of HRDs.



COLLABORATION WITH NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE

EHAHRDP in collaboration with the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law are implementing a one-year project on Human Rights Fact-Finding in East Africa: A Dialogue on Methodologies, Challenges, and Opportunities with HRDs in Uganda, Kenya and Burundi. Fact-finding is a central part of any human rights work, forming the basis for effective legal responses, advocacy and protection. Increasingly a human rights organization's reputation for accuracy and integrity is considered its most valuable asset, leading to increased professionalization of fact-finding. However, efforts to systematize human rights fact-finding have focused almost exclusively on the work of international human rights organizations. Consequently, there is little understanding of how fact-finding is conducted either by Southern domestic human rights organizations or in the East African sub-region, particularly how these practices may converge, diverge, or interact with the professionalized account of fact-finding. The project's goal was to begin filling this gap.

The project funded by the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice at New University's School of Law (NYU), and through NYU's Arthur Helton Global Human Rights Fellowship ran from January to December 2014 and worked with 6 organizations in Uganda, Kenya and Burundi for a period of one year with human rights organizations in Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. The Project Director was in regular contact in person, via skype and email, with project participants, providing ongoing support in the implementation of their action plans and their fact-finding activities. This included reviewing proposed fact-finding policies and guidelines, integration of research into strategic plans, proposals for funding of research functions, and reviewing training materials. A fact-finding conference brought together all project participants for a three-day conference on fact-finding in Kampala on 5-7 November, 2014.

The project is expected to produce at least one publication on fact-finding practices by HRDs in the region, however participants have already expressed a desire to produce more than one (possibly a briefing paper targeting donors and human rights practitioners, and an academic paper). Publications will be produced either as joint publications with one or more HRDs participating in the project, or produced fully by the participants. The final format of the publications will be determined by participants at the Fact-Finding Conference.

FLORIBERT CHEBEYA BAHIZIRE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Floribert Chebeya Bahizire Resource Centre, named in honour of the slain Congolese human rights defender, continued to offer its services to HRDs who are exiled in Kampala, thus contributing to the capacity building and continued human rights work of those HRDs. The defenders who have frequented the facility are mostly from Congo with others from Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. The number of defenders is steady, we have worked with over forty (40) defenders who have come to the resource center during this reporting period. The resource center has played a significant role in ensuring that HRDs are continuing with their work even when they are in exile in Kampala.



PAN-AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK



Joseph Bikanda
PAHRD-Net Coordinator

EHAHRDP hosts the Secretariat for the Pan-African Human Rights Defenders Network (PAHRDN), which during the year increased significantly in terms of staffing and funding. Of significant relevance was the Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network's first edition of the African Human Rights Defenders Awards ceremony which was held in Banjul, Gambia in October 2013. The awards were presented to five exceptional HRDs: Imam Baba Leigh (West Africa), Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana (East Africa), Ms. Yara Sallam (North Africa), Ms. Paulette Oyane Ondo (Central Africa) and Ms. Maria Lucia Da Silveira (Southern Africa) – one from each sub-region of Africa – in recognition of their work towards the advancement of human rights in Africa. The award came with a cash prize to enable HRDs continue with advocacy work around their work and it also garnered much positive media coverage of their work at the national, regional and international level.



The North Africa winner, Ms. Yara Sallam an Egyptian activist receives her award at the ACHPR

STUDY GROUPS

PAHRDN supported the Study Group in undertaking activities, extensive desk research and consultations on these issues in Africa, in both law and practice, working towards the completion of a detailed report. The final report was considered by the ACHPR at its 55th Ordinary Session ACHPR in April 2014, and has been later adopted. PAHRDN is ensuring the publication. In parallel of the report, in 2014 the Study Group began work towards drafting a set of guidelines on freedoms of association and assembly. The guidelines are intended to be a practical and instrumental guide for African States, drawing on the findings of the Study Group's report, and moving towards a concrete set of workable guidelines that protect and advance these rights.

LITIGATION

PAHRDN together with other African organisations filed an amicus curiae before the African Court on Human and People's on the case of Lohe Issa Konate a journalist from Burkina Faso who has been imprisoned in Burkina Faso since he was convicted in October 2012 for criminal defamation over articles published in private weekly L'Ouragan alleging corruption and abuse of power in the Office of the Public Prosecutor. With the contribution of Hon. Commissioner Tlakula Pansy, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information we filed an Amicus Curiae to hold the Court accountable per Resolution of the ACHPR Repealing Criminal Defamation Laws in Africa.

The court finds the Respondent State - Burkina Faso - did not comply with the AU Charter on Democracy and Good Governance and the ECOWAS treaty. The fines exceeded the income obtained from publishing and the weekly publication was suspended, denying it income," the Judges ruled. It asked the journalist to provide the court with his claims for the damages suffered within 30 days and the Government of Burkina Faso, would be required to send its reactions to the claims 30 days after the damages are filed. The journalist had requested the court for compensation for the violation of his rights and requested Burkina Faso to amend laws that limit freedom of expression.

In addition, we filed a petition to the ACHPR on two different cases for Ethiopian 7 HRDs who were unlawfully detained and torture for daring conduct a peaceful protect in Ethiopia. The petition have been received and now at the stage of admissibility. The second case for 11 HRDs who have been arrested and tortured is as well at the stage of admission. Trial observations and external litigation support with our Southern Africa Network on the case of the persecution of Swazi HRDs Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu.

STEERING COMMITTEE

In different meetings this year, the steering committee (9 members) met to discuss a variety of issues, including the reorganization of the Southern and Northern African networks and ways of improving communication between all networks. The framework of the Action was revisited as well. Sub-regional networks are all being represented in the steering committee of the NGO Forum. As such, the steering committee continue to discuss the work of the NGO Forum and that of the steering committee of the NGO Forum.

A selected list of other achievements are set forth below:

- Transferred skills to sub-regional networks. All sub-regional networks have trained Protection and Security Management Officers.
- Organized steering committee meetings and participated in the planning for the NGO Forum at ACHPR 55th session.
- Launched Pan Africa HRD identity cards and code of conduct.
- HRD Index project completed and ready to be launched.
- We made contributions on the WHRDs study which is also ready for publication.
- Conducted advocacy missions at the Africa-EU dialogue in Brussels and the US-Africa summit in the US.
- Conducted the second counterpart meeting in Uganda in October 2014.

COUNTERPART MEETING

Coming together for the 2nd Counterpart Meeting of the PAHRDN, representatives from Sub-regional Networks (SRNs) and members of the Steering Committee had a chance to reflect on achievements, challenges, as well as discuss opportunities for the coming year. PAHRDN was honored to be joined by the representative of the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Uganda, Ms. Rosette Meya, Human Rights, Conflict and Gender Officer.

With a common objective of harnessing the potential of joint action, the attention was focused on developing realistic joint plans for the coming period based on a joint vision and commitment, existing expertise and available resources. Particular attention was paid on addressing the challenges that were noted. The PAHRDN secretariat was able to get the buy-in of the sub-regional networks on the plan of action for the third year of the project. Without the buy-in of the sub-regional networks it becomes difficult to implement activities and achieve the results we are looking for. We have started seeing sub-regional networks being proactive in the implementation of activities especially those that they are supposed to do within their sub-regional networks.