

[DISPATCHES]



REPORTS FROM THE
FRONT LINE

f FRONT LINE
DEFENDERS

What does Front Line Defenders do?

Front Line, the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) established by charitable deed trust. It was founded in Dublin in 2001 with the specific aim of protecting human rights defenders at risk, people who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Front Line Defenders addresses the protection needs identified by defenders themselves.

Front Line Defenders provides rapid and practical support to at-risk human rights defenders including:

- grants to pay for the practical security needs of human rights defenders;
- provision of training and development of resource materials on security and protection, including digital security;
- international advocacy on behalf of human rights defenders at immediate risk;
- rest and respite, including the Front Line Defenders Fellowship;
- opportunities for networking and exchange between human rights defenders, including at the biennial Dublin Platform;
- the annual Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk;
- an emergency 24 hour phone line for human rights defenders operating in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian;
- temporary relocation of human rights defenders in emergency situations.

Front Line Defenders promotes the protection of human rights defenders through its support for the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and other international and regional mechanisms. Front Line Defenders promotes respect for the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Front Line Defenders has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, partnership status with the Council of Europe and observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Front Line Defenders received the 2007 King Baudouin International Prize for Development.



On the cover: Human rights defender Sergey Babinets in the office of the Joint Mobile Group, Chechnya, after it was burnt in December. The Joint Mobile Group had been subjected to threats, smear campaigns and attacks for standing up against the principle of collective punishment used by Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov against insurgents. Pictured holding the Front Line Defenders Award received by the group in 2011 for its work investigating torture and disappearances in Chechnya.

TRUSTEES

Denis O'Brien (Chairman) is Chairman of the Digicel Group. He is one of Ireland's leading entrepreneurs with extensive investments across several sectors. Mr. O'Brien was voted Ireland's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 in the inaugural running of the worldwide competition organised and sponsored by Ernst & Young. Mr. O'Brien is also a director of a number of private companies which hold some of his other business interests including Quinta do Lago SA, Topaz Energy Group Limited and Communicorp Group Limited. In 2000 he established The Iris O'Brien Foundation to assist disadvantaged communities in Ireland and internationally. He is co-founder of Front Line Defenders.



Kieran Mulvey is Chief Executive of the Irish Labour Relations Commission and Consultant with the International Labour Organisation and the European Union.



Noeline Blackwell is Director of FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres), an independent human rights organisation dedicated to the realisation of equal access to justice for all. She is a Vice-President of FIDH.



David Sykes is Investment Director of Island Capital Ltd and has worked in various banks and stockbrokers including Trinity Bank and Dolmen stockbrokers.



Jim Conway is the founder and Chairman of the Print & Display Group, one of Ireland's largest print companies. He also has a number of other media interests in Ireland and Eastern Europe.



Maria Mulcahy is the CEO of the Iris O'Brien Foundation and the Irish-based Head of Philanthropy for the Digicel Group. She was involved with "People in Need" from 1988 to 2000. She was responsible for organising the RTE telethons, which raised €28 million. She was Director of Fundraising for the 2003 Special Olympics World Games.



Mary Jane N. Real is a founding member and former Coordinator of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition. A lawyer by profession, she was part of establishing the Alternative Law Groups network in the Philippines. She is a long-time advocate of women's rights having worked with women's rights and human rights organisations in Asia Pacific and internationally including as Regional Coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development.



Arnold Tsunga is Africa Director of the International Commission of Jurists. He was Executive Secretary of the Law Society of Zimbabwe and Executive Director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. He was a joint winner of the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders in 2006.



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Michel Forst is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Secretary General of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. He was the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti from 2008 to 2013. He was Secretary General of the Paris Summit of Human Rights Defenders and Director of the French section of Amnesty International.



Hina Jilani is an internationally known human rights lawyer and advocate for human rights defenders. She was the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders from 2000 to 2008. She and her sister Asma Jahangir co-founded the first all female legal practice in Pakistan and she is also one of the founders of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. She is a member of The Elders.



Maina Kiai is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. A lawyer trained at Nairobi and Harvard Universities, he has spent the last twenty years campaigning for human rights and constitutional reform in Kenya – notably as founder and Executive Director of the NGO Kenya Human Rights Commission, and then as Chairman of Kenya's National Human Rights Commission (2003-2008).



James L. Cavallaro is the Founding Director of the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic at Stanford Law School, where he is also a professor of law. Prior to joining Stanford, he spent nine years on the faculty at Harvard Law School, where he also served as Executive Director of the Human Rights Programme. In June of 2013 he was elected to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).



Challenging the backlash – HRDs and the politics of betrayal

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, we have seen a growing global backlash against human rights defenders (HRDs) which has now reached crisis point.

This is a crucial political moment. Authoritarian governments are investing huge resources to silence, restrict and discredit independent civil society, especially those critical of government policies. Their effectiveness is perceived as a threat to government and non-state actors alike and the official response is often violent.

On 13 December three unidentified armed men tried to enter the office of the Joint Mobile Group (JMG) in Grozny, Chechnya. This followed threats against the head of the JMG by Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, the disruption of a press conference in Moscow, and a demonstration in Grozny calling for the banning of the JMG. Later that day armed men in civilian clothes tried to forcibly enter the JMG office on two occasions. When two members of the JMG who had been besieged in the office were finally able to leave, they were followed. At approximately 8:30pm the JMG office was set on fire. The Joint Mobile Group

(JMG) was established in November 2009 following the murder of HRD Ms Natalya Estemirova in Chechnya; it received the Front Line Defenders Award in 2011 for its work investigating torture and disappearances in Chechnya and was also the recipient of the 2013 Martin Ennals Award.

In the face of such well resourced political strategies by authoritarian regimes we need a more consistent and credible political response from governments active in the



Mary Lawlor receives an honorary degree for her achievement in building Front Line Defenders into an organisation recognised as one of the leading NGOs worldwide working on the security and protection of HRDs at risk. Back left to right: Mary Lawlor, Provost of Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Dr Patrick Prendergast, Poet Paul Muldoon; front left to right: Professor Nancy Hopkins, TCD, Chancellor of TCD and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr Mary Robinson, EU Ambassador to the United States, David O'Sullivan.

defence of democracy and human rights. There must be a reinvigorated political priority to protect human rights defenders and independent civil society.

Attacks on human rights defenders continued unabated in 2014 with almost complete impunity. In Africa, arbitrary arrest and detention of HRDs was the most common threat as state agencies equated human rights work with subversion. In Russia and Central Asia, new restrictions on freedom

of association were introduced and we have seen a marked trend to restrict foreign funding for NGOs, some of whom are now officially designated as “foreign agents”. In Asia reprisals, arrests, and repressive legislation are the most obvious trends. In the Middle East and North Africa, HRDs have been intimidated, restricted and targeted by legal and extra-legal means. The power of militant groups is on the rise, placing HRDs at further risk. A worrying trend in the Americas is the criminalisation of HRDs with arbitrary detention and judicial harassment, while the killing of HRDs is commonplace.

Front Line Defenders remains convinced that there needs to be stronger and more sustained efforts to provide rapid and practical support to human rights defenders at risk. HRDs tell us that it is crucial that families are supported when activists are detained, not only because it helps those who are imprisoned but also because the solidarity helps to sustain those who continue the work. Rapid provision of medical treatment or emergency relocation, urgent help with legal fees or practical help with personal or digital security are also crucial elements of resilience. While Front Line Defenders has doubled the support it provides through its

Security Grants Programme in the last three years, the demand from human rights defenders continues to grow.

The people who will play the most effective role in countering the new authoritarianism will be HRDs and civil society leaders. The most important priority must therefore be, to find practical ways to support those working on the front line, so that they in turn can empower their communities to realise their rights. □

2014 AT A GLANCE

- Front Line Defenders issued 265 Urgent Appeals on behalf of 442 individuals at risk in 64 countries.
- The EU Office lobbied the European Union on 146 cases with a positive response in 55% of cases.
- The Front Line Defenders Security Grants Programme provided 411 grants totalling €987,897, to individuals and organisations at risk. 124 grants were provided for temporary relocations.
- Front Line Defenders carried out 37 missions to 28 countries.
- 196 HRDs from 25 countries participated in trainings on personal & organisational security; 83% of HRDs reported having implemented a security plan as a result of the training.
- 372 HRDs from 21 countries participated in digital security trainings; 76% of HRDs reported using digital security tools as a result of the training.
- There were 2.5 million visits to the Security in a Box website.
- The Front Line Defenders Award was presented to *Society for Appraisal and Women Empowerment in Rural Areas* (SAWERA) of Pakistan.
- Front Line Defenders developed two international campaigns in conjunction with the Sochi Olympics in Russia and the World Cup in Brazil.
- Former Irish Foreign Minister Eamon Gilmore visited human rights defender Azimjan Askarov in prison in Kyrgyzstan.
- Mary Lawlor was presented with the Order of Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur and an honorary doctorate from Trinity College Dublin.

Africa

ACROSS THE CONTINENT, HUMAN RIGHTS defenders continued to work in extremely difficult conditions due to threats from both state and non-state actors. While there was something to celebrate when Ivory Coast enacted new legislation on the protection of human rights defenders, becoming the first African country to do so, Front Line Defenders missions to Kenya, Burundi, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia documented numerous instances where other African states openly interfered with the work of HRDs through legislation or direct attack.

In July, Front Line Defenders took part in an extraordinary stakeholders' meeting focused on indigenous and land rights activism in **Eastern Kenya**. We helped to review the security plan for the woman human rights lawyer who is spearheading the litigation as well as for the local farmers who worked closely with her. We also provided a temporary shelter for the lawyer when she received death threats. Later, she said, "Your assistance was nothing but the best. I have now been able to meet the county senator and discuss our matter. I have also been able to work again with our council of elders and discuss their outreach efforts."

Front Line Defenders visited Bujumbura prison in Burundi to meet **Pierre Claver Mbonimpa**, a prominent HRD, arbitrarily detained as a result of comments made on a radio-broadcast debate during which he claimed having evidence of the existence of training camps for young Burundians in eastern DRC. He has since been conditionally released on grounds of ill-health.



Kenya, September 2014: farmer Jonathan Kahindi (right) at a makeshift house he built after his family house was flattened; Front Line Defenders was accompanied by HRD Timothy Kazungu (left), member of Malindi Rights Forum (MRF), which works to protect the land rights of farmers.

Following a workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, on the EU-Guidelines on HRDs, Front Line Defenders carried out a field mission in the Northern state of Kaduna before visiting HRDs in Lagos and the Niger Delta where concerted efforts to fight police brutality, rampant torture and arbitrary detention have exposed defenders to ongoing harassment. Front Line Defenders helped the local human rights defenders to assess their security situation and develop security plans ahead of the forthcoming elections.

The organisation's work in **Uganda** was focused on the specific risks facing HRDs

working on three particular groups of rights: issues of accountability, land rights and the impact of extractive industries; LGBTI rights and the rights of sex workers; and those working on public freedoms, mainly journalists.

In September Front Line Defenders carried out a mission to **Zambia**, where most human rights defenders have either been co-opted or intimidated into silence. The remaining HRDs are mainly investigative journalists who carry on their work despite the risks. Front Line Defenders helped them to carry out a risk assessment of their situation and develop security plans. **I**

GRANTS

The Front Line Defenders Security Grants Programme paid for the relocation of four staff members of Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmée (MEFP), which advocates for the rights of Pygmies in the **Central African Republic**.

The staff of MEFP were at risk following the murder of a colleague and attacks on others. MEFP reported that "This grant has enabled MEFP to continue to function as an organisation, which would have been impossible had the key staff not been evacuated from Bangui."

In eastern DRC, Actions des Femmes pour les Droits et le Développement received a grant to secure a transit house for victims of sexual violence thus enabling the staff to work in a safe environment and focus on the needs of the women seeking shelter.

Following an attempt to kill Duni Jedoh, a human rights officer for Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, a Front Line Defenders security grant paid for a fence around his compound and Duni said "In the past my own father suggested I withdraw from my human rights activities that could cause my enemies to target me. Now I feel that I cannot be harmed in my compound after this grant provided for the construction of a fence."



Sarah Nanteza (left) and Catherine Namagembe (right) of Women's Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA), Uganda. After a break-in and theft of their computers, Front Line Defenders provided a grant to purchase new computers.



Mabvuto Phiri, Managing Editor at MUWI TV, an independent television station in Lusaka, Zambia, showing Aloys Habimana, Front Line Defenders, a message from one of the TV regional correspondents reporting on threats he had faced that day.



Human rights defenders working on issues of accountability, land rights and the impact of extractive industries in Fort Portal, Uganda in April. Front row from left: Kanyunyuzi Stella, Steady Daniel, Isebantu Mugisa Ateenyi, Mukondyeezi Wilfred, Napeyok Rebecca; 2nd row from left: Dan Rubombora, Nkuba Isaac, Kankya Gerald, Koburunga Evelyn, Awekofua Gilbert; Back row from left: Yona Wanjala, Mbabazi Violen, Muntu Willy, Kabaliisa Jane, Amanyire Simon, Abitegeka Violet, Kayondo Gilbert, Omiat Moses.

TRAINING

Increased cooperation between African governments and Chinese and European internet service providers and mobile phone companies led to unprecedented levels of online surveillance in countries such as Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Kenya. To counter this threat, Front Line Defenders trained 63 HRDs from Zimbabwe, Burundi, DRC and Rwanda in digital security and organised a “training of trainers” in the region. Front Line Defenders also supported 44 individual HRDs and 52 human rights organisations through the work of our Digital Security Consultants who carried out 14 missions to Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

In mid-March, Front Line Defenders conducted a three-day workshop on Financial and Organisational Capacity-Building for 16 HRDs, in Mombasa, Kenya. This workshop focused on capacity-building, designed in the knowledge that human rights defenders can better manage their security when they have financial and organisational stability.

In June, 34 HRDs from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Rwanda were brought together for two simultaneous three-day workshops on personal and organisational security, and digital security. Leading the personal and organisational security sessions were Gégé Katana Bukuru of DRC, and Bob Rugurika, from Burundi.

“Before working with the Digital Security Consultant I had no knowledge of digital security apart from ad-hoc measures to secure the use of my own phone. Since then I have been training my colleagues and other HRDs on how to improve their digital security.” HRD Kenya

ADVOCACY

When LGBTI rights defender Claver Touré and his organisation Alternative-Côte d’Ivoire received death threats Front Line Defenders issued an urgent appeal and contacted the EU Delegation and the French and Belgian Embassies in Ivory Coast. The EU and some individual states followed the case closely. One Member State made a phone call to the Minister of the Interior. The security situation improved and the group members were able to resume their work.

In March, Front Line Defenders organised a workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, on the EU Guidelines on HRDs. The workshop brought together 20 HRDs who were joined on the second day by 12 EU officials and diplomats. Among the action points agreed were that human rights organisations would help with a mapping of grassroots organisations to be supported and that HRD coordinators points would be appointed in each state of Nigeria.



Human rights defenders at a workshop on the EU Guidelines for human rights defenders in Abuja, Nigeria.



Kenyan HRDs Ruth Mumbi (left) and Anne Wanjiru Muniu (right) at a workshop on financial management and fundraising in Mombasa in March.

Americas

“After suffering two break-ins and thefts, we now have much more peace of mind, better security and more stability.”
José Guadalupe Ruelas García, Honduras

IN 2014, FRONT LINE DEFENDERS CARRIED out missions to Peru, Mexico and Brazil and Colombia. In February, Front Line Defenders travelled to the Lima, Cajamarca and Cusco regions of **Peru** to meet human rights defenders, local journalists and indigenous peoples affected by the mining industry. Front Line Defenders met environmental rights defender Manuel Ramos Campos who explained that he had faced nearly 50 prosecutions, on charges including obstruction, usurpation of official authority and trespassing. His case was highlighted in the report on “Environmental Rights Defenders at Risk in Peru”, published in June.

In March, Front Line Defenders joined the 10th Asturian-Irish Delegation for the Assessment of the Human Rights Situation in **Colombia**, which this year included representatives of the

Irish and Spanish Governments. What emerged clearly was that threats to, and the criminalisation of, human rights defenders were the major issues, and that now HRDs working on environmental and land rights are increasingly at risk. As a result of the mission Front Line Defenders gave security grants to several HRDs at imminent risk.

In April, Front Line Defenders visited **Mexico** to meet independent human rights defenders in Mexico City, Oaxaca and Guerrero to discuss risk analysis and security planning. HRDs shared recent research which showed that, in the three years since President Enrique Peña Nieto took office, there has been a marked increase in attacks on human rights defenders, especially environmental HRDs in regions where multinational corporations have undertaken development mega-projects.

Following the visit Front Line Defenders provided a grant to a WHRD whose opposition to natural resource extraction had brought a series of renewed threats resulting in her temporary relocation.

The mission to **Brazil** visited Pará state, which has the highest rate of attacks on human rights defenders in the country, to meet HRDs at risk in Belém, Santarém and Altamira. Front Line Defenders partnered with local organisations Justiça Global and Terra de Direitos to launch a new initiative to strengthen the National Protection Programme for Human Rights Defenders. In addition to the World Cup Campaign, Front Line Defenders released a series of videos as part of the *Multiple Exposure* series focusing on different HRDs throughout Brazil working on a variety of rights issues. □

TRAINING

In June, Front Line Defenders held a workshop on personal and organisational security, in Lima, Peru for HRDs, including members of indigenous communities, journalists and advocates of land rights and sexual diversity. Due to the particular discrimination experienced by indigenous and trans women HRDs, this workshop included a module on the specific needs of women defenders in the home, in organisations, during field work and demonstrations.

In October Front Line Defenders held a workshop, in French and Creole, on personal and organisational security for Haitian HRDs in Montrouis, Haiti. The HRDs from formal NGOs, grassroots organisations and the media were working on exposing abuse of power, advocating for rights to land, housing and food, and supporting the dispossessed and survivors of violence, including sexual violence. “‘Before you get sleepy, fix your bed’ is a Creole proverb – this is what the workshop taught us – to prepare!”

Front Line Defenders provided digital security training to 129 HRDs in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru.



Lina Solano, Ecuador (top row, 5th from the left) together with Jorge Hernandez from Mexico (photographer) led the training with Peruvian HRDs.



Women human rights defenders in Haiti discuss security in the home during group work. Left to right: Celine Lajoie, Frena Florvilus, Lucia Antoine, Geraldine Clermenceau, Samia Saloman.



During a roleplay on safe demonstrations at security training in Haiti, Samia Saloman, playing a police officer, points a paper gun at protesters Lucia Antoine and Jasmin Desir.



Tere Palop, Front Line Defenders, meeting with members of Movimento Xingu Vivo Para Sempre, Rosa Maria Loures and Élio Alves da Silva (above) and later with Maria Elena de Araujo Silva (left) in Altamira, Brazil, looking at flooding due to mining activities and the Belo Monte dam construction in the area.

ADVOCACY

When Yolanda Ouelí, a leader of the non-violent movement of San José Del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampic, working to protect land and environmental rights in the context of mining activities in Guatemala, was facing charges of “false imprisonment”, “coercion” and “threats” in May, Front Line Defenders’ EU Office raised her case with the EU Delegation which took up the case and attended the court hearing. Following these initiatives the charges were dismissed.

Front Line Defenders reported the issue of the **repeated death threats** against land restitution leaders in Curbaradó and members of the Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz (CIJP) in Colombia to the EU Delegation in June. The EU Delegation raised the cases and also offered temporary relocation through a local partner and informed the HRDs about the EIDHR emergency grant scheme. Front Line Defenders supported Yomaira Mendoza and Enrique Cabezas with a temporary relocation grant while EIDHR provided additional funds for their relocation.

GRANTS

Front Line Defenders provided a security grant to Venezuelan organisation, Asociación Civil Kape-Kape, which has been attacked because it reported on human rights abuses linked to narco traffickers, illegal mining and government corruption. “As a result we are able to increase our strategic planning, maintain instant communications with field staff, and respond to urgent community concerns including constant death threats, physical attacks, and other cases where colleagues have been killed”.

José Guadalupe Ruelas García is Director of Casa Alianza which works on the rights of children and young people in Honduras. In May, he was detained by military police,

severely beaten and denied medical care. The Security Grants Programme funded a security system for his home, as well as counselling for the family. José told Front Line Defenders that “after suffering two break-ins and thefts, we now have much more peace of mind, better security and more stability.”

The Comisión de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH) in Peru has received multiple death threats due to its work seeking prosecution for grave violations by paramilitary group Sendero Luminoso. The Security Grants Programme funded security camera systems for their offices in Lima and Ayacucho. “**The sense of security that the security cameras give us has had a lot of impact, especially on the staff of our organisation.**”

Below: Front Line Defenders with HRDs at a meeting to mark the end of the Linha de Frente campaign in Brazil.



Above: Front Line Defenders met human rights defenders Pedro Regalado, Juan Carlos, Carlos Sánchez, Silvia Regalado, Rosalino Bartolo, Mariano López Gómez, Isabel Jimenes Salinas on mission in Mexico.



Asia Pacific

BECAUSE OF THEIR INCREASINGLY critical role in promoting human rights awareness and debate at the national and international level, human rights defenders in the Asia Pacific region have found their own rights flagrantly violated by repressive governments. Through its campaigning, advocacy and security grant programmes Front Line Defenders has responded directly to attacks on human rights defenders in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia and carried out missions to Burma, Thailand, Philippines and Afghanistan in 2014.

In **Burma**, Front Line Defenders met a number of HRDs including Ko Htin Kyaw, director of the Movement for Democracy Current Force

(MDCF), who is currently facing a number of trials due to his work to promote development and democracy at community level. During the mission HRDs informed us that abuse of the law is a major challenge facing HRDs. They believe that ahead of the scheduled election in 2015 there is some scope for amendments to these laws.

The situation in **Thailand** deteriorated significantly after the coup in May 2014. HRDs working at the community level and challenging companies engaged in mining and development projects are particularly at risk.

A mission to the **Philippines** coincided with the 6th Asian Human Rights Defenders' Forum (AHRDF) which included the participation of UN Special Rapporteur on Human

Rights Defenders, Michel Forst. HRDs described the risks they were facing and emphasised that physical security training, including risk assessment, is very important.

Front Line Defenders and the Afghan Women's Network (AWN) are working in partnership, to strengthen the protection of WHRDs. The programme consists of personal and organisational security training, the setting up of an alert system for individual WHRDs at risk and temporary relocation at the local, national and international levels.

As one Afghan human rights defender advised, "Dance from the bottom of your heart" because "in Afghanistan anything can happen." □



ADVOCACY

Ruki Fernando and Father Praveen Mahesan were arrested in **Sri Lanka** after they sought to help 13-year-old Balendran Vithushaini who had been ordered into probationary care following the arrest of her mother, Balendran Jeyakumari, a prominent opponent of enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka. In response to an emergency phone call, Front Line Defenders immediately contacted the US embassy, the UK embassy and the EU Delegation. The UK raised the case with the Sri Lankan authorities and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office issued a public statement. The following day Ruki Fernando and Father Praveen were released. Ruki Fernando later commented, "I believe my relatively quick release from detention was due to the very fast response by Front Line Defenders and others. Front Line Defenders has a good combination of responding to individual cases and broader long term advocacy."

Above left: Protestors, including the wife of human rights defender Ko Htin Kyaw, calling for the release of HRDs in Burma, and above right: Front Line Defenders observed one of the trials of Ko Htin Kyaw in October, pictured here leaving court.



Alana Rivera protesting both for the release of her husband, Romeo Rivera, jailed in 2014 due to his campaigning against large-scale mining in the Philippines; and for the Capion family who were murdered for their work protecting their community from extractive industry work in the Philippines.



Above: Sayeed Ahmad (back row, right), Front Line Defenders, with community leader Surapan Rujichaiwat (fifth from right), together with other HRDs actively involved in protecting the environment and natural resources of their village in Loei, north-eastern Thailand during a Front Line Defenders mission in October. In a positive development, the legal charges brought against Surapan Rujichaiwat for opposing the opening of a gold mining project were dropped in December.

TRAINING

In 2014 Front Line Defenders worked closely with HRDs in the Asia Pacific region to address the risks associated with online communications, looking specifically at risk assessment and needs analysis and assisting in improving the security of voice and email communications and systems backup. Front Line Defenders trained 80 HRDs on digital security while Front Line Defenders digital security consultants carried out nine missions in the region, supporting 39 individual HRDs and 18 organisations. To promote greater access to resources and expertise in digital security Front Line Defenders organised a training of trainers in the region.

Front Line Defenders Training Coordinator Anne Rimmer and Afghan HRD Samira

Hamidi conducted a security course for Afghan women human rights defenders between June and December. Front Line Defenders partnered with the Afghan Women's Network and 15 of their member organisations were invited to participate in this intensive course.

In this period of rapid transition in Burma, Front Line Defenders conducted a three-day workshop on financial and organisational capacity building for 14 Burmese HRDs, in Yangon. The trainers were Front Line Defenders Head of Development Charlie Lamson, and Consultant Anamaria Wills.

Right: Burmese human rights defender Daw Naw Ohn Hla at a workshop on financial and organisational management.



Trainer Rohini Lakshané conducting a session on digital security for Afghan WHRDs on the Security Course.

GRANTS

When an elderly HRD in **Burma** was arrested for his work on behalf of the Rohingya minority, he was denied access to a lawyer and faced a questionable 'trial'. Front Line Defenders was able to fund food and medicines as he endured tough prison conditions and poor health. He has since been released, but was forced to sign a statement promising to refrain from any "unlawful activities", or risk further imprisonment. The son of the HRD, who himself is also a human rights defender commented "The recognition of HRDs is very important. I personally found that Human Rights Defender ID cards are also very helpful for our work. It helps me to work more effectively, to get protection for myself from danger, to get support from other international organisations."

On 7 May 2014, anti-mining activist Ernel Wata Taduyan was murdered in the Philippines. His wife Rubelinda, who is also an active defender, was threatened, but refused to give up her advocacy work. Front Line Defenders provided the family with secure accommodation and psychosocial support. As reported, "Rubelinda is continuing her work with certain adjustments allowing for her security situation."

The National Centre Against Violence works to eliminate domestic violence and sexual abuse of women and children in **Mongolia**. Both staff and service users face stalking, threats and abuse from perpetrators. Front Line Defenders funded a security camera system to allow staff and visitors to feel more secure and to document any abusive behaviour.



Europe and Central Asia

THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE HAS SOMEWHAT deflected attention from the critical situation for human rights defenders across the region. While Russia has introduced stifling NGO laws targeting internet freedom and media independence, Front Line Defenders missions have tracked similar patterns of abuse in Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia.

In **Ukraine** the confrontation between demonstrators in Maidan Square and police reached its peak in February and a Front Line Defenders mission travelled to Kiev to assess the situation of human rights defenders and to support local HRDs dealing with this situation. The stress of processing information about who had been arrested, tortured or killed and of dealing with victims and their families was exacerbated by the personal insecurity of HRDs themselves. Front Line Defenders offered rest and respite to a group of 18 Ukrainian HRDs in May.

In February the mission to **Tajikistan** allowed us to assess the security of HRDs working on sensitive issues such as the defence of political prisoners, victims of torture or ill-treatment in the army. Following the mission, Front Line Defenders organised a security training and a workshop on the EU Guidelines



Konstantin Reutsky, head of Human Rights Centre "Postup", holding bullet cases used against Euromaidan demonstrators, on 21 February in Kiev, Ukraine.

for Human Rights Defenders for HRDs from different parts of the country.

The mission to **Turkey** in March, while primarily focused on digital security training for LGBTI defenders, also investigated the concerns of other HRDs.

In August, Front Line Defenders travelled to **Azerbaijan** to coordinate practical support for human rights defenders and the families of those imprisoned. The situation had deteriorated dramatically even as Azerbaijan took over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. A number of prominent HRDs were jailed on charges linked to receipt of foreign funding and several human rights defenders and independent journalists left the country out of fear for their safety.

Following the release of Ales Bialiatski, the mission to **Belarus** in July was an opportunity to celebrate his release and to plan new activities to highlight the dire situation of

human rights defenders in the country.

Front Line Defenders undertook two missions to **Russia** in March and November, as civil society continued to be criminalised under the so-called "Foreign Agents" Law, which targets organisations that receive foreign funding. These missions were opportunities to coordinate practical support for Russian NGOs and to discuss strategies for the future.

Front Line Defenders visited **Serbia** in October to assess the current security situation and the needs of HRDs. According to the HRDs, while the police do provide protection, investigations often lead nowhere. HRDs working on war crimes or LGBTI rights, and independent journalists are those most targeted. In response to an upsurge in attacks connected with the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre Front Line Defenders took part in a two day workshop on security for vulnerable groups and outlined how it could provide practical support. □

GRANTS

In January, Front Line Defenders provided an office security grant to Trans Consultancy Centre Association which represents the transgender community in Turkey. The grant funded a camera system, secure doors and windows, and safes. Staff members reported, **"Following this grant, the work performance and enthusiasm of staff has visibly increased and this directly impacts our operating speed and work quality."**

In March, the offices of Kazakh human rights organisation Aman Saulyk, were raided by police and their computers,

external hard drives and documentation seized. When the authorities brought charges of corruption against a number of staff, Front Line Defenders provided a grant to pay for their legal defence.

Insight is an organisation which campaigns for the rights of the LGBTI community in Ukraine. After review with a Front Line Defenders digital security consultant, the organisation received a security grant for computer hardware and software to enable it to work more securely. "This grant enabled us protect information within our office. Now our client base and all documents are secured and we can continue our work for LGBTI equality."



Volunteers responding to the Euromaidan-SOS hotline on the night of 20 February in Kiev, Ukraine.

TRAINING

Front Line Defenders trained 52 HRDs from Russia, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Turkey in digital security in 2014. Digital Security Consultants recruited by Front Line Defenders carried out 20 missions to Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Moldova and provided online support to 35 organisations and 17 individual HRDs. Front Line Defenders also organised a training of trainers in this region.

HRDs helping internally displaced people from Eastern Ukraine were often working without proper online security. Front Line Defenders created secure virtual work spaces to enable them to manage all technical tasks.

Many human rights defenders from Uzbekistan are either in prison or exile, while those who remain active inside the country are all under threat. Front Line Defenders helped Uzbek HRDs and journalists to implement digital security solutions, to enable them to communicate safely online.

Front Line Defenders supported a workshop on personal and organisational security for 14 Tajik HRDs in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in February. "Since the training,



Shuhrat Saidov and Sanavbar Urunova at a security workshop for human rights defenders in Tajikistan.

I became observant, I choose trusted people to notify when going to some dubious meetings. In our organisation we created personal security plans, I record and analyse the chronology of signals and threats, I report such facts to my colleagues".

In March, Front Line Defenders conducted a workshop on personal security and wellbeing for the Regional Network Against Homophobia, in Ankara, Turkey. The participants were LGBTI human rights defenders from Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. **"Here, to be an activist means to be bad, tired, unhappy, always under stress and negative. So after the workshop I decided to put the focus on me and my wellbeing for a little bit."**

In August, a Training of Trainers was held for Russian-speaking HRDs from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia (including Chechnya), Tajikistan and Ukraine. The co-trainers were Sasha Delemenchuk (Ukraine) and Anara Ibrayeva (Kazakhstan). The participants identified new ways to train other HRDs in their communities on understanding risk assessment.



Mikhail Emelianov trains Ksenia Zhivago, both from Russia, on self-defence techniques at a Training of Trainers for Russian-speaking HRDs.

ADVOCACY

The release on 21 June of Belarusian human rights defender Ales Bialiatski, Head of Human Rights Centre "Viasna", after almost three years in prison was a rare highlight in a bleak regional landscape. Front Line Defenders had consistently raised his case at EU level.



Taciana Reviaka and Ales Bialiatski after his release from prison.

In November, human rights defender and leader of the workers' strike in Zhanaozen, Ms Roza Tuletaeva was granted parole and released from the penal colony where she had spent almost three years of a seven year sentence. Front Line Defenders had campaigned for her release since she had been imprisoned.

In June, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) launched the OSCE Guidelines on human rights defenders which offer guidance to OSCE member states on their responsibility to foster an enabling environment for HRDs. Front Line Defenders took an active role in lobbying for the Guidelines and was a member of the advisory committee on the drafting of the guidelines.



Left: In December 2014, on the eve of International Human Rights Day, former Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Eamon Gilmore TD travelled to Kyrgyzstan where he visited jailed Kyrgyz human rights defender Azimjan Askarov and called for his release on humanitarian grounds.

Middle East and North Africa



AS TRADITIONAL PATTERNS OF REPRESSION were reasserted across the Middle East in 2014, Front Line Defenders undertook missions to Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

In February, Front Line Defenders visited Tripoli, Benghazi and Tawergha in **Libya** where emerging NGOs face threats from all sides and prominent HRDs such as Abdelsalam al-Mosmary and Salwa Bugaighis were assassinated by militant groups.

Front Line Defenders met Voice of Libyan Women, whose members are under threat because it challenges conservative religious views on women's rights, and the Alain Foundation for Media and Studies, a new organisation working on freedom of expression. The mission identified security training as the priority need and this was delivered two months later. Front Line defenders highlighted these various cases in its submission to the Universal Periodic Review on Libya.

TRAINING

Front Line Defenders trained 48 HRDs from Syria, Sudan, Yemen and Oman in digital security and online privacy and supported 20 organisations and 31 individual HRDs via missions by digital security consultants to Oman, Yemen, Morocco, Bahrain and Iraqi Kurdistan.

15 Libyan HRDs, who face extreme risks, were invited to a personal and organisational security workshop in Istanbul in May on risk assessment, threat analysis, digital security and security planning in a high-risk environment. One of the participants said: "I moved from one place to another

Dr. Hala Al-Dosari from Saudi Arabia at a side event on the shrinking space for civil society organised at the Human Rights Council in March by Front Line Defenders together with the International Commission of Jurists, Human Rights House Network, Trócaire and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations. The panel also featured Front Line Defenders Executive Director Mary Lawlor and human rights defender Maksym Butkevych from Ukraine.

Front Line Defenders produced a short documentary in which Egyptian HRDs spoke about the shrinking space for civil society and the impact of the new requirement for human rights NGOs to register under Association Law No.84/2002. Front Line Defenders also closely followed the case of Yara Sallam and Sanaa Seif who were sentenced to two years' imprisonment for breaching 'the protest law' and conducted international advocacy on their case.

according to the circumstances and the size of the risks that I expected, and this is thanks to the concept of risk assessment in terms of seriousness and gravity." But he followed this by explaining that as the situation deteriorated even more, "the question today is not how to work freely, but how to live another day".

In March, LGBTI defenders from Egypt and Lebanon, took part in a workshop on personal security and well-being in Ankara. "My colleagues were eager to find out more about how to react in case of danger. It was a surprise for them to know that simple security measures can make a big difference", reported one participant.



Moataz El Fegieri, Front Line Defenders, with Rawda Ahmed, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Egypt.

In March, Front Line Defenders visited **southern Egypt** where the Nubian people have been repeatedly displaced from their traditional lands. Nubian HRDs face intimidation at work, obstacles in legal procedures and physical assaults. Front Line Defenders met WHRDs struggling with both the government and their own society to realise their rights. During the mission, Front Line Defenders organised a round-table discussion with ten HRDs concerning their security during ongoing sectarian clashes and developed a cooperation plan, including a schedule of future trainings on security.

Front Line Defenders visited Addamazin in the Blue Nile region of **Sudan** in May. Under the State of Emergency Law, HRDs are directly targeted, especially those working on the rights of displaced people and those accused of association with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), even if they do not really belong to it. Activists and community leaders faced military trials, which forced most of them to work from outside Sudan.

The ongoing imprisonment of prominent human rights defenders in **Bahrain**, including Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, remained a concern. Front Line Defenders welcomed Nabeel



Above: Al Sammani Abdel Shafy and Abdul Baqy Arbab work on refugee rights and promotion of human rights awareness in Blue Nile, Sudan.

Rajab, founder of the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, to Dublin on his release from prison, for media and advocacy work.

In November, Front Line Defenders visited Tunisia on the occasion of its first parliamentary and presidential elections under the new constitution. The situation of HRDs in Tunisia has improved significantly over the last three years but threats remain in the absence of security sector and judicial reform. Front Line Defenders documented several cases of physical violence by police against journalists, human rights defenders and trade unionists. Urgent appeals were sent to the Tunisian authorities on the cases of H ela Boujne h and Lina Ben Mhenni, young women HRDs who suffered verbal and physical violence in connection with their human rights work.

Tunisia has become a major base for Libyan HRDs who have had to flee their own country and in November Front Line Defenders facilitated a round table discussion, organised by World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), for 15 prominent lawyers and journalists from inside and outside Libya.

In December, Front Line Defenders visited **Morocco** where state authorities have increased their legal and judicial harassment of HRDs and NGOs over the past year. Front Line Defenders released urgent appeals and sent letters to the Moroccan government on cases of HRDs at risk and urged the EU to raise them with the government.

Front Line Defenders discussed protection strategies for HRDs in Western Sahara with leaders of the Sahrawi Association for Victims of Grave Human Rights Violations and the Tomorrow Association of Human Rights. In Western Sahara arbitrary detention and imprisonment of HRDs remain a source of great concern. □

ADVOCACY

In May, Front Line Defenders participated in the first Regional Conference on the Protection and Support of Human Rights, organised by the League of Arab States and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and attended by HRDs from all over the Arab World.

In October, Front Line Defenders participated in a consultative meeting held in **Tunisia** by UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Michel Forst which highlighted legal and security challenges faced by HRDs in MENA.

Also in November, Front Line Defenders participated in the World Human Rights Forum held in Marrakesh, **Morocco** where it co-organised a panel discussion on Guaranteeing Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Front Line Defenders expressed its concerns about increasing attacks on human rights defenders in Egypt, the Gulf, Algeria, Sudan, Morocco and Western Sahara.



Above: Moroccan human rights defenders boycotted the World Human Rights Forum, protesting state restrictions on human rights defenders and NGOs in Morocco/Western Sahara. Left to right: Nozha al-Idrissi, Moroccan Association for Human Rights; Maati Monjib, Freedom Now/ Committee to Protect Freedom of Press and Expression; Mohammed Ohnawi, human rights defender; Ali Anouzla, Freedom Now; Boshti Mussaef, human rights defender; Abdelhamid Amine, Moroccan Association for Human Rights; Mohammed al-Zahari, Moroccan League for the Defence of Human Rights; Khadija Ryadi, Freedom Now; Mohammed Firi, HRD.



Above: Sherif Azer, Front Line Defenders, (centre) with HRDs working on the rights of Tawergha people in Libya, left to right: Ali Noah; Fathi Baraka, International Peace Organization for Human Rights; Mohamed Radwan Raheel, Al Libya Foundation for National Work; Issa Ahmed Al Tawerghi, Libyan Organisation for Human Rights.

GRANTS

Front Line Defenders provided a security grant to a HRD in Libya who was at risk of being detained or even kidnapped and killed due to his work defending the rights of the Tawergha community. He told Front Line Defenders later that **“This grant improved not only my security but it also improved the security of my family. I feel safe as a result.”**

Masoud Bashora has been photo-documenting the lives of people in Idlib province, and the destruction of Ma'arra since the revolution in Syria started. A security grant paid for a bulletproof helmet and a new camera which enabled him to upload and publish reports from the field, rather than risk travelling to the city to file reports.



Hayam Farahat, Asmaa' Abu Lehia, Reem Frainah and Mariam Abu Alatta, members of Aisha, Palestine.

In Palestine, Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection, strives to protect women and children who face domestic violence. The staff and premises are at regular risk of attacks. They received a grant for a security camera system.

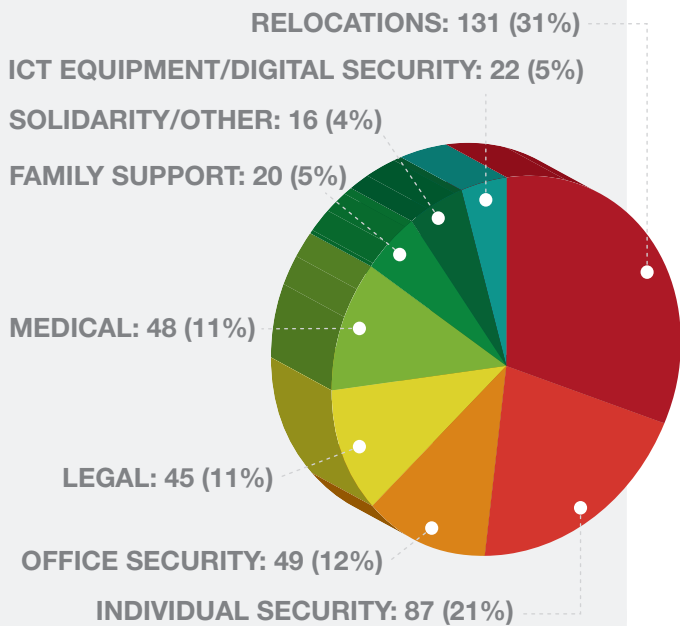
SECURITY GRANTS

DELIVERING FAST AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK AROUND THE WORLD

Front Line Defenders provides rapid and practical support to human rights defenders at risk around the world. Through its Security Grants Programme Front Line Defenders provides funds, which can be agreed inside 24 hours, to help address an immediate security threat. This can include installing a security camera system in the home or office of a HRD at risk or paying for temporary relocation. Security grants can also pay for legal fees for HRDs who are being judicially harassed or medical fees for HRDs who have been attacked.



HOW THE FUNDING HELPS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



GRANTS WERE PROVIDED TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN 67 COUNTRIES

“Without this grant...we would have been in grave danger of physical attack. We would have had to move family away.”
Human Rights Defender

IMPROVED SECURITY

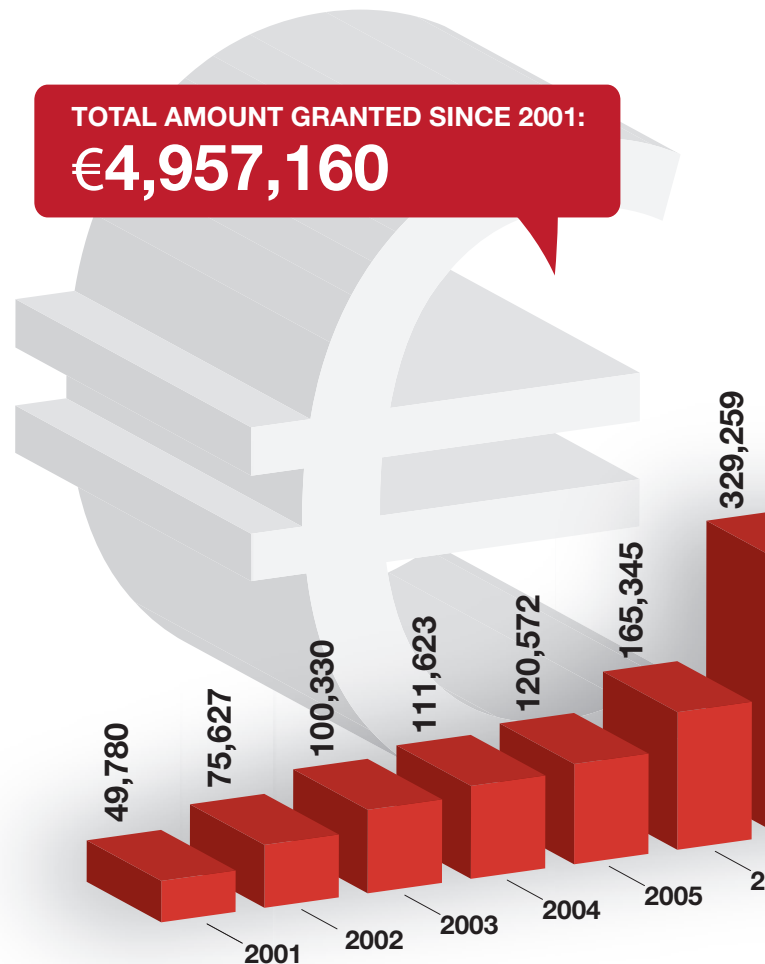
42% reported returning to work as normal

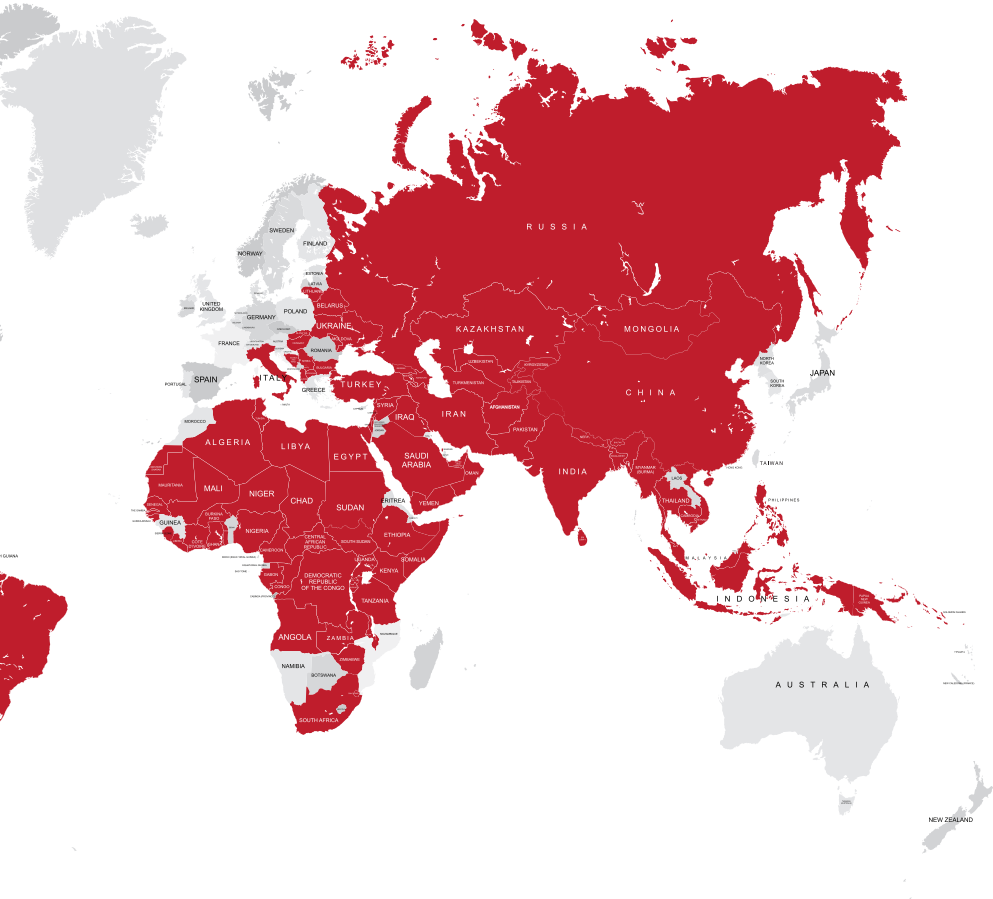
40% reported returning to work with a few limitations

12% reported being able to return to work in a reduced capacity

TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED SINCE 2001:

€4,957,160





“My own father suggested I withdraw from my human rights activities. Now I feel that I cannot be harmed in my compound after this grant provided for the construction of a fence.”
Duni Jedoh

**REAL STORIES,
 POSITIVE RESULTS**



Pierre

When **Pierre Claver Mbonimpa** established the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Incarcerated Persons (APRODH) in 2001, he was jailed for exposing extrajudicial executions and torture in the prison system in Burundi. Front Line Defenders petitioned for his safe release, and he has since been conditionally released from prison.



Martha

When **Martha Diaz Ospina** supported the families of victims of extrajudicial killings in Colombia, she received death threats by phone. Front Line Defenders provided a temporary relocation grant so she could move to a safer area and continue her work.



Mohammad

The life of journalist **Mohammad Shoab Adil** was in danger because of articles he wrote supporting the Ahmadi community in Pakistan. With a Front Line Defenders Security Grant, he was able to move to safety and continue his work.



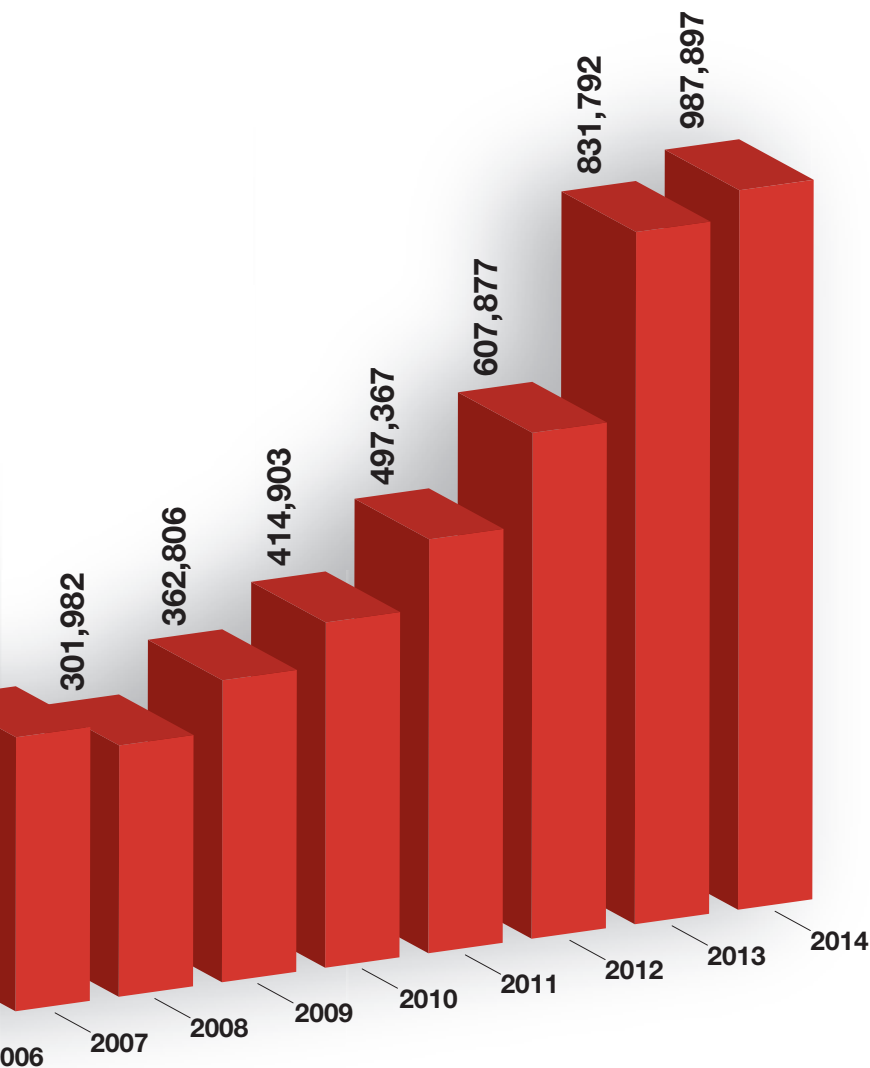
Duni

Attackers tried to kill HRD **Duni Jedoh** for defending the rights of Mbororo pastoralists in north-western Cameroon. A Front Line Defenders security grant paid for a fence around his compound.



Olena

Olena Shevchenko and the members of Insight a Ukrainian LGBTI group, received serious threats. Front Line Defenders gave them a security grant to install a digital security system, preventing cyber attacks and data theft. When the threats continued Front Line Defenders gave them a temporary relocation grant to move to a safer area.



**FRONT LINE
DEFENDERS
AWARD**

الإعلامية
ALJAZEERA M





The 2014 Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk

Left to right: Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders, Noorzia Afridi, SAWERA, Sami El-Haj, Al Jazeera Media Network, Sami Ullah, SAWERA, Sean Penn and Denis O'Brien, Chairman of Front Line Defenders at the award ceremony. The 2014 Award was presented to SAWERA - The Society for Appraisal and Women Empowerment in Rural Areas - Pakistan.



Denis O'Brien addresses the audience at the award ceremony in Dublin.

THIS YEAR'S FRONT LINE DEFENDERS Award in partnership with the Al Jazeera Media Network was presented to Pakistani women's rights organisation **SAWERA** by US actor Sean Penn in Dublin on 7 March.

Founded by Noorzia Afridi, Lal Jan Afridi and Farida Afridi, SAWERA is a grassroots NGO dedicated to empowering women in the most dangerous region in Pakistan – Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) – where armed groups continue to operate and women's rights are vigorously denied.

SAWERA works to promote women's rights and to combat domestic violence, but in doing so faces tremendous personal risk. In 2012, Farida Afridi was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle. In 2013, the SAWERA offices were bombed, destroying the building. Yet, despite these attacks and on-going challenges, SAWERA has vowed to continue its peaceful struggle.

Accepting the award on behalf of SAWERA, Noorzia Afridi said **"We are still committed and we have still not lost our courage. If they kill one, a thousand will arise, if they kill a thousand a million will arise [...]"**.

Presenting the award, Sean Penn said "When I think of what it means, for these people – the isolation, the feeling of being a lone voice in the wilderness, the moments of doubt when you begin to question even your own deepest held beliefs – then I begin to understand the true meaning of courage." □

THE OTHER FINALISTS FOR THE 2014 FRONT LINE DEFENDERS AWARD WERE:



Ales Bialiatski (Belarus) – chairman of the human rights centre 'Viasna'. Sentenced to four and a half years maximum-security imprisonment in 2011, he received early release in June 2014.



and has seen two of her colleagues murdered.

Berta Caceres (Honduras) – founding director of COPINH and indigenous leader defending the land rights of the Lenca people. Caceres has endured threats, intimidation and attacks



ten years imprisonment and denied the right to appeal.

Mohamed Al Roken (UAE) – human rights lawyer forcibly disappeared in 2012, held in a secret location and tortured. Arrested, charged on trumped-up terrorism charges, sentenced to



Actor Sean Penn presenting Noorzia Afridi of SAWERA with the 2014 Front Line Defenders Award.



Adilur Rahman Khan (Bangladesh) – a founding lawyer of the human rights organisation, Odhikar. Arrested and charged with publishing false information and disrupting public order

after publishing a report on the behaviour of security forces. After three attempts, granted bail, but the politically motivated charges remain.



her work. Her home was also torched.

Lydia Mukami (Kenya) – chair of the Mwea Foundation, a grass-roots organisation of rice farmers. Threatened, abducted, beaten and stripped of her clothes in public as a result of

Building public support for human rights defenders at risk

EVERY YEAR FRONT LINE DEFENDERS organises a series of public events to celebrate the courage of human rights defenders, to bring their personal testimonies to a wider audience and to build a support base for the work of the organisation to deliver more effective support to human rights defenders at risk around the world. One of the most powerful tools we have to work with is the stories of the HRDs themselves. By bringing these stories to an international audience Front Line Defenders hopes to build a political and financial platform to enable these human rights defenders to continue their work building more just and equal societies. □



SOLIDARITY WITH CAO SHUNLI
Demonstration in front of the Embassy of China in Dublin; Banners show human rights defender Cao Shunli who died from organ failure in March, having been in detention for five months during which her health terminally declined through lack of medical treatment.



BREAKING NEW GROUND
Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders with Syrian blogger and human rights defender Razan Ghazzawi during a speaking tour in San Francisco.



ON THE RUN
Front Line Defenders Mini-Marathon Team raising vital funds for the Security Grants Programme.



KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON BAHRAIN

Nabeel Rajab visited Dublin for media and advocacy work to highlight the ongoing human rights crisis in Bahrain. He has since been sentenced to six months in prison for a tweet in which he allegedly insulted the King.

Left to right: David Andrews, former Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nabeel Rajab, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, Andrew Anderson, Front Line Defenders.

CONFRONTING THE ONLINE BACKLASH AGAINST HRDS

Digital security guru Bruce Schneier at Front Line Defenders Annual Lecture, held in partnership with University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin.

Left to right: Dr Oran Doyle, Trinity College Dublin, Andrew Anderson, Front Line Defenders, Bruce Schneier, Dr Graham Finlay, University College Dublin.





IN THEIR OWN WORDS – THE VOICES OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
 Marking the Day of the Imprisoned Writer with Irish PEN, the Dublin Book Festival and RTE's Arena arts programme. Left to right: author Anne Enright, journalist and Minsk Bureau Chief with Novaya Gazeta, Iryna Khalip, author Martina Devlin and presenter of Arena RTÉ Radio 1, Sean Rocks.



SPRING SPEAKER'S TOUR
 Russian human rights defender and director of the Anti-Discrimination Centre "Memorial" Stephania Kulaeva participated in the spring speaker's tour.



LEGION OF HONOUR AWARD
 His Excellency the French Ambassador Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault presented the Order of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour to Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders at a reception in the French Embassy in Dublin in July.

Front Line Defenders Campaigns

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS campaigning efforts focus on enhancing the visibility, legitimacy and recognition of human rights defenders across the world. Through awareness-raising initiatives on the courageous work of human rights defenders and the challenges they face, Front Line Defenders helps build a growing pool of supporters ready to demand and act for the protection of defenders at risk. Public engagement, mobilisation and media attention exerts pressure on decision-makers and duty-bearers to recognise and protect the role of human rights defenders, empowering them and contributing to the reach of their human rights work.

In 2014, Front Line Defenders developed two international campaigns that ran in conjunction with the two major international sporting events of the year – **the Sochi Olympics in Russia and the World Cup in Brazil**. Individual HRDs from participating nations were profiled in each of the campaigns which provided more information about the risks the defenders face in conducting their human rights work.

For the first time, the World Cup campaign was conducted on two platforms – one localised in Brazil for a Brazilian audience, developed by local NGO partners Justiça Global and Terra de Direitos and featuring 11 human rights defenders at risk; and one international, with one human rights defender representing each of the 31 other participating countries in the Cup.

Following up on the local campaign in Brazil, the 11 HRDs and the partner organisations participated in advocacy days at the Brazilian Parliament, meeting with elected officials, representatives of government ministries and media. According to our partners, the campaign had significant impact: bringing public attention to violations against HRDs; allowing the partners to set guidelines for the Department of Human Rights and Protection Program; contributing to the process of re-coordinating the Brazilian Committee of HRDs; and building and strengthening a network to talk about and

advocate for human rights defenders.

This year has also seen the establishment of our video magazine webcast on human rights defenders, **Multiple Exposure**. Each monthly episode offers viewers in-depth views from the ground through three short documentaries or one-on-one interviews.

Front Line Defenders has also taken part in the international campaign **Free Syrian Voices**, in partnership with Amnesty International, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, FIDH, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders. Together with other international, regional and Syrian organizations, we are joining efforts for the release of human rights defenders, in particular activists, media and humanitarian workers, arbitrarily detained or forcibly disappeared in Syria, through documentation, awareness raising, advocacy and mobilisation.

In July 2014, at the request of African human rights defenders, the **We Are Africa** initiative was launched to demand that African civil society representatives must be included in an official capacity at the US-Africa Summit, an event organised for the first time by President Obama. The succeeding pan-African mobilisation resulted in several human rights defenders receiving an invitation to participate in high-level meetings, including an invitation for one Mauritanian WHRD to attend the official White House State Dinner.

In the implementation of long term strategies – guided by the needs and preferences expressed by human rights defenders working on the ground – it is essential to make available to the defenders innovative and compelling initiatives and tools that can engage and involve audiences and the media to support the defense of human rights. Front Line Defenders continues to explore new tactics and strategies to empower human rights defenders in their local contexts. □



Above: Azimjan Askarov, imprisoned in the Kyrgyz Republic, was one of the cases featured in the Olympics campaign.



Above: Félix Díaz is the leader of the Comunidad Qom Potae Napocna Navogoh in La Primavera, in northeast Argentina. His case was featured in the World Cup campaign.



Above: Front Line Defenders has also taken part in the international campaign Free Syrian Voices, in partnership with Amnesty International, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, FIDH, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders.

Below: The We Are Africa initiative was launched to demand that African civil society representatives must be included in an official capacity at the US-Africa Summit.



Above: Front Line Defenders report 'Environmental Rights Defenders at Risk in Peru' which exposed the damage and dangers caused by large scale mining projects.

World Cup 2014
campaign highlights
critical situation of
HRDs in Brazil



CACIQUE LÁDIO VERON
Defending the land rights of the
indigenous Guarani-Kaiowa people



ROSE MEIRE DOS SANTOS SILVA
Defending the land rights of the
Quilombola people



MÁRCIO MARINS
Defending the rights of the
AfroLGBT community



**OSVALINDA MARIA MARCELINO ALVES
PEREIRA**
Human rights monitor in
land resettlement programme



JOÃO JOVENTINO
Defending land rights in the face of major
monoculture and windfarm projects



INDIANARA SIQUEIRA
Defending the rights of the
transgender community



DÉBORA MARIA DA SILVA
Defending the rights of
victims of state violence



ROSIVALDO MORAES CORREIA
Defending the land rights of local
communities in Rio Gurupa



VITOR LIRA
Defending the rights of slum dwellers
against commercial developers in Rio



LAÍSA SANTOS
Defending the land and environmental
rights of small communities



CACIQUE BABAU
Defending the land rights of
the Tupinambá people



ANNUAL REPORT ON GLOBAL TRENDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The report provides a snapshot of the situation for human rights defenders in 2014 on both the global and regional level.

- The report will be available in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

WORKBOOK ON SECURITY: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT RISK

The Workbook on Security is designed to raise awareness about security issues and to help human rights defenders consider how to mitigate threats. The workbook takes human rights defenders through the steps to producing a security plan – for individuals and for organisations. It follows a systematic approach for assessing their security situation and developing risk and vulnerability reduction strategies and tactics.

- Available in Arabic, Chinese, Dari, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Urdu.



PROTECTION HANDBOOK

The Protection Handbook is intended as a quick reference tool for human rights defenders, in which to find helpful and practical suggestions on how to deal with threats, intimidation and attacks in order to improve their personal and organisational security.

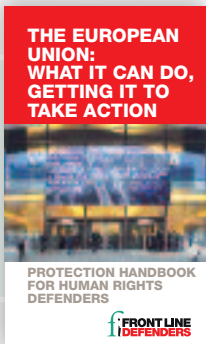
- Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

SECURITY-IN-A-BOX – TOOLS AND TACTICS FOR YOUR DIGITAL SECURITY



Security in a Box, created and developed by Front Line Defenders and Tactical Technology Collective, is a toolkit of peer-reviewed free and open source software and guides for improving the security and privacy of stored information and communication. The aim of the toolkit is to provide an understanding of the risks involved in electronic communication and provide a practical step by step guide towards the implementation of practical solutions. <https://securityinabox.org>

- Available in Amharic, Arabic, Bahasa, Burmese, English, Farsi, French, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish and Vietnamese.



THE EUROPEAN UNION: WHAT IT CAN DO, GETTING IT TO TAKE ACTION

This handbook shows what protection human rights defenders can expect from EU Delegations and Member State Embassies and how to proceed to get the EU to take action. It also gives some tips for effective strategies for lobbying and advocacy towards the EU and contains a quick reference table for requesting EU action.

- Available in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

WHAT PROTECTION CAN UNITED NATIONS FIELD PRESENCES PROVIDE?

The handbook gives a summary of the type of support and protection UN agencies can provide locally to human rights defenders. It is intended to give practical and helpful suggestions to human rights defenders on how to engage constructively with the UN.

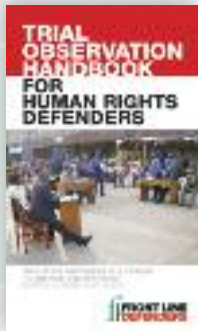
- Available in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish.



MULTIPLE EXPOSURE (MONTHLY VIDEO MAGAZINE)

Multiple Exposure is a monthly video magazine broadcast focusing on human rights defenders at risk and the context of their work. Segments in the series offer a behind-the-scenes peek at the difficulty of carrying out human rights work in different countries; information about trends and political developments that directly impact human rights; and profiles of individual human rights defenders at risk.

<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/multipleexposure>



TRIAL OBSERVATION HANDBOOK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

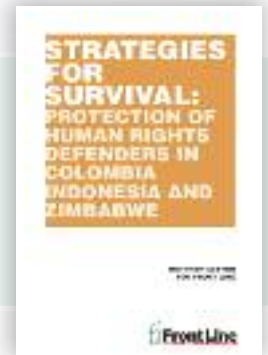
The Trial Observation Handbook for Human Rights Defenders (Front Line Defenders 2012) is designed as a resource to enable trial observers to accurately report on trial proceedings and to contribute to the protection of HRDs facing prosecution by highlighting injustice and the lack of due process.

■ Available in English.

STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL: PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA, INDONESIA AND ZIMBABWE

This report documents the threats faced by human rights defenders and identifies the creative strategies that they have developed to improve their security.

■ Available in Bahasa, English, Spanish.



INSISTE, PERSISTE, RESISTE, EXISTE: WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' SECURITY STRATEGIES

Produced together with Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights and Kvinna Till Kvinna, this report describes the strategies used by women human rights defenders to combat the specific threats they face.

■ Available in Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

GUIDEBOOK ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A SCHENGEN VISA

This is a useful tool for human rights defenders to better understand the Schengen visa application process. The Schengen Area comprises 26 European countries with a common visa policy. With a view to help speed up the visa delivery process, the guidebook provides useful tips for human rights defenders at risk who need to come to Europe for temporary relocation, in order to flee insecure and stressful environments.

■ Available in English, French, Spanish.



All of these resources are available on our website at www.frontlinedefenders.org/resources

To order a copy of any of our publications please send an email to info@frontlinedefenders.org specifying the publication and language requested.

Rest and Respite for Human Rights Defenders

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS SUPPORTED 41 human rights defenders through its Rest and Respite Programme in 2014. Throughout the year, human rights defenders took time out to recuperate from burnout and stress.

They improved their English fluency, made connections with other organisations working on women's rights, disability rights and the provision of legal advice. They developed risk assessment and security planning skills and learned about tools for online security with Front Line Defenders staff.

Robert Sann Aung, a human rights lawyer from Burma, was hosted in Dublin for a short period of rest and respite.

During the Fellowship, Robert took English classes and shared information about his work and experiences, including having been tortured, imprisoned for more than ten years and his license to practice law revoked.

In 2012, he had his law license returned by the Supreme Court and is currently working as a *pro bono* lawyer, travelling around Burma taking up cases of human rights defenders prosecuted for their work throughout Burma.

Burma Action Ireland also provided a warm welcome to Robert. At the end of his stay, he commented "I visited a police station and police headquarters, the criminal court and two prisons. The conditions in court and under custody in Ireland are very different to Burma. I want to work with the authorities to change the conditions in Burma." □



Ukrainian human rights defenders (left to right) Nazarii Boiarskyi, Ruslana Panukhnyk, Volodymyr Feskov, Oleksandra Matviychuk, Anastasia Rozlutska, Oles Kurivchak, Natalia Koshin and Taras Gatalyak at a stress management workshop in Georgia in May.



Left: Burmese lawyer Robert Sann Aung at the Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin.



Above: Fadel Al-Mzainy (left), from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza and Massaad Abu Fajr (right) who advocates for the rights of Bedouin people in Sinai, Egypt, improved their English through intensive language study while on Fellowship in Dublin for two months in the autumn.

Lal Jan Afridi and Hena Gul (pictured right) of Society for Appraisal and Women Empowerment in Rural Areas (SAWERA), Pakistan, on rest and respite in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March.

With the support of Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law & Development and the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, the human rights defenders met women's rights organisations and funders in the region enabling them to strengthen their connections and promote their work on women's rights. In their feedback, they reported,

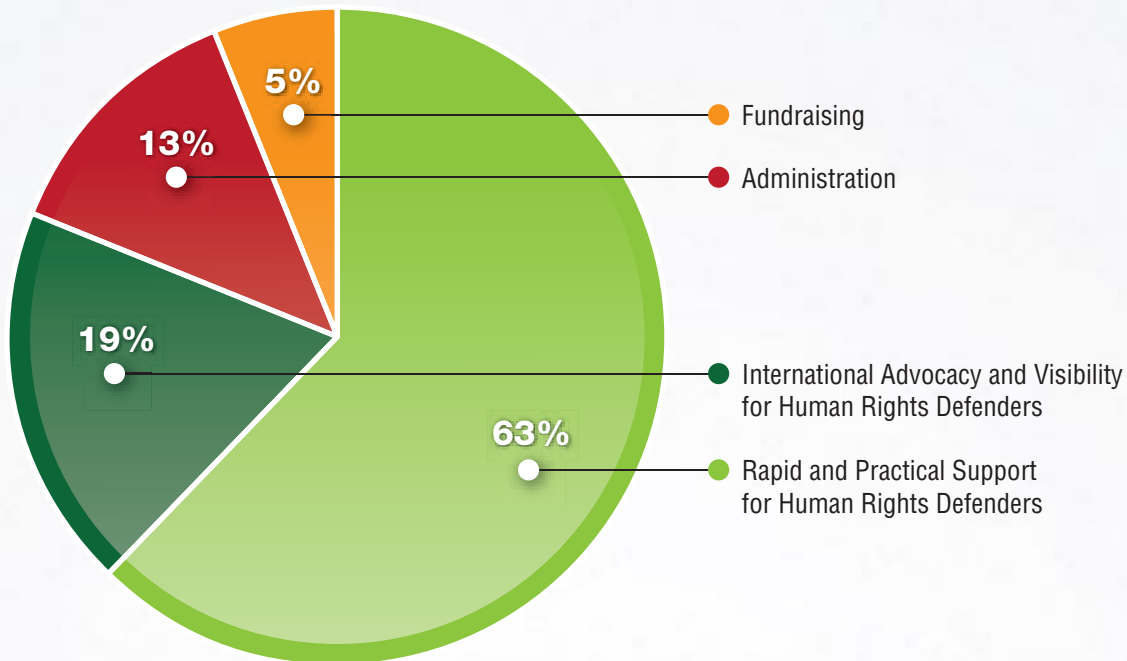
"We visited water falls, historical temples, churches and mosques. We got to know about the culture of Thai people and explored ideas regarding humanity and women's



empowerment. During the meetings with different organisations we heard new perspectives on security protocols and how to improve our security systems and policy. We also increased our knowledge about fundraising. SAWERA wants to develop a fundraising strategy and this trip made an impact on how and what to do."

2014 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW



Front Line Defenders is grateful for the generous support of the following donors:

€200,000+

Adessium Foundation
 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
 Irish Aid
 Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Oak Foundation
 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 Sigrid Rausing Trust

€100,000 - €199,000

Foundation for a Just Society
 Lifeline Embattled NGO Assistance Fund
 Hivos International
 Open Society Foundations
 Anonymous

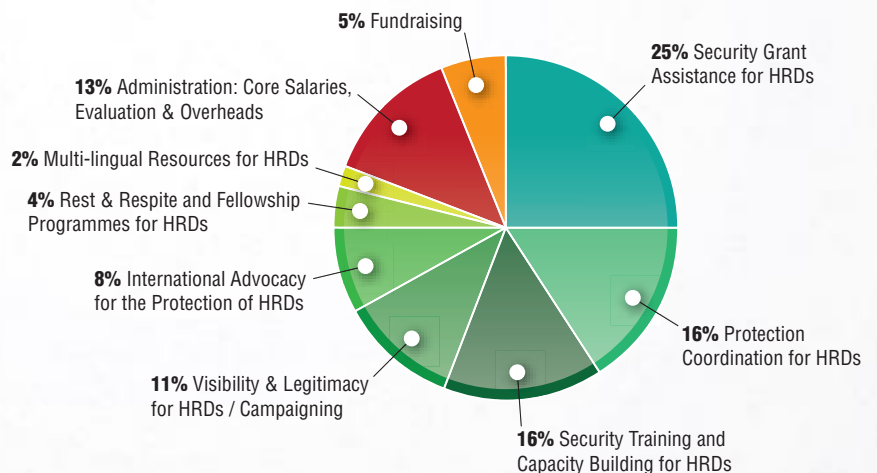
€50,000 - €99,000

American Jewish World Service

€5,000 - €49,000

Arcus Foundation
 Bread for the World
 The Channel Foundation
 Economist Group
 Fairwind Foundation
 Fyffes plc
 The Ireland Funds
 The Overbrook Foundation
 Peter Schattner
 The Roddick Foundation
 Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
 Tides Foundation
 The Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
 The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust
 The Participants of the 2014 Front Line Defenders Golf Classic
 Public donations

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



WHERE FRONT LINE DEFENDERS SPENDS ITS RESOURCES

Security Grant Assistance for HRDs	1,054,954
Protection Coordination for HRDs	671,850
Security Training & Capacity Building	635,353
Visibility & Legitimacy for HRDs / Campaigning	471,185
International Advocacy for the Protection of HRDs	339,388
Rest & Respite and Fellowship Programmes for HRDs	152,766
Multi-lingual Resources for HRDs	104,292
Fundraising	238,503
Administration: Core Salaries, Evaluation & Overheads	548,994
TOTAL Expenditure*	4,217,285

*Official figures pending completion of 2014 Audit of Front Line Defenders Accounts.

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINE

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2014

My Country, I Will Build You Again

This poem is by renowned Iranian poet and human rights defender Simin Behbahani. Known as the "Lioness of Iran", she challenged oppression and spoke out for human rights under the governments of both the Shah and the Islamic Republic.

For millions of Iranians all over the world, Simin Behbahani represented the invincible power of the Iranian psyche. Her words were piercing and fierce, lamenting the lack of freedom of expression through the ages.

For six decades, many Iranians found refuge in her poetry as a way to nurture their hunger for dialogue, peace, human rights and equality.

My country, I will build you again,
If need be, with bricks made from my life.
I will build columns to support your roof,
If need be, with my bones.
I will inhale again the perfume of flowers
Favoured by your youth.
I will wash again the blood off your body
With torrents of my tears.
Once more, the darkness will leave this house.
I will paint my poems blue with the colour of our sky.
The resurrector of "old bones" will grant me in his bounty
a mountain's splendour in his testing grounds.
Old I may be, but given the chance, I will learn.
I will begin a second youth alongside my progeny.
I will recite the Hadith of love and country
With such fervour as to make each word bear life.
There still burns a fire in my breast
to keep undiminished the warmth of kinship
I feel for my people.
Once more you will grant me strength,
though my poems have settled in blood.
Once more I will build you with my life,
though it be beyond my means.

Translated by Farzaneh Milani and Kaveh Safa

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FOUNDATION



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