

[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.



Front Cover: Rebeca Masika from Democratic Republic of Congo, discussing security and protection with fellow human rights defenders.

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS

Registered Charity Number CHY 14029

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. He founded the Communicorp Group which has a portfolio of media and broadcasting-related companies in Ireland and seven other European countries. 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.



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.



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.



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



Michel Forst is Secretary General of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. He was Secretary General of the Paris Summit of Human Rights Defenders and Director of the French section of Amnesty International.



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.



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 Lawlor (Director) has over 35 years experience in human rights. She set up Front Line Defenders in 2001 with a \$3 million donation from Denis O'Brien. She was Director of Amnesty International from 1988-2000. She became a Board member in 1975 and was elected Chair from 1983 to 1987. She has wide experience of developing and sustaining a human rights organisation. She serves as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board.

ADVISORY COUNCIL



Maryam Elahi is President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. She has spent 25 years in the international human rights community as an advocate, teacher and grant-maker. She was previously the director of the International Women's Program at the Open Society Foundations.



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).

editorial

In October, Front Line Defenders hosted the 7th Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders. There were 135 human rights defenders at risk from 90 countries and for me, the most powerful part of the Dublin Platform was listening to the testimonies of the human rights defenders themselves. Often a testimony stops you in your tracks. It is almost too hard to listen to and you find yourself remembering it over and over because of the sheer cruelty that was inflicted on the person and the unimaginable courage that they needed to stand up and start over again.

Rebeca Masika's story is one such example. Rebeca is from eastern Congo. She was raped in a particularly violent and brutal manner and her daughters were also attacked. But she summoned the courage and the strength to act, not just for herself but for the other women in her community in the same situation.

Rebeca set up a group called the Association of Disinherited Persons United for Development (Association des Personnes Dshéritées Unies pour le Développement – APDUD) to help women and their children born of rape. They support each other, working in the fields and growing food to sell so that they can rebuild their lives and the children can go to school. As she said in her testimony, "I had to do something empowering for myself and for other women. To help women move from the state they are in today and reconnect with the women they were before. We want to show them that just because they have been raped, this is not the end. You can start again and build something fresh and new, you can be something."

This is a struggle that is retold by women human rights defenders in many countries. Agnes Daroczi fighting racism against the Roma people of Hungary, Tep Vany helping a community of farmers to hold on to their land

in Cambodia, Irina Khalyp defending freedom of expression in Belarus, Ruth Mumbi fighting for decent health care for women in the slums of Nairobi, or Morena Herrera fighting for sexual and reproductive rights for women in El Salvador. All telling us how they overcame fear as they listened for the knock on the door in the small hours of the night, how they stood firm against threats, how they recovered from rejection by their families and how in the end they found the strength to continue.

Women human rights defenders play a vital role in defending the rights of their communities in times of conflict and danger, they hold families and communities together and they challenge the power of the abusers. But often when the time comes to make the decisions and the deals that will shape their future lives, those in power want that role forgotten and to relegate these women once again to the shadows.

Increasingly women human rights defenders refuse to be silenced and their bravery is unquestionable. Recently we had a woman human rights defender in Dublin for rest and respite from a region where the Taliban operate. While she was with us she had counselling and physiotherapy for constant pain in her back. The day before she went home I complimented her on her hair which was beautifully braided. She looked at me with



Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders and Vincent Forest, Front Line Defenders (Brussels) listening to testimonies of human rights defenders.

shining eyes and said "That is the tradition under the Taliban – I'm hoping if I wear it like this they won't kill me."

This is the human spirit, the triumph of hope over experience, captured by our late beloved poet, Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney who believed we were put here to improve civilisation and that we should always "Walk on air against your better judgement". In a text message to his wife minutes before he died he said: 'Noli timere' – don't be afraid. **□**

Mary Lawlor
Executive Director
Front Line Defenders

2013 AT A GLANCE



Front Line Defenders issued **386 urgent appeals and updates** on behalf of 426 individuals at risk in 64 countries.

The EU Office lobbied the European Union on 156 cases with a positive response in 48% of cases.

The Security Grants Programme awarded 297 grants, totalling €831,792 to individuals and organisations at risk. 113 grants were

awarded for temporary relocations of individual human rights defenders and family members.

The Front Line Defenders Award was awarded to **Biram Dah Abeid of Mauritania**.

The Seventh Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders brought together 135 human rights defenders from 90 different countries.

166 human rights defenders participated in **security and protection trainings** and 314 in

digital security trainings.

Front Line Defenders carried out 40 **missions** to 34 countries.

Lives on the Line, a documentary on the situation for human rights defenders in Guatemala, narrated by Martin Sheen, was broadcast on Irish television.

US political theorist and activist, Professor Noam Chomsky, spoke at the inaugural **Annual Front Line Defenders Lecture** held in partnership with University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin.

Human rights defenders Elia Escobedo Garcia from Mexico and Yara Bader from Syria took part in **speaking tours in Ireland**.

The European Union: What it can do, getting it to take action **handbook** was published in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaigns were broadcast on radio stations in Honduras and Macedonia and on television in Colombia. **□**



MAGADONGA MAHLANGU
is a Zimbabwean HRD who has been jailed numerous times for her work for rights and freedoms.

Zimbabwe



ABDULHADI AL-KHAWAJA
is a Bahraini HRD, sentenced to life in prison following the crackdown on the Bahraini uprising in 2011.

Bahrain



MANSOUREH BEHKISH
is an Iranian HRD who campaigns for victims' rights, and who is constantly harassed by the authorities.

Iran



AZIMJAN ASKAROV
is a human rights defender in Kyrgyzstan who was sentenced to life in prison after torture and an unfair trial marked by threats, intimidation and denial of due process.

Kyrgyzstan



DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING

DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING GIVES HRDS THE SKILLS TO COMMUNICATE SAFELY ONLINE AND PROTECT SENSITIVE INFORMATION



314 HRDS { 40 COUNTRIES
34 WORKSHOPS



VISIBILITY & ADVOCACY

HRDS BELIEVE THAT VISIBILITY AND ADVOCACY DISSUADE ATTACKS AND ENHANCE LEGITIMACY



386 URGENT APPEALS AND UPDATES ON 426 HRDS AT RISK IN 64 COUNTRIES

386



Public communications and social media are essential elements in enhancing recognition and support for HRDs.



SECURITY GRANTS

SECURITY GRANTS PROVIDE PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR PROTECTION MEASURES FOR HRDS AT RISK



85% of HRDs report improved security after receiving grant

297

297 SECURITY GRANTS
€831,792 DISPENSED

88% of emergency grants were approved within 48 hours

TRAINING PROGRAMMES GIVE HRDS THE SKILLS TO ANALYSE THE RISKS THEY FACE AND IMPLEMENT SECURITY PLANS



PERSONAL & ORGANISATIONAL TRAINING

166

166 HRDS { 21 COUNTRIES
13 WORKSHOPS



70% of HRDs improved skills and procedures following training programmes to improve security



TORTURE/HACKING/ARREST/ARBITRARY DETENTION/IMPRISONMENT/KILLINGS/SMEAR CAMPAIGNS
INTIMIDATION/HARRASSMENT/SURVEILLANCE/ARMED ATTACKS/VERBAL ABUSE/THREATS
CRIMINALISATION/RAIDS/SEXUAL VIOLENCE/PHYSICAL ATTACKS/IMPUNITY/STIGMATISATION
ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE/DEATH THREATS/MARGINALISATION/ILL-TREATMENT/MURDER

Africa

In 2013, Front Line Defenders carried out field visits to **Uganda, Kenya, Togo, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi**, consolidating its outreach to several dozens of human rights defenders at risk.

In March, Front Line Defenders conducted a field mission to **Togo** triggered by persistent reports of repression against civil society, particularly of groups and individual activists participating in an informal movement dubbed «Collectif Sauvons le Togo» (Save Togo Coalition) seeking democratic reforms in the country. The mission met with groups of trade unionists, media professionals and human rights lawyers who have faced threats as a result of their activism.

Government intelligence services tried to infiltrate human rights groups and independent media organisations when efforts to co-opt them failed. Torture is widespread in Togolese prisons, and defenders who are arrested, particularly by the National Intelligence Agency, are particularly at risk of being tortured.

While in the capital Lomé, Front Line Defenders met with André Afanou, executive director of a network of up to 15 human rights groups advocating for an end to impunity in Togo, called Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT). Afanou believes that threats against human rights defenders in Togo are fuelled by a culture of impunity.

Throughout the year Front Line Defenders' Protection Coordinator held ongoing meetings with the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in Kenya. Njoki Kamau of the Coalition described the situation in Kenya, "As human rights defenders, we are like antelopes in a wild forest: there are lions all around, and they can strike at any time."

In August and November, visits were carried



From left to right: Victor Munene, Secretary General, Lydia Mukami, Chairperson, Paul Muchira, Treasurer and Joseph Muchiri, Vice-Chair of the Mwea Foundation in Nairobi.

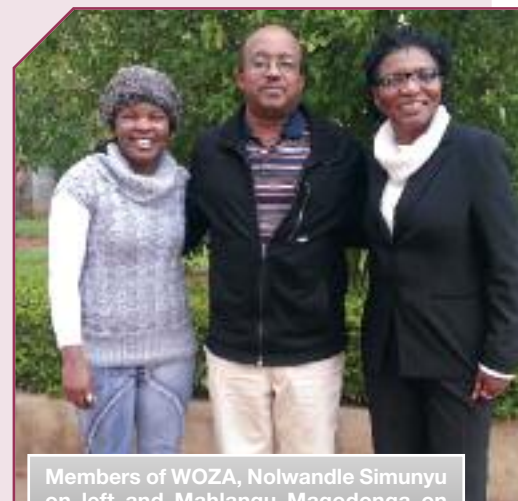
out to the Mwea Foundation, a grassroots organisation of rice farmers in the Mwea constituency in Central **Kenya** that has been at the forefront of an intensive campaign to challenge the constitutionality of Kenya's 1966 Irrigation Act which prohibits land-ownership by women and violates the socio-economic rights of Mwea farmers. In June its chairperson, Lydia Mukami, was abducted and assaulted by unidentified men and there were renewed threats against other leaders of the foundation. Front Line Defenders responded with a security grant and held multiple meetings with Mukami and her colleagues in an effort to advise them on their security plans.

Despite the threats, Vice-chair Victor Munene is adamant: "We just cannot sit back while our rights are being denied... we have to continue."

In **Senegal** when five LGBT human rights defenders and members of "Sourire de

Femme" were arrested in November, the case was raised with the EU Delegation and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EU Delegation replied the same day, indicating that it had contacted the HRD's organisation to express support and were in high level contact with the Ministry of Justice regarding the case. The Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs replied a few days later informing us that the five defenders had been released and freed of all charges.

Training of Trainers workshops in digital security were held for Zimbabwean human rights defenders and East African human rights defenders in September. Two workshops on personal and organisational security were held in Tunis and Istanbul as part of the Security Course for Arabic and English-speaking human rights defenders, with participants from Africa and the Middle East. After one of the workshops, Musa Usman Ndamba



Members of WOZA, Nalwandle Simunyu on left and Mahlangu Magodonga on right, with Front Line Defenders Protection Coordinator Aloys Habimana in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in October.

ZIMBABWE

In a field mission carried out in late September in Zimbabwe, two months after the country's general elections, Front Line Defenders held meetings with human rights defenders at risk in Harare, Bulawayo and Kwekwe to understand their post-election concerns. There was rising anxiety among key civil society actors about what the new political dispensation had in store for them; and a wave of judicial proceedings against prominent human rights defenders contributed to the anxiety.

In the period leading up to the elections, several human rights defenders had faced threats, and some were arrested on unsubstantiated allegations of attempts to manipulate the electoral process. According to Jasper Maposa, programme manager at Zimbabwe Youth in Politics (ZOYP), a civic education group based in Kwekwe, "there was a general strategy to silence all organisations that could open the eyes of the people."

A major problem relates to the continued police and judicial harassment of prominent human rights defenders. Mahlangu Magodonga of Zimbabwe Women Arise (WOZA) reported that she has been held in police custody up to 53 times and sent to prison three times since 2003. WOZA as an organisation has been on trial up to 12 times as a result of its advocacy work.

The State has started using the charge of "operating an illegal organisation" against some prominent human rights defenders including Abel Chikomo of the Human Rights NGO Forum and Jestina Mukoko of Zimbabwe Peace Project.

"As human rights defenders, we are like antelopes in a wild forest: there are lions all around, and they can hit at any time."

Q DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO

Front Line Defenders visited human rights defenders in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in April with the aim of consulting with HRDs on issues relating to their security. One of the strategies adopted after our interactions with HRDs was the opening of a safe house to cater for frequent relocation needs of HRDs, particularly for women HRDs operating in remote rural areas. In the six months since the safe house opened, three HRDs who were attacked due to their activism have stayed in the house, assisted through the security grants programme.

Security challenges faced by human rights defenders in the region are enormous. As Abigael Bitondo, of Gender in Action towards a Better Future for Women (GAD) in Uvira put it, "The more you advocate for human rights in this region, the more you make yourself insecure." Participants at the meetings organised in Uvira, Bukavu and Minova exchanged ideas on the development of an alert system capable of expediting the sharing of information on threats faced by HRDs at risk.

Front Line Defenders also visited Rebeca Masika, a WHRD who runs a shelter for survivors of sexual violence in the town of Minova and conducts a sensitisation campaign against gender-based violence and abuse of children in the area. A few months earlier, Rebecca's shelter had been ransacked by elements of the regular army. After this visit Front Line Defenders committed funds towards the construction of a security fence around the shelter.



L to R: Women's rights defenders, Marie Misukyo, SOFIBEF and Bernadette Ntumba, AMCAV with Natacha O'Brien, Front Line Defenders in DRC in April.

When Bernadette Ntumba discovered an anonymous letter in her office threatening her in relation to her human rights activities in July, she had to go into hiding. The Front Line Defenders EU Office contacted the EU Delegation which replied the next day to say it had contacted her by phone and received additional information on her situation. Since then, Bernadette has reported that she is feeling more secure and has resumed her human rights work.

French language digital security training at the Dublin Platform.



from Cameroon said "I have been working with many organisations at the international level but the organisation I found more practical and more efficient is Front Line Defenders."

Hassan Gesey, Radio Station Director in Mogadishu, Somalia, gave the following feedback, "Since I began the Security Course our office has totally changed. Our daily

meetings now include situation updates and our staff have changed their behaviour. It is still very dangerous work but it is a good start. I am now translating the Front Line Defenders Workbook on Security into Somali." □

Grants

■ Grants were provided to help Kenyan human rights defenders Lydia Mukami and Paul Muchira and their families to relocate temporarily and to receive counselling.

Lydia Mukami had been abducted by unidentified men, physically assaulted for several hours and abandoned in the bush. Lydia gave feedback, "We can now enjoy a sense of security away from a hostile environment... Victory belongs to those who take the pains. Thank you for sharing our pain."

■ A grant was given to Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUA) in Cameroon for legal consultation and defence of six human rights defenders who were facing judicial harassment due to their work on land rights.

"Without the security grant we would have had insufficient legal representation in cases financed and instituted by a very powerful multi-millionaire human rights abuser."

Below: A role play with Tarek Alghorany (left) and Jasper Maposa (right) preceded discussion of how to reduce the likelihood of being assaulted by the police, and how to lessen the impact if one is assaulted, at the Security Course workshop for Arabic and English-speaking HRDs held in Tunisia.



Americas

This year has seen serious threats and attacks against human rights defenders in the region, from targeted defamation campaigns against environmental defenders in Guatemala, to increased intimidation of human rights lawyers and journalists in Haiti. In many countries the space for civil society continues to shrink and violence against human rights defenders is on the rise.

Front Line Defenders visited Nicaragua in March to establish links with human rights defenders. Meetings were facilitated by the Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH). Human rights defenders reported on issues such as violence against women and children, lack of freedom of expression and of association, impunity, corruption, police violence, and indigenous communities and the environment at risk.

A workshop on the EU Guidelines was organised in Caracas, Venezuela in March. Twenty-one HRDs and five EU representatives attended, with discussions on improving access for human rights defenders to EU and Member State funding, the need for more



Venezuelan human rights defenders at a Front Line Defenders workshop on the EU Guidelines.

training and networking and responses by the EU Missions on individual cases of human rights defenders at risk. Human rights defenders called on the EU to move from words to action, regretting that embassies were closing. "I don't want money, I want accompaniment and visibility," stated one participant. The EU Delegation said that it could do more on all topics identified by the HRDs but that "On every issue, the slowest Member State determines the speed of the EU train."

Other advocacy work with the EU included raising the case of Colombian human rights defender Father Alberto Franco, who had shots fired at his vehicle in February. The EU Delegation responded immediately that it would discuss the case with Member States. A few days later it informed us that Delegation and Member State representatives had visited the HRD's offices to discuss the situation with him.

In August, Front Line Defenders travelled to Guatemala to attend a crisis meeting of national and international NGOs coordinated by COFADEH, the national body responsible for documenting and reporting on attacks on human rights defenders. There had already been 595 attacks on HRDs in the country in the first half of the year and a defamatory campaign was launched against them. The aim of the meeting was to develop a shared strategy for the protection of human rights defenders.

Front Line Defenders also travelled to New Orleans, Tucson and New York in the USA to find out more about risks faced by individuals and organisations working on human rights. Human rights defenders reported police harassment, intimidation and arson attacks for their work on behalf of workers' rights, housing rights, migrant rights, prisoner rights, LGBTI rights, reproductive rights and environmental rights. Information security and privacy, and FBI / police persecution were also issues of significant concern.

Front Line Defenders attended a meeting of the Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders in Suchitoto, El Salvador, where 160 women human rights defenders from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador gathered to strengthen regional links and advance strategies for protection and well-being. A mission and training on digital security in December further strengthened links with human rights defenders in El Salvador, where HRDs who work on issues related to forced disappearance and victims of torture, together with environmental rights defenders who oppose mining companies face increased risks.

Front Line Defenders continued its security and protection training work in the region. We received the following feedback from an HRD

"I don't want money, I want accompaniment and visibility."



Left to right: Jess Sundin, Committee to Stop FBI Repression, Ralph Poynter, husband of former US defense lawyer Lynne Stewart whose request for compassionate release from prison in Texas had been denied in October, and Caitriona Rice, Front Line Defenders. A framed copy of Seamus Heaney's poem 'From the Republic of Conscience' was presented to Ralph. Lynne had quoted Seamus Heaney when she spoke at the Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders in 2003. Lynne was eventually released in January 2014.

who participated in a workshop on personal and organisational security held in Colombia in April: "The themes/subjects were very positive. They were of much interest... in addition to being timely to the reality that we live in today. The methodology was very enjoyable, participative and we got to work on the reality of participants' lives. It was theoretical but also practical and simple and easy to comprehend. [...] I am very grateful for all the support to the work we do as human rights defenders in Colombia, since

this type of training strengthens and helps us to continue doing our work on both individual and collective levels." A series of digital security trainings were held in Mexico and Colombia throughout the year and a workshop was held in Honduras in December.

In December, Front Line Defenders was invited to speak at a seminar on the protection of human rights defenders, jointly organised by the Brazilian Government and the European Union during the World Forum on Human Rights in Brasilia.



Above, left to right: Ludwin Hernandez, Comité Ambiental de Cabañas (CAC), Rina Navarrete, Asociación de Amigos de San Isidro (ASIC), Padre Santos Neftalí Ruiz Martínez, CAC and Maria Gerarda Leiva, supporter of ASIC, at the Titihuapa River which would be environmentally affected if the Australian mining corporation Ocean Gold gets the concessions for exploitation of the gold mine in El Salvador.

HAITI

In August, Front Line Defenders travelled to Haiti where there is increasing concern for the security of human rights defenders and space for civil society. In the last year, at least six cases were reported of HRDs being directly targeted, and hostility against civil society in the public discourse has increased. Issues such as corruption, forced evictions, abuse of power and gender violence provoke risks to HRDs.

Human rights lawyers are particularly exposed. Patrice Florvilus, Director of Défenseurs des Opprimés/Opprimés, received threats and a summons to appear in court in connection to his work on a case of forced eviction which ended with the death in police custody of a camp resident. Another lawyer was arrested on false charges for his work on a corruption case which allegedly involved members of the President's family.

A climate of intimidation was denounced by independent journalists and groups supporting women victims of sexual violence. Increased visibility has brought more risks for LGBTI groups with a number of HRDs working on sexual orientation and gender identity reporting threats and break-ins to their offices.



Above: Graffiti of the word "Volé" (for 'voleur' meaning thief) on the office gate of human rights lawyer Mario Joseph in Port au Prince.

Below: Rosnel Jean-Baptiste and Charles Vena Jean of Tet Kole Ti Peyzan, an association working on land rights and the rights of peasants and small farmers.



Grants

■ Due to the high risk of attacks from armed groups, a grant was given to Corporación Acción Humanitaria por la Convivencia y la Paz del Nordeste Antioqueño (CAHUCOPANA) in Colombia, for safe transport for three community leaders and members of the organisation to travel to Medellín to take part in meetings on HRD security.

"We managed to show the National Unit for Protection the risks faced by leaders of CAHUCOPANA after many incidents over a long period were reported to the Ministry of Interior. We persuaded them to carry out an evaluation of the risks faced by our staff."

■ A grant to the Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales (AVANCOS) paid for improved security of the windows, a reinforced steel door, CCTV security cameras and a motion detector, following a break-in and a brutal attack on the caretaker of the organisation at its offices in Guatemala City.

"We have been able to return to our work with a certain amount of normality. Our researchers are now able to restart their work with the communities and hold meetings in our office."

■ HRD Fernando Perisse who founded an informal social movement called Via Sertaneja in Brazil, has received threats and anonymous phone calls and is facing 21 criminal charges due to his work against corruption in public policy and spending. A grant for office security was provided (photos below).

"The feeling of greater security gave us more courage to face the struggle in which we are involved. We know that our safety is not perfect, but we now have greater peace to develop our activities."



Asia

The situation facing human rights defenders in Asia has remained critical in the past year. HRDs are victims of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detentions, judicial harassment, and other forms of intimidation.

During a visit to **Cambodia**, Front Line Defenders met with human rights defenders and community activists at Boeng Kak Lake, Borei Keila, and a community near Phnom Penh Airport - all facing eviction to make way for real estate developments. We visited Yorm Bopha at the Correctional Centre in Phnom Penh. Yorm is a community leader from the Boeng Kak Lake community who was serving a three year prison sentence at the time due to false accusations against her for her work defending her community's right to land. In November, the Supreme Court released her on bail and her case will soon be referred to the Appeal Courts for retrial. Following the mission, Front Line Defenders made a submission to the Universal Periodic Review on Cambodia.

In May, Front Line Defenders travelled to **Pakistan** for meetings with HRDs in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. The complex political, geographical and religious context in Pakistan causes severe challenges for HRDs. Peter Jacob, Director of the National Commission for Justice and Peace, whom we met on mission and whose colleagues have been victims of extrajudicial killings and detention said, "Front Line Defenders' work brightens the dream of a common future based on freedom and dignity for the entire human family. Its work is a source of information and encouragement for human rights defenders working in hard and unpredictable conditions." A training on personal and organisational security for Pakistani HRDs, which was supported by the EU Delegation, took place in Islamabad in December as a follow-up to this mission.

A Training of Trainers on personal and organisational security was held in June with twelve HRDs from Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, working on economic, social, and cultural rights, defending religious minorities and documenting torture and enforced disappearances. A human rights defender from Aceh, Indonesia reported, "After the training, I facilitated a workshop, with the support of Front Line Defenders, for 15 HRDs working on religious intolerance in Indonesia."

A Training of Trainers on digital security took place at the same time, bringing together nine HRDs from Burma, India, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Digital security workshops were also held with HRDs from India (Kashmir), Pakistan and China (Tibet) during the year.

A mission was undertaken to northern **Thailand** to meet with labour activists and HRDs working on community rights and the right to water. Judicial harassment has been the main tool used by authorities and companies to silence HRDs and to prevent them from conducting their work. In



Left to right: Yin Srin, Eng Thorn, Chheav Sopha, Ath Samnang, Tim Sak Mony, members of the Borei Keila community in Cambodia.

September, Front Line Defenders organised a forum on the protection of HRDs jointly with Protection International, Prachatai, and Thai Netizens Network, supported by the EU Delegation to Thailand. The forum brought together more than 100 at-risk grassroots HRDs who advocate for community and environmental rights together. The forum provided HRDs with an opportunity to share experiences on dealing with risks and to connect with national and international organisations working to protect HRDs at risk. A representative from the EU Delegation spoke about the practical support that it could provide to HRDs under the EU Guidelines for HRDs.

When **Adil Rahman Khan** of Odhikar human rights organisation in Bangladesh was arrested in August and charged with "publishing false images and information" and "disrupting the law and order situation" following the the organisation's publication of a fact-finding report about human rights violations that occurred during the police crackdown of a rally, the Front Line Defenders EU Office contacted the EU Delegation.

It had already issued a local statement condemning the arrest and continued to monitor the case and attend trial sessions (by Netherlands, Sweden, France, Germany). In October the court released Adilur Rahman Khan on bail. He said, "Front Line Defenders has always actively supported Odhikar in its struggle to defend human rights in Bangladesh. When my colleagues and I were facing intimidation from state authorities and I was detained, Front Line Defenders supported us and helped mobilise international

Left to right: Arshid Mehmood, Democratic Commission of Human Development (DCHD), Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders, Tanveer Jahan, DCHD, Pokpong Lawansiri, Front Line Defenders in Lahore, Pakistan in May.



Shahzad Ahmad, Director of Bytes for All, a human rights organisation in Pakistan with a focus on Information and Communication Technologies. Shahzad spoke about the importance of digital security for human rights defenders at the Tech Defenders event during the Web Summit in Dublin in October. Tech Defenders is a new initiative to build support within the technology sector for human rights defenders.

human rights defenders to support our cause."

When a number of HRDs were convicted and sentenced in Vietnam in January, the case was immediately raised with the EU Delegation in Hanoi and an update was sent requesting it to observe the appeal trial in April. The Head of the EU Delegation published a statement on the day of the sentencing, calling on the Vietnamese authorities to "review the sentences immediately." A day after the confirmation of the verdicts by the appeals court on 23 May, the Head of the EU Delegation met with the Vietnamese authorities to protest their refusal to allow international observers to attend the trial. On 31 May the Delegation issued a public statement condemning the verdicts. □



Left: Following a Training of Trainers workshop in Bangkok for Asian HRDs, Ryan Mendoza, Joy Icayan and Sonny Resuena conducted a workshop supported by Front Line Defenders in the Philippines for those working on documenting and investigating enforced disappearances.



Pratubjit Neelapaijit (left) and Margareth Artonang (right) discussing how to improve security measures in the home at the Asia Training of Trainers for HRDs at risk. The small group of WHRD shared their insights with a group of male HRDs to create a plan with gender dimensions identified.

"Front Line Defenders has always actively supported Odhikar in its struggle to defend human rights in Bangladesh."

Grants

■ When members of Housing Rights Task Force in Cambodia feared reprisals after the elections in July, Front Line Defenders provided a grant for their temporary relocation. Sia Phearum reported, "When my work has come under threats, Front Line Defenders helped, protected and motivated me to continue to help grassroots victims. I am not alone. I feel safe and strong to continue my work as human rights defender in Cambodia."

■ Three members of a rural women's rights organisation based in a tribal area in Pakistan, who had faced threats and violence, including a bomb attack on their office, were supported to temporarily relocate in May.

"Now we are proceeding to shift our office to another safe area and to restart our work with new spirit and courage."

■ In Bangladesh, Front Line Defenders supported Shahed Kayes and his organisation, Subornogram Foundation, with a grant for legal fees to deal with a number of lawsuits filed against Shahed for his work promoting environmental awareness and the rights of women and children. "My team and I are working to save the livelihood of 12,000 islanders and the environment of Mayadip and Nunertek islands, from the illegal sand grabbers for the past four years. It was almost impossible for me and my team to run the cases against us by the Government. Without Front Line Defenders' help we could not continue our work."

BURMA



Photo: Cheery Zahau, Institute of Chin Affairs; Isabell Poppelbaum, EU Delegation; Bo Bo Aung, Earth Rights International, in a small group discussion on practical actions to improve the implementation of the EU Guidelines on HRDs at the workshop on the EU Guidelines in Rangoon, Burma.

Front Line Defenders undertook a research mission to Burma in April. Although there has been some progress in the country as a result of political reforms, serious challenges remain. Front Line Defenders met with HRDs who have been imprisoned as a result of their human rights work and heard testimonies of how they faced difficulties integrating into society after they were released.

Front Line Defenders organised a workshop on the EU Guidelines for Human Rights Defenders in Rangoon in October. 17 HRDs learned about the types of practical support the EU can provide under the EU Guidelines, and about best practices from other countries. Diplomats from the British, Czech, French, German, and Norwegian Embassies and the EU Delegation

attended the workshop with the purpose of building sustainable contacts with HRDs.

Robert Sann Aung, who attended the workshop and has been promoting the situation of HRDs who face charges for campaigning against the Letpadaung mining project in northern Burma said, "Human rights defenders in Burma have to work in a dangerous and threatening environment in the fight for true democracy. We do not have control of our lives and no one can give us protection. After meeting with you and receiving a Front Line Defenders' ID card, I have more courage to represent defenders who have been charged in court. I deeply believe that Front Line Defenders can physically and mentally help activists in Burma."

Europe and Central Asia

The situation for human rights defenders in Europe and Central Asia deteriorated during 2013. The 'Foreign Agents' Law in the **Russian Federation** produced a negative impact on public opinion across the region due to smear campaigns labelling NGOs and human rights defenders as 'foreign agents'. Human rights defenders continued to face threats, intimidations, judicial prosecution and physical attacks in several countries in the region.

In February, Front Line Defenders took part in a forum 'Cooperation, Solidarity, Support', which brought together human rights defenders from **Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan**. The HRDs raised concerns about the lack of solidarity initiatives and regional mechanisms to deal with human rights problems common to the region, and adopted recommendations to strengthen regional cooperation.

Front Line Defenders facilitated a panel discussion at the round-table, "Freedom of Association and Assembly in the OSCE region: What the Ukrainian Chairmanship can do?" in **Kiev** in February and a digital security training was held in Ukraine in June.

When HRD Nazlie Bala was attacked and severely beaten in **Kosovo** in March, Front Line Defenders raised the case with the EU Special Representative to Kosovo who reported that it was monitoring the police investigations closely and had issued a statement condemning the attack.

In July, Front Line Defenders carried out a mission and held a digital security training in **Moldova** where the human rights situation in the Transnistria region is particularly alarming. Corruption remains a huge issue, there are reliable reports of the use of torture in detention facilities and the lack of financial security for human rights organisations makes it difficult to sustain their work.

Front Line Defenders attended the Platform for Human Rights Defenders in **Kazakhstan** in August, which was created by human rights defenders as a space in which to discuss the challenges they face and develop strategies for protection.

Human rights defenders expressed particular concern at the increasing pressure on independent media which is further restricting the limited space for democratic discussion in the country. Front Line Defenders facilitated a session on protection mechanisms and stress management for human rights defenders.

The situation of human rights defender Azimjan Askarov in **Kyrgyzstan**, currently serving life imprisonment for his human rights work, was a key concern. Participants at the forum deplored the Kyrgyz authorities' repeated refusal to investigate his case. When Kyrgyz President, Almazbek Atambaev visited Brussels in September, the Front Line Defenders EU Office used the opportunity to advocate among EU and Kyrgyz officials on behalf of Azimjan and in opposition to the proposed foreign agents law. The President

RUSSIA

Since the introduction of the Foreign Agents law, which determines that any organisation receiving foreign funding and involved in broadly defined 'political activity', must register as a foreign agent, more than one thousand NGOs have been subjected to inspections and dozens brought to court. LGBTI organisation Coming Out was one of the first organisations to be found guilty under the Foreign Agents Law. Administrative charges against the organisation and its director were later dropped but in October, a civil suit was brought against the organisation with the hearing scheduled for March 2014.

A research mission to Chechnya in April gave Front Line Defenders the opportunity to discuss the legal strategies of local human rights organisations to deal with the 'Foreign agents' law. In Chechnya, cases of human rights violations that involve law enforcement personnel are often not investigated and the impunity for perpetrators is carefully protected, including by the federal authorities.

Human rights groups working with asylum seekers and migrants have been subjected to smear campaigns and organisations working on prisoners' rights are facing increased risks. In June, the Russian Parliament adopted a federal law banning the 'propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations' among minors which was directly targeted at the LGBTI community, and significantly affected the work of human rights defenders working on issues such as sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV prevention.

An administrative lawsuit against human rights defender Stanislav Dmitrievsky, requesting that the report on human rights violations 'International Tribunal for Chechnya', be recognised as an extremist publication, was finally rejected in July. Front Line Defenders had provided Stanislav Dmitrievsky with a grant for legal aid and sent a legal observer to the third hearing in the trial.

In September, Front Line Defenders organised a training in personal and organisational security for LGBTI rights defenders from across the Russian Federation. In November, Front Line Defenders undertook a mission to the Russian Federation to meet with organisations working on the rights of prisoners and reform of the penal system.



Polina Baliaeva (left) and Svetlana Bondarenko (right) practice strategies for avoiding assault at a workshop for LGBTI Russian HRDs.



Oub Titiev is head of the Human Rights Centre 'Memorial' office in Chechnya. An ongoing concern for Front Line Defenders has been the lack of progress into the investigation of the murder of Oub's colleague, human rights defender Natalya Estemirova (in portrait), who was kidnapped and killed in July 2009. The alleged perpetrator, Alkhazur Bashaev, was killed in a military operation so the case is now officially considered closed despite a parallel investigation conducted by newspaper 'Novaya gazeta' and Human Rights Centre 'Memorial' contesting the finding. Front Line Defenders has continued to advocate for a full and independent investigation into the killing.



Left to right: Irina Buchinskaya, Embassy of the Netherlands, Harry Putker, Embassy of the Netherlands, Sandra Ljubinkovic, Integrated Security Trainer, Maria Chichtchenkova, Front Line Defenders, Anara Ibrayeva, NGO Dignity, Johnny Kramer, Embassy of Germany, Zauresh Shutova, Frederich Ebert Stiftung, at the Platform for Human Rights Defenders in Kazakhstan.



Above: Human rights lawyer Zinaida Mukhortova from Kazakhstan was held in forced psychiatric confinement for three months due to her human rights work. Legal proceedings against Zinaida on the basis of alleged mental health problems began in 2011 after she lodged complaints of government interference into judicial proceedings. Front Line Defenders worked on her case throughout 2013.

was also due to speak at a conference, and the EU Office worked behind the scenes to ensure these issues were raised publicly. A training on personal and organisational security and digital security for Kyrgyz human rights defenders working in the south of the country was held in **Turkey**.

Front Line Defenders took part in the 3rd Forum of Belarussian human rights defenders in **Lithuania** in October. Delegates adopted a resolution calling on the Belarussian authorities to abolish article 193.1 of the Criminal Code of Belarus which penalises unregistered human rights organisations. The delegates also addressed the worrying situation of Belarussian human rights defender Ales Bialiatsky, who is serving a 4.5 year prison term. Although Ales is allowed to receive correspondence, his communications are closely monitored and he is in almost complete isolation. His case remains a priority for Front Line Defenders.

In December, Front Line Defenders attended a press conference of the Macedonian Helsinki Committee and the LGBT Support Centre to launch the "Love for All" campaign for LGBTI rights defenders in **Macedonia**. In the last year there has been an increase in the number of attacks against LGBTI rights defenders including five attacks on the LGBT Support Centre.



(L to R): Zarema Akhmedova, Kheda Omarkhadzhieva and Inna Ayrapetian, NGO Sintem, Russian Federation - Chechnya.

Grants

■ A grant was provided for the temporary relocation of journalist Yafez Hazanov who works with Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty in Azerbaijan. He had received threats and was blackmailed due to his work reporting on human rights violations and had to relocate during the politically fraught period of the presidential election.

■ A grant was given to Society Without Violence, an organisation working on gender equality in Armenia, for a reinforced steel door, three security cameras and external storage for the security videos. The organisation had been receiving threats and hate messages from groups opposed to a new gender equality law introduced in May.

"We were receiving threats and messages about destroying our office. With the help of this urgent grant we enhanced our security system and increased the safety of our staff members and volunteers. After having installed the cameras and door, we started to go to work with less fear."

Middle East and North Africa

While the Arab Spring raised hopes of progress, in many countries across the region the situation remained difficult for human rights defenders. The extensive media focus on dramatic developments in Egypt and Syria enabled some countries to remain in the shadows.

Front Line Defenders undertook a mission to **Sudan** in April to assess the situation for human rights defenders. The country had witnessed grave human rights violations and excessive use of force by the security forces to counter massive protests. The ongoing violence by government forces, the Janjaweed militia and armed opposition groups forms the backdrop to continued harassment, arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detentions and torture of human rights defenders by Sudanese military and security forces. Freedom of expression and freedom of association have been increasingly curtailed. In particular, NGO members, journalists and student activists have been targeted.

In June, Front Line Defenders travelled to **Yemen** to meet with human rights defenders and to carry out research, in cooperation with the Yemen Organisation for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms, on the situation of human rights defenders. HRDs who are engaged in the National Dialogue, gave an insight into how the human rights situation is likely to develop. Journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani, an active member of the National Dialogue, attended the Seventh Dublin Platform in October which he said gave him an opportunity to hear about experiences of HRDs in other countries with similar situations to Yemen.

The situation for human rights defenders in **Bahrain** remained a serious concern. In April, Front Line Defenders took part in a press conference in the House of Lords in London to coincide with the start of the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Bahrain, and a meeting organised by Redress with Bahraini human rights defenders and international NGOs, to discuss the role NGOs could continue to play in supporting Bahraini human rights defenders and their families.

At the end of June, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, travelled to Bahrain. He stressed to Bahraini authorities the importance of the prompt release of human rights defenders, "both on human rights grounds and to promote national reconciliation." On 1 July the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton released a statement in which she called "for the release of those arrested in the context of peaceful political activities."

Human rights defender and blogger Ali Abdulemam, who had been in hiding in Bahrain and managed to escape with his family in 2013, gave the following feedback, "Thanks to the tools and tactics I mastered from Security in a Box when cooperating with Front Line Defenders I was able to stay in hiding for two years and communicate for all

"the Dublin Platform enriched my ideas and will have a very positive influence on my input into the draft constitution."



Left: Samia Al-Aghbari, who documents and reports on human rights violations in Yemen, particularly those against journalists, at the Dublin Platform in October.



this time without being tracked."

In September, Front Line Defenders participated in a workshop in Turkey for **Syrian** journalists, organised by the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Rory Peck Trust. The aim of the workshop was to find sustainable and cohesive solutions to the crisis faced by Syrian journalists covering the conflict. Participants identified the need for a joint emergency response for journalists, stronger networks for sharing information and a plan for joint advocacy with

On 14 February, the EU Office participated in a demonstration in solidarity with imprisoned Bahraini human rights defenders in front of the Embassy of Bahrain in Brussels for the 2nd anniversary of the uprising. In tandem with this an NGO advocacy campaign was launched on Bahrain in an effort to influence the EU-GCC ministerial meeting to be held on 30 June.



L to R: Radhwan Al Haimi, Yemen; Rebecca Saade, Digital Security Trainer; Nedhal Al Salman, Bahrain, in a role play illustrating security strategies during a demonstration, at the first of two workshops on the Security Course for Arabic and English-speaking HRDs at risk. Copyright Tarek Alghorany.

Q EGYPT



Massaad Abu Fajr from Egypt at the Dublin Platform in October.

"the Dublin Platform enriched my ideas and will have a very positive influence on my input into the draft constitution."

A meeting was held with Women's Group for Human Rights (WGHR), a non-profit group founded by activists who want to support women and marginalised groups in their communities. They described how the situation has worsened since the police and army lost control and due to the increasing influence of Islamist militant groups. WGHR had to change office premises three times due to repeated threats received online and written on the walls of the building. As the situation deteriorated in Sinai, the WGHR received a

The new office of Women's Group for Human Rights (WGHR) with the security of windows and doors reinforced, funded through a Front Line Defenders security grant.



In March, Front Line Defenders undertook a mission to Sinai, Egypt, where we had noted with concern an increasing number of arbitrary arrests and detentions of HRDs. We heard from HRDs about the situation since the revolution and the risks they face following the rise of fundamentalist armed groups in the area.

Front Line Defenders met Massaad Abu Fajr who advocates for the rights of Bedouin people. He had spent 30 months in jail, accused of mobilising protesters to demonstrate against house demolitions on Egypt's border with the Gaza Strip, and is now trying to establish an NGO for the rights of the people of Sinai. Abu Fajr was selected to a committee to draft Egypt's new constitution. Attending the Seventh Dublin Platform he described the challenge of defending human rights in an "independent, safe, third way" between the oppressive state on one side, and armed groups or terrorists on the other. He said,

a security grant for safe transport so they would be able to carry on their work.

In July Front Line Defenders gave two security grants to the Movement for Non-Violence and Peaceful Struggle due to an escalation of threats in the region. One was for legal fees, relocation of the Director and his family, and counselling support for staff. The second paid for safe transport for seven HRDs from the north to the south of Sinai.

the international community.

Front Line Defenders welcomed the release in September of **Iranian** lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh who had been detained since 2010 for her legitimate and peaceful human rights work. She is still under a travel ban and prohibited from practising law.

During the year, Front Line Defenders met with **Kuwaiti** and Bidoon HRDs to understand the challenges in their efforts to achieve full rights for stateless Kuwaitis, known as 'Bidoon', who face discrimination and exist as a marginalised community. A protest movement among the Bidoon community, pressing for more rights, including citizenship, had led to serious crackdowns by the authorities and targeting of human rights defenders.

Human rights defenders from Bahrain, Egypt, Sudan and Yemen together with HRDs from Africa participated on the Security

Course for English and Arabic speakers with workshops held in Tunis and Istanbul and a meeting in Cairo. The HRDs began by assessing their organisation's office security. They held meetings with their colleagues on risks and threats, and discussed which strategies had been effective. At the first workshop the HRDs covered risk assessment, threat analysis, digital security, wellbeing and security planning. Following the production of security plans, the HRDs returned for the second workshop to discuss the positive elements in their plans and how to reduce weaknesses. Tarek Alghorany based in Tunisia said "I've learned that through planning we can have better security measures than relying on trial and error or instinct."

Grants

■ **Front Line Defenders provided a security grant to the Coalition of Free Lawyers in Syria, whose office was attacked by a militant group. The grant paid for a metal door, windows and security CCTV cameras for their office, the cost of medical treatment for an injured human rights defender and temporary relocation for the families of two others.**

■ **Vice president of the Collective of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders (CODESA), Ali Salem Tamek, has been imprisoned on more than seven occasions due to his human rights work. He was mistreated while in detention and went on hunger strike a number of times to protest against his detention and the prison conditions. Since his release in 2011, he has suffered from a number of medical conditions and required surgery. A Front Line Defenders grant contributed toward his treatment.**

■ **Grants for living costs for a short period were provided to LGBTI rights defenders in the Gulf region who had lost their employment and had been ostracised from their communities due to their association with an LGBTI organisation.**



Above: Kuwaiti Bidoon human rights defender Abdulhakeem Al-Fadhli in Taima village just days after his release from prison when the case against him was dismissed.

Front Line Defenders Award

The 2013 Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk was presented to Mauritanian anti-slavery activist Biram Dah Abeid by President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins at a ceremony in Dublin, Ireland on 3 May. The Award honours the work of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the protection of human rights in the face of considerable personal risk.

Biram Dah Abeid is the founder and director of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA Mauritania). Despite the legal abolition of slavery in Mauritania, hereditary slavery remains endemic. It is estimated that there are between 140,000 and 160,000 people enslaved and the Global Slavery Index 2013 has ranked Mauritania as number one in the world for slavery.

As a direct result of his work to eradicate slavery, Biram Dah Abeid has been threatened, defamed, harassed and arrested. In April 2012 he was "disappeared" to a secret government facility and denied contact with his family and legal assistance. Following an international outcry, he was released in September 2012. Despite the constant harassment and threat of arrest, he has sworn to continue his struggle until slavery is finally eliminated.

In his acceptance speech, Biram asked for international support, "Dear friends, your greatest and most necessary support will be in helping us to call upon Mauritania to break with duplicity and bring its national laws into line not only with the international commitments that it has adopted as a sovereign State, but also with its claims to being an Islamic Republic, while subscribing to the principles of equality, fairness and humanity enshrined in original Islam."



"Biram Dah Abeid refuses to accept a flawed or failed society where many live in fear as inevitable. Instead, he has the courage to envisage an equitable world free from intimidation..."

President Michael D. Higgins

The Finalists were:

Mam Sonando (Cambodia) - journalist and Director of one of only three independent radio stations in Cambodia, Beehive Radio.

Mansoureh Behkish (Iran) - women's rights activist and supporter of non-violent resistance. She has spent the past three decades empowering survivors and victims of human rights abuses.

David Rabelo Crespo (Colombia) - secretary of the Board of Directors of CREDHOS, a human rights NGO. He is currently serving an 18 year sentence following an unfair trial.

Ruth Mumbi (Kenya) - community mobiliser, and founder and national coordinator of Bunge la Wamama, the women's chapter of a movement that conducts advocacy and campaigning on issues of social justice and accountability.

Bahtiyor Hamraev (Uzbekistan) - dedicated campaigner and head of the Djizak regional branch of HRSU (Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan). Sadly, Bahtiyor passed away, after a long illness, in May 2013.



Biram Dah Abeid from Mauritania receives the award from President Michael D. Higgins, applauded by Denis O'Brien, Chairman of Front Line Defenders.

Front Line Events

From 24 to 26 February, Mexican human rights defender **Elia Escobedo Garcia** visited Ireland to participate in the Front Line Defenders Spring Speaker's Tour in Dublin at the Jameson Film Festival and Trinity College Dublin and at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Galway. Elia has campaigned for 11 years for justice for her daughter who was murdered in 2002, and has worked tirelessly with the organisation *Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa* (May Our Daughters Return Home) to combat femicide in Ciudad Juarez in Mexico. Elia's story is part of the narrative of 'Blood Rising', a feature documentary by Irish director Mark McLoughlin and Irish artist Brian Maguire which premiered at the Jameson Film Festival 2013.

On 5 March, Front Line Defenders, in association with the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies at Trinity College Dublin hosted a public talk with **Dr. Ahmed Shaheed**. As UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran, Dr. Shaheed

has conducted ground-breaking research and issued authoritative reports on the country's human rights record and compliance.

On 3 April, US political theorist and activist, **Professor Noam Chomsky**, spoke at the inaugural Annual Front Line Defenders Lecture held in partnership with University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. The lecture entitled 'Solidarity and the Responsibility to Protect' was chaired by RTE's Bryan Dobson, and explored the issues faced by human rights defenders and activists trying to make their voices heard among the competing agendas of state, media and political interests.

On 15 November, as part of the Dublin Book Festival, Front Line Defenders and Irish Pen came together to mark the **Day of the Imprisoned Writer** at the Smock Alley, Black Box Theatre in Dublin. Irish poet and prose writer Theo Dorgan, Irish Newstalk radio broadcaster Shona Murray and Afghan journalist and human rights defender Jamila Omar all read extracts from writings from



The Day of the Imprisoned Writer - Emer Liston, Irish Pen, Jamila Omar, Afghan human rights defender, Theo Dorgan, Irish poet and prose writer, Shona Murray, Newstalk presenter, Julianne Moore, Dublin Book Festival, Timmy Conway, Irish Pen, Michelle Foley, Front Line Defenders.

imprisoned and/or persecuted human rights defenders. After the readings the floor was opened up to the audience for a lively questions and answers session.

From November 26 to 28 Syrian human rights defender **Yara Bader** visited Ireland to participate in the Front Line Defenders Winter Speaker's Tour. She had three speaking engagements; one at Trinity College Dublin (in association with the Department for Near and Middle Eastern Studies), one at University College Cork (in association with the UCC Centre for Global Development and the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights) and one at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Galway. Yara has played a key role in reporting on the daily developments in Syria since the beginning of the uprising in early 2011. She is married to jailed Syrian human rights defender Mazen Darwish, who is also a journalist and who, up until his arrest, was the Director of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression.



Senator Ivana Bacik participating in a peaceful protest at the Iranian Embassy in Dublin during the Iranian presidential elections in June.



The Inaugural Annual Front Line Defenders Lecture in partnership with University College Dublin (UCD) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) - Bryan Dobson, journalist and broadcaster with RTE, Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders, Maria Baghramian, UCD, Noam Chomsky, linguist, philosopher and political activist, Tom Pegram, TCD.



Kazakh human rights defender Alima Abdirrova led the Front Line Defenders Women's Mini-Marathon Team in June.

The Seventh Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders at Risk

“You have given the world a window through which we see human rights violations committed every day. But you have also given us a window into the best of human endeavours.”

Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste and Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade



Clockwise from top: Group photo from Dublin Castle; Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste and Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mary Lawlor and Yolanda Oqueli, Guatemala; Denis O'Brien, Chairman of Front Line Defenders, with Fabbi Kouassi, Togo.



The Seventh Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders took place in Dublin Castle on 9-11 October 2013, and brought together 135 human rights defenders from 90 different countries making it the largest Platform that Front Line Defenders has hosted.

Every Dublin Platform is special and unique, reflecting the wide range and diversity of the extraordinary human rights defenders who come together to share experiences, learn from one another, discuss relevant issues and engage with decision makers from governmental and intergovernmental bodies.

All of these HRDs are at risk because of their non-violent work for the human rights of others. They face death threats and physical violence, denigration and loss of employment, arrest and harassment and sometimes torture. Examples of threats and attacks were shared in often harrowing testimony, but the focus was also on strengthening mechanisms for protection, engaging the international community, holding perpetrators accountable and providing support to those under attack.

The formal sessions were facilitated by a team of simultaneous interpreters through Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish with whispered interpretation provided in Chinese, Khmer, Kiswahili, Korean, Portuguese, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese.

On day one, the Chairman of Front Line Defenders, Denis O'Brien, welcomed the participants to Dublin and introduced the Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Eamon Gilmore TD, who gave an inspiring keynote address. Executive Director of Front Line Defenders, Mary Lawlor addressed the session with her opening presentation paying tribute to the extraordinary work of the human rights defenders both in the room and abroad. Maina Kiai discussed his work as UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, and Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, described the human rights commitments of the EU.

On day two, Deborah Benchoam and Snjezana Bokulic presented the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

(IACHR) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and human rights defender Mata Coulibaly (Cote D'Ivoire), standing in for Reine Alapini-Gansou, Commissioner and Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), commented on the work of the ACHPR.

Hassan Shire of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project chaired a panel discussion on the challenges faced by HRDs working in areas of armed conflict which drew on the experiences of Martha Diaz (Colombia), Jean de Dieu Mulikuza (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Razan Ghazzawi (Syria) and Wazhma Frogh (Afghanistan).

Another panel discussion on the specific risks facing women human rights defenders, chaired by Noeline Blackwell of the Board of Front Line Defenders, featured expert presentations from Raisa Borshigova (Russian Federation – Chechnya), Zainab Azmat (Pakistan), Morena Herrera (El Salvador) and Ghada Shahbandar (Egypt).

A panel on protecting and expanding an enabling environment for HRDs, chaired by Andrew Anderson, Front Line Defenders Deputy Director, included contributions from Yevgeniy Zhovtis (Kazakhstan), Érina Batista Gomes (Brazil) and Geoffrey Wokulira Ssebagala (Uganda).

The informal discussions and the working group contributions throughout the three days were also extremely rich, with participants building lasting bonds across linguistic and cultural divides.

As digital security is vital to enable human rights defenders to communicate quickly, effectively and safely, there was a digital security hub operating throughout the Platform in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Some 60 HRDs took part in a one-day pre-Platform digital security awareness session in five language workshops to provide a focus on key aspects of digital security and providing information on security measures which could be easily implemented by HRDs on their return home.

...continued over >



Clockwise from top left: (L to R) Ghada Shabander, Egypt; Morena Herrera, El Salvador; Zainab Azmat, Pakistan; Raisa Borshigova, Russian Federation – Chechnya; and Noeline Blackwell, Front Line Defenders Trustee; (L to R) Érina Batista Gomes, Brazil; Geoffrey Wokulira Ssebagala, Uganda; and Yevgeniy Zhovtis, Kazakhstan; Carlos Perez, Ecuador; El Ghalia Djimi, Western Sahara; Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association; Felix Diaz, Argentina;

"Recently, the company sold some land to the local mafia who are also against our community. Now more groups are against our community. Last year, two women from the community were shot dead by the local mafia. The firearms used were assault rifles traced to the local police station." HRD Thailand



Clockwise from top left: Shahed Kayes, Bangladesh, Ashrafun Nahar Misti, Bangladesh and Finn Plekkenpol, Front Line Defenders volunteer; Andrew Anderson, Front Line Defenders Deputy Director and Abdiaziz Ibrahim, Somalia; Ruth Mumbi, Kenya and Astronadc Pereira, Brazil; Shawan Jabarin, Palestine, in interview with Shona Murray, Newstalk FM; Razan Ghazzawi, Syria, and Martha Diaz, Colombia.

"In reality we do not know who is our enemy. They used to have the decency to warn you. Now they do not warn you." HRD Pakistan

"I don't feel I was born in the wrong body. I was born in the wrong society." HRD Costa Rica



On one of the evenings, Front Line Defenders also convened two well-attended public panels at the Gresham Hotel. The first, co-hosted with the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC), discussed situations facing women human rights defenders and the second, co-hosted by the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN), discussed the challenges faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) rights defenders. Participants at the Platform enjoyed cultural presentations throughout the proceedings including Liam O'Maonlai at the opening ceremony, the Moran family at the welcome reception and Keith Donald at the closing ceremony. At this closing ceremony, two of the participants also performed: Karla Lara (Honduras) sang and Wang Jianfen (China) played the long Chinese flute.



Clockwise from top: Iryna Khalip, Belarus, Siobhan O'Donoghue, National Women's Council of Ireland, Agnes Daroczi, Hungary, at the side event for women human rights defenders co-hosted by National Women's Council of Ireland; Awa Wade, Senegal (left) and Michel Forst, Front Line Defenders Trustee (right); Pictured at the side event for LGBTI human rights defenders, co-hosted by Gay & Lesbian Equality Network (Front Row, L to R): Olena Shevchenko, Ukraine, Natasha Jiménez, Costa Rica, Craig Dwyer, GLEN, Elkhan Baghirov, Azerbaijan; (Back Row, L to R): Andrea Rocca, Front Line Defenders, Brian Sheehan, GLEN, Tiernan Brady, GLEN, Eimear O'Reilly, GLEN, Olumide Makanjuola, Nigeria, Igor Yassin, Russian Federation; Pictured outside Dublin Castle (L to R): Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Wang Jianfen, China, Mary Lawlor, Front Line Defenders.



Campaigns in 2013

This year saw Front Line Defenders continue to advance tactics of campaigning to support human rights defenders at risk with the aim of elevating their visibility, legitimacy and recognition. To do this the Campaigns team advanced initiatives launched in the previous two years and developed new efforts in collaboration with HRDs in their countries to utilise various media and social media outlets to impact public discourse locally and internationally.

Following the success of the RadioHRD Campaign in Colombia in 2012, in which radio public service announcements (PSAs) were broadcast on radio stations throughout the country about specific HRDs at risk, Front Line Defenders and MOVICE (the Colombian implementing partner) developed a how-to guide for this type of campaigning, and translated the manual into five languages. By October 2013, two new RadioHRD campaigns were launched – one in Honduras and one in Macedonia. Honduras has one of the highest rates of killing of HRDs in the world, while the Macedonia campaign focused on LGBTI defenders who are facing a rise in violence against them. In Honduras, Front Line Defenders worked with ACI-Participa, APUVIMEH and ACROIRIS for the campaign, while in Macedonia, the LGBTI Support Centre and the Helsinki Committee of Macedonia spearheaded that effort.

In addition to these campaigns, Front Line Defenders worked with MOVICE in Colombia to launch Phase II of the PSA campaign, moving to television. The first PSA TV advert focused on David Rabelo Crespo, a Colombian human rights defender who was framed for murder and sentenced to 18+ years in prison. The other five cases were broadcast through the end of the year into 2014.

Front Line Defenders used video advocacy as a means of presenting greater context and information about human rights defenders at risk, launching a web-based monthly video magazine programme called Multiple Exposure in November. Each episode features three or four short video documentary pieces about human rights defenders at risk and explores larger issues that they are working on. The premiere episode featured an interview with Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki, a former human rights defender, who had been one of the first recipients of a Front Line Defenders security grant when the organisation was first established, as well as a spotlight on a Burmese human rights defender and a segment on the Foreign Agents Law in Russia, by which many human rights defenders are being targeted by the state.

Front Line Defenders released a short demo version of a major graphic novel book project focusing on women human rights defenders in Mexico at the October 2013 Web Summit in



Preview of 'La Lucha' Graphic Novel.

Dublin. The book will be published in 2014, and a digital version will be launched as well. At the Web Summit, a five-page interactive sample from the book was displayed as an iBook on the iPad device, demonstrating the versatility of the platform and the ability to use



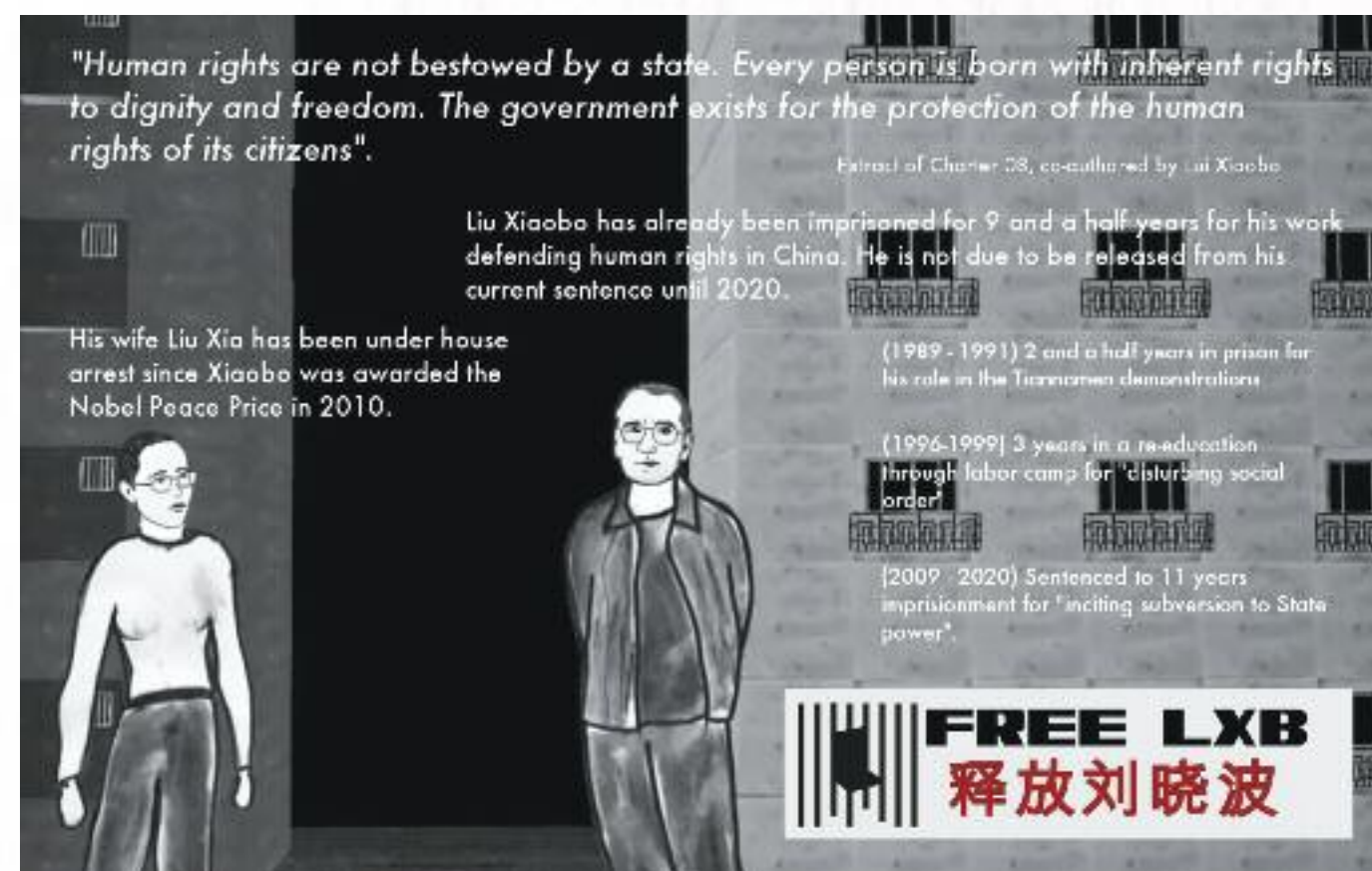
Banner for Multiple Exposure series.

it to present human rights defenders stories in groundbreaking new ways. Using technology in this way, Front Line Defenders hopes to reach new audiences and to engage local public discourses around the world for greater respect for and protection of human rights defenders.

As Front Line Defenders continues to experiment with new tactics, delivery mechanisms for campaigns, outreach strategies and public engagement to support human rights defenders, it is becoming increasingly clear that the empowerment of HRDs in their local contexts through the creative use of various types of media can have an impact. Ultimately, to ensure the ability of HRDs to conduct their work in safety, an aware and concerned population must be activated for support. Through its campaigns, Front Line Defenders is working with local HRDs around the world to develop tactics to achieve local victories and share those lessons with colleagues everywhere. **FI**



From left to right: Kocho Andonovski, LGBTI Support Centre; Uranija Pirovska, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Macedonia; and Andrea Rocca, Front Line Defenders, attending a press conference in Skopje, Macedonia to announce the RadioHRD campaign focusing on LGBTI rights defenders.



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, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish



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.



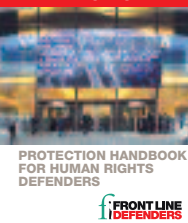
SECURITY-IN-A-BOX – TOOLS AND TACTICS FOR YOUR DIGITAL SECURITY

Security in a Box 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.

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



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



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 lobby and advocacy towards the EU and contains a quick reference table for requesting EU action.

■ Available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and 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 and Spanish.



ANNUAL REPORT ON GLOBAL TRENDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The report provides a snapshot of the situation for human rights defenders in 2013 on both the global and regional level.

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



THE SEVENTH DUBLIN PLATFORM REPORT AND BOOK OF TESTIMONIES

The report seeks to identify the main themes and highlight the issues which emerged in the discussions at the Seventh Dublin Platform for Human Rights Defenders at Risk in October 2013.

To complement the report, the Book of Testimonies contains personal testimonies from 69 of the 135 human rights defenders who attended the Dublin Platform.

■ Available in English



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 and 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 specifying the publication and language requested.

Supporting Human Rights Defenders

Throughout the year, Front Line Defenders supported 26 human rights defenders from 17 countries, to take a short break from their stressful work, to study English or to spend some time with family members.

Galym Ageleuov, Director of the human rights organisation Liberty in Kazakhstan, came to Dublin to do independent work on a book and documentary related to his work. He had closely followed the events in Zhanaozen in December 2011, when violent police repression of a strike by oil workers resulted in the deaths of fourteen people and left sixty-four people wounded. He had met with victims, participated in a press conference on the case and provided information on the court proceedings using social media. He faced defamation in pro-government media as a result.

At the end of his stay he said, "Thanks to my two-month stay in Dublin, I no longer perceive the pressure I was subjected to as dangerous. The hue and cry in pro-government media, which manifested itself in films, articles etc., has more or less come to an end. I have re-evaluated and assessed my resources, recognising the constant need to increase them, including both international and government contacts, as well as contacts with the human rights defender community."

Alima Abdirova, Director of an organisation called Aru ana which provides support to single-parent families in Kazakhstan came to Dublin for two months to study English.

"Ten years ago I set up an organisation for single parents and orphans. I haven't had a break in a very long time. It was so nice to come to Ireland, a fairytale country."

Said Yousif Al-Muhafidha, acting Vice-President of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights came to Dublin for a month in the summer to take a short break and work on improving his English skills. Before he left he noticed a difference, "I was kept in solitary confinement in December 2012 and January 2013 and when I was released in February my hand would shake. Not any more. I think it was stress."

Hikma Agoub, is a human rights lawyer and Director of the Aid Centre for Legal Advice and Advocacy which provides legal aid and psychosocial support to women and those detained for defending human rights in Sudan. She came to Dublin for some rest and respite for four weeks in the summer. She said, "It was a very good opportunity to see that as a human rights defender, we are not alone, working alone in our societies. Another organisation is looking after us. I became stronger because you are standing by me, encouraging me. I will come to Sudan with this new energy. I will tell my colleagues. We work in a very bad system, without enough resources. But we are not alone."

Guatemalan human rights defender **Oscar Morales** attended the Dublin Platform in October and stayed on in Dublin for one month to study English. He shared his

experiences of working for the rights of his community in the face of corporate mining interests, at a screening of the award-winning documentary film 'Gold Fever' (www.gold-fevermovie.com) which was co-hosted by Front Line Defenders, Oxfam Ireland, Trocaire and the Latin American Solidarity Committee.

Jamila Omar, a media expert and advocate for women's rights in Afghanistan, spent three months on Fellowship and rest & respite in Dublin. Reflecting on her time in Dublin, she noted, "Being disconnected from my country and receiving health treatments and support for my well-being enabled me to rebuild my capacities and prepare to start my work as a human rights defender once again. It was an added support to reduce the level of tension and stress I experienced in my country because of my job as a human rights defender and female journalist. I am also grateful for several meetings that I have had with staff at Front Line Defenders office, sharing my thoughts and knowledge about the challenges in Afghanistan and I gained new knowledge and thoughtful ideas from each meeting." □



Hikma Agoub, Sudan, near the Front Line Defenders office in Dublin.



Galym Ageleuov, Kazakhstan.



Said Yousif Al-Muhafidha, Bahrain.



José Antonio Gutiérrez, Latin America Solidarity Centre (left), Oscar Morales, Guatemala (right) at the screening of the Gold Fever documentary in Dublin.

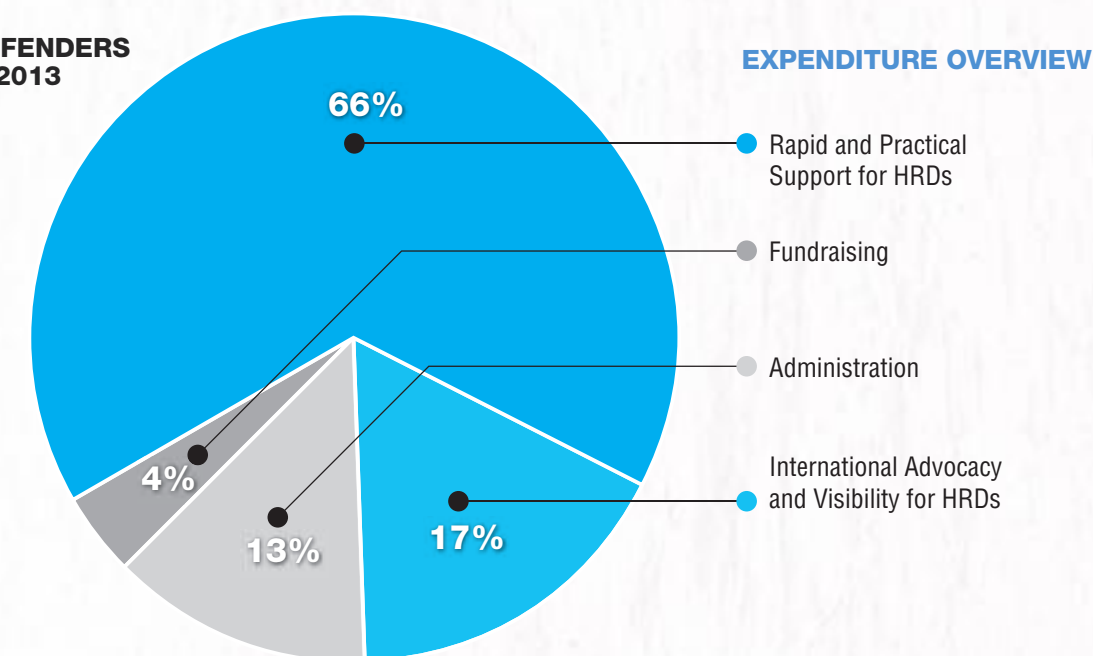


Alima Abdirova, Kazakhstan, on a day out in Wicklow.

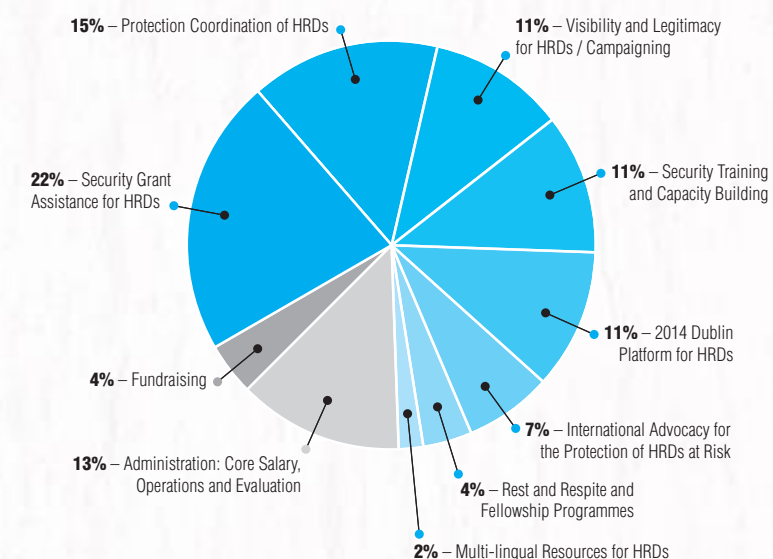
"It was so nice to come to Ireland, a fairytale country..."

2013 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FRONT LINE DEFENDERS EXPENDITURE 2013



EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



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

€200,000+

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

€100,000 - €199,000

Lifeline: Embattled NGO Assistance Fund
Foundation for a Just Society
Oak Foundation
Open Society Foundations

€50,000 - €99,000

American Jewish World Service
Hivos
The Ireland Funds
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

€5,000 - €49,000

Economist Group Charitable Trust
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dublin
Overbrook Foundation
Rothco
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
The Body Shop
The Fairwind Foundation
The Roddick Foundation
The Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
Tides Foundation
Violet Jabara Charitable Trust

WHERE THE MONEY GOES:

Security Grant Assistance for HRDs	891,336
Rest and Respite and Fellowship programmes	175,455
Security Training & Capacity Building	434,198
Protection Coordination for HRDs	577,185
Multi-Lingual Resources for HRDs	92,400
Visibility & Legitimacy for HRDs/Campaigning	427,468
2014 Dublin Platform for HRDs	435,698
International Advocacy for the Protection of HRDs at risk	290,316
Fundraising	155,508
Core Salary, Operations and Evaluation	510,372

TOTAL Expenditure* €3,989,936

*Official figures pending completion of 2013 Audit of Front Line Defenders Accounts.

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINE

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2013

El Firmamento

Noches, muchas noches,
que no veo el firmamento.
Estará lleno de estrellas, pienso,
o la luna con su fulgor da derroche.
Imagino las nubes pasear,
visitando estrellas y abrazando luceros
pienso en la mujer que quiero
pero, ¿cómo sera la inmensidad?
¿La noche estará oscura o clara?
Muere la noche al despuntar el alba,
nace el día con el esplendor del aura,
el firmamento para mí es cosa rara.
Noches sin firmamento,
no lo veo pero lo invento;
la lluvia baila con el viento,
y el trueno suena como un lamento.
Enséñame como es el firmamento
porque no lo observo hace tiempo;
gris o azul estará el cielo,
espero pronto superar este injusto encierro.

23 January 2013, Picota prison, Bogotá.

David Ravelo Crespo, a Colombian human rights defender who has been imprisoned since September 2010 due to his human rights work. He was a finalist for the Front Line Defenders Award in 2013.

The Night Sky

Nights, many nights,
that I do not see the sky
It must be full of stars, I think,
or the moon might be offering its brilliance.
I imagine the clouds,
visiting and embracing the stars,
I think of the woman that I love,
But how is the immensity?
Is this a bright or a dark night?
The night dies with the sparkle of the dawn,
the day is born with the splendour of the aura,
the sky is unknown to me.
Night without sky,
I cannot see it but I imagine,
the rain is dancing with the wind
and the thunder sounds like a lament.
Show me how the night sky is,
I haven't seen it for a while,
Grey or blue the sky must be,
I hope soon to overcome this unfair confinement.

DUBLIN

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FOUNDATION



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